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Red Raider

MAGAZINE

BELLEFONTE AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER
2015

*SWPBIS: The Importance
of Student Voice*



Red Raider MAGAZINE WINTER 2015

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Superintendent's Office	Ext 3002
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Benner Elementary.....	355-2812
Marion-Walker Elementary.....	357-2425
Pleasant Gap Elementary.....	359-2739
Bellefonte Area Middle School.....	355-5466
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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. 3005.



Welcome to the 2015 Winter Edition of *Red Raider Magazine*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are more than half way through the 2014-2015 school year. Hopefully this letter finds you and your family well and staying warm this winter.

It has been a very cold and snowy winter season. 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. Messages are also posted on radio and television stations are called so those messages are posted. 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.

The Bellefonte Area School District announces changes to our SMILES Program (Senior Motivators in Learning and Education Services). This is a Senior Volunteer Tax Exchange Program where seniors may volunteer their services in our schools in exchange for a tax credit. The program is open to residents who are 60 years of age or older and pay residential property tax. Participants have the opportunity to volunteer for 50 hours of service in exchange for a \$250 reduction in the next year's school taxes or 100 hours of service for a \$500 reduction in the next year's school taxes per residence. If you qualify and are interested in this opportunity, please call the district administration office for an application at (814) 355-4814. You will need to submit a completed application along with a copies of Act 34 (Criminal Background Clearance) and Act 151 (Child Abuse Clearance) forms as well as results of a TB test. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contract the district office. Participation is limited to the first 25 qualifying senior citizens.

Please remember to check your Bellefonte Area School District calendars for PSSA and Keystone testing dates. Also note, March 6, 2015, and April 6, 2015, will now be snow make-up days for our students. In the near future, additional information will be provided to all parents and students regarding changes to the calendar related to the end of the school year.

Warm regards,

Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger
Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent

Bellefonte Area High School's Journey With SWPBIS: The Importance of Student Voice



In 2011, Bellefonte Area High School (BAHS) began planning a framework of school-wide positive behavior intervention and support. The purpose of the framework is to develop a list of school-wide expectations and give students positive support and interventions concerning those expectations. Banners around the inside and outside of the school display those expectations modeled after the word RAIDERS. The expectations for all students are to Respect All Individuals, Demonstrate Excellence, Responsibility and Safety.

In the fall of the 2012-13 school year with a desire to enhance the overall school climate for all of its students, BAHS began implementing School-wide Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (SWPBIS). In the first year of implementation, the school had many ambitious goals. The SWPBIS roll out included assemblies, visiting stations, videos, and a pep rally in order for the students to learn about the school-wide expectations. The RAIDERS rules were off to a good start. However, a significant bump in the road remained as students were claiming it was too childish and more student buy-in was needed. What was missing? Student voice!

To address the issue of student voice, team members toured and networked with other SWPBIS schools and focused on what they did about student and staff buy in. With high school students being at an age where they start to advocate for themselves, their involvement in the program is crucial. At the end of year one, the PBIS team included a small group of students. Those students provided suggestions and brought a renewed sense of energy that allowed the school year to end on a high note. The last day of school was a final reward for the students filled with several fun activities. When the last bell rang, the teachers, administrators, and aides rushed to the main exit of the school building to give students high fives during their dismissal and wished them a good summer.

The data is very promising and continues to show a decreasing trend in office discipline referrals. For example, the data showed a 45 percent drop in one year! A similar percentage drop occurred again the following school year! In an attempt to share data more with faculty and staff, a "Data Wall" was created next to the building's main printer. It provides a snapshot of what is occurring and it has been a great talking piece for the staff.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students at BAHS who were recognized in May 2014 in Hershey, PA for their implementation of SWPBIS! A special article outlining BAHS' success was recently featured in the December 2014 edition of the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Network newsletter.

Bellefonte FBLA Shows Their Willingness to “Step Up to the Challenge!”

The Bellefonte chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) has shown, once again, what you can accomplish when you put forth hard work and determination and allow the FBLA organization to help you “Step up to the Challenge”.

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 4th 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 to help 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 Twilight Wish Foundation, this year’s PA FBLA state project, and the March of Dimes. From basket raffles, t-shirt purchases, 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, PA, this April. From there, if students qualify, they will be given the opportunity to compete at the national level in Chicago, IL in June!



Together We Make a Difference



The Friends of Rachel (FOR) Club at Bellefonte Area High School sponsored the Great Kindness Challenge during January 2015. The FOR Club’s purpose coincides perfectly with the Challenge’s motto: “Kindness Matters!” Students and staffuly showed their spirit and commitment to kindness by participating in a spirit week. Fifty different famous quotes also adorned the walls of the school to serve as inspiration. BAHS students and staffuly are also helping to break a Guinness World Record for the largest collage of cut-out handprints. The FOR Club is sending 687 unique handprints, depicting artwork and inspirational notes, that will be displayed at the Dignity Health Hospital in California. Over 2 million students in 45 countries participated in the Great Kindness Challenge of 2015. To find out more information, please visit their website at <http://www.greatkindnesschallenge.org>.



Foods Around the World: The class was studying the British Isles enjoying an English afternoon tea. The students made two different kinds of scones and lemon curd, sipped tea and discussed customs and what it would be like at the London Ritz



HIGH SCHOOL



Eight Awards Won at Math Competition

On Nov. 12, eighteen BAHS students went to compete in the Lock Haven University Math Competition, both in teams and in individual events. In teams of three, they worked to solve six open-ended questions in forty minutes and as individuals, they completed a ten question multiple choice exam with an open-ended tiebreaker. At the end of the day, BAHS walked away with three out of eight individual awards: 1st place to Jeremiah Stickles, 2nd place to Matthew Feldman, and 4th place to Julia Stone; and three of eight team awards: 1st place team of Jeremiah Stickles, Chauncey Blakeslee, and Patrick Scordato; 2nd place team of Brien McChesney, Brian Feldman, and Jeremiah Stickles; and 4th place team of Kristen Bell, Matthew Feldman, and Emma Smith. The competition consisted of eleven schools and approximately 160 students attended. BAHS is proud of the accomplishments of its Math Competition Team!



Lady Raiders Round Ball Host Alumnae

Since its first interscholastic team in 1969, the Bellefonte girls' basketball program has supported numerous athletes, 45 seasons and 15 head coaches. It also boasts four league championships, two district championships and multiple showings in play-off tournaments. On December 19, 2014, the Lady Raider Basketball Program and BASD Athletic Department hosted a special Alumnae Night Ceremony to recognize some of the program's former players and coaches. Former head coaches Linda Lowe (9 seasons from 1972-1981, including a 1975 league championship) and Bucky Quici (8 seasons from 1981-1989, including a 1982 league championship) were in attendance, along with former players from the graduating classes of 1973 to 2014. Many of the returning alumnae shared favorite memories of their years as Lady Raiders or "Lady Raiderettes," as they were known during the period of 1969 to 1985. These former players recalled the friendships they made, the encouragement they received and the important life lessons they learned while playing basketball for Bellefonte. Head Coach Adam Gearhart announced the alumnae and former coaches and welcomed them onto the court where current members of the Lady Raider basketball team presented them with red or white carnations. The honored guests enjoyed visiting with each other during the varsity game against Philipsburg-Osceola and helped to cheer the 2014-2015 Bellefonte Lady Raiders on to their first win of the season.



Mt. League Fall Summit Award

Bellefonte is awarded the Fall Summit Award. The Summit Award, sponsored by the CDT, is awarded to the school in the Mountain League with the highest combined winning percentage of the fall sports teams. Our winning percentage was .653!

Mountain League Champion teams include Girls Golf (Threepeat and 9th overall), Boys Golf (first time in 27 years) and Girls Soccer (4th time).



PSBA Student Delegate

By Katelyn Walker



HIGH SCHOOL

This year, I had the luxury of attending my first Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) conference. It was an experience unlike any other.

The main component of the conference is for school board representatives, like myself, to revise or create a school-wide plan that could be implemented in schools across the country today. We had several hours, a computer, and previously taken notes to develop our plan in groups. Each year, the topics change. This year, students could choose from bullying, bring your own device, school nutrition, and school safety. I chose to tackle school nutrition because of my interest in healthy living.

This topic was unlike the others in that we did not have an already implemented plan of action to revise. We had to devise an entire new plan on how to implement Smart Snacks; school approved healthy snacks. The task proved challenging. However, we were able to develop our goals that we would later present in front of a mock school board, made up of students and school board members.

We participated in a the mock school board exercise where we presented to members of the board, but also to one hundred people in the crowd. The large crowd was an intimidating experience but also a great opportunity. I was able to meet so many great students from different parts of Pennsylvania, see them debate, and utilize and improve my public speaking skills. This experience also helped me appreciate how much work goes into presenting new ideas at a conference.

There was a school expo showcasing the latest and greatest ideas to implement in school. The stands ranged from school nutrition, to safety locks, to energy efficiency.

On the first night, we watched talented students of high school age perform. These students had an array of talents. Some sang, some danced, and some even played music using buckets. This showcase exemplified the greatness students find within themselves and how passionate people are for the arts.

The last night, we also got to listen to a guest speaker, Tierney Cahill. Cahill was the sixth grade teacher who ran for congress after teaching her class that running for an office was something anyone could do. Her students then became her support staff, helping her to campaign. She was a hilarious, charismatic, and heartwarming woman who easily entranced the audience with her story. What I took most from her story was "lead by example." Students are often taught things that we don't see, and we are also guilty of saying things that we don't do. The lead by example theme in her story was moving and is something I urge everyone to do.

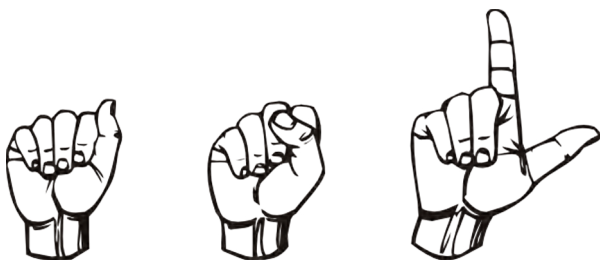
The Key to Making a Difference is the Gift of Time

Bellefonte Area High School's Key Club International group has been very busy this school year. Each month, they have been taking on a new community service activity, sometimes more than one! The year started out with participation in the annual Day of Caring. Key Club visited Shaver's Creek and helped paint trail signs as well as clean up the road to prepare for their Fall Festival. Also in October, Key Club members went Trick-or-Treating for Unicef and collected nearly \$200 to donate to the non-profit organization. Unicef is working to eliminate tetanus from the world. In November, Key Club sponsored a food drive at the high school and collected

200 items which were donated to the Faith Centre Food Bank in time for Thanksgiving. Club officers also attended a Kiwanis meeting to stay in touch with our community sponsors. Key Club Week also took place in November and the club sponsored several fun events throughout the week including a "dance party in the halls" by playing music over the speaker system for everyone to enjoy between classes. This fall, Key Club completed their first fundraiser selling candy. December brought two activities. First, Key Club sponsored a toy drive for Toys for Tots. Over 100 toys were donated to children in the community. Club members also helped

out with wrapping gifts for delivery. Another annual December event is the Bellefonte Elementary Holiday Workshop. Key Club members visited the school and helped students shop, buy, and wrap gifts for their family and friends. In the new year, Key Club will participate in several community-based events including the March of Dimes, Pennies for Patients, Operation Military Child, and several elementary carnivals. Our spring fundraiser will also take place next semester selling flowers. The members are wonderful students who love doing things to make the community better for kids.





This year, one of the new activity period classes at the middle school is American Sign Language (ASL). Over 60 students are trying to tackle the basics of this dynamic, complex and visual language. The activity period class was started by math teacher, Mrs. Kim Sharp, who is passionate about learning ASL and helping to bridge the gap between the hearing and deaf community.

In ASL, students learn the basics such as fingerspelling, the number system, vocabulary, grammar structure and simple phrases. Mrs. Sharp also makes sure to incorporate Deaf culture, storytelling, songs, and games. You should see their signed rendition of "Let it Snow!"

If someone is deaf, how do they know when their alarm clock goes off? Doorbell rings? How does Video Relay Service work to make phone calls? Did you know that Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. is the only federally chartered university for the deaf and hard of hearing? Students there came up with the football huddle so their opponents wouldn't be able to interpret their signs and know their plays. These are just a few of the cool things covered in ASL.

"American Sign Language is such an amazing language! It is full of expression, and I love sharing it with the students. I find that they really enjoy ASL and learning about deaf culture," says Mrs. Sharp. Seventh grader Bre Praskovich said, "Sign Language is such a fun class, and I really like learning a language so I can communicate with deaf people."

New Language, New Challenge



Middle School Buddy System

This year, the Bellefonte Area Middle school kicked off its Buddy System with the help of Mrs. Jennifer Kerr, 6th grade social studies teacher, and her Chain Reaction Club. The Buddy System is a way for students with significant disabilities to interact and socialize with their typical peers through community service oriented activities that center around the Club's philosophy. Mr. Jeffrey Rager's Life Skills Support students met with their peers on December 12th to decorate the lobby Giving Tree and share lunch together. The next activity was making holiday cards together and delivering them to Centre Crest residents.

Kerr and Rager matched up their students by both grade level and interests. At this time, 9 students from the Life Skills Support class participate along with 20 peers from the Chain Reaction club. Both Rager and Kerr hope that the students will have additional opportunities to socialize over lunch and share projects together.

Dr. Gina MacFalls, Director of Special Education, interviewed Anna Kate Scott and asked her what

she liked about the Buddy System. Anna Kate replied, "It's just a really cool experience. I never get to see (my friend) Brittany except in band class and now we have a chance to talk and do things." Brittany Keith, a student in Mr. Rager's class, likes that she can have time with her friends "just to chill." Both Kerr and Rager are looking forward to the students getting to know one another through these activities and watching the students' friendships grow through service and socialization.

The idea for the Buddy System came from interested parents and faculty who serve on the Special Education Parent Advisory Panel. They were interested in facilitating positive peer relationships between typical peers and students with disabilities. The Panel meets quarterly to discuss a variety of topics related to various disability groups, MacFalls pointed out. She hopes that these activities can foster and grow throughout our K-12 special education programs.



Middle School Students Compete in STEM Activities



The Bellefonte Area Middle School Technology Student Association (TSA) club, lead by Mr. Olmsted as their advisor, competed on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at Park Forest Middle School. The following 8th grade students participated in the regional TSA competition: Carmen Seybold, Kayla Fleming, Noah Heiser, Zeb Smoyer, Hunter Bowser, Johnny Purnell, Katey Morgante, Lizzie Giacobe, Natalie Giacobe, Halle Mitchell, Kolton Peck-Neff and Sean Reeder. They competed in events such as Dragster, Flight, Prepared Speech, Electrical Applications, Material Processing, and Engineering Structures. All of these students worked their hardest for three months in preparation for the competition and their preparation proved to be very successful.

Bellefonte Elementary School Honored at Green Business Awards Ceremony



The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority, along with the Centre Region Council of Governments and the Borough of State College, recently held an awards luncheon to honor 60 of our area's best green businesses, schools and organizations.

On America Recycles Day, close to 100 area business owners, teachers, school administrators and employees attended the awards luncheon. Many received recognition for their efforts in both recycling and sustainability.

Bellefonte Elementary School was one of the honorees. They are now recognized by Centre County as a Green Business Partner and will continue their hard work and environmental efforts. A list of all honorees can be found at www.centrecountyrecycles.org.

Bellefonte Elementary School is very proud of this wonderful accomplishment.

The Tradition Continues: Small "Change" Makes a Big Difference for Others

Bellefonte Elementary once again held their Million Penny Drive event. In three and a half weeks, the students and staff raised over \$3500! Students worked hard each week raising money and earning boomerang slips. The students participated in a variety of activities that aided in raising funds for the Million Penny Drive: Designing Holiday Cards, Classroom Wreath Auction, Coins for Caring Week and Spirit Week. With each challenge goal met, students had a celebration that the whole school was able to enjoy. The finale focused around our theme: Reindeer Games. The students played Snowball Toss, Card Cliffhanger, Pin the Nose on Rudolph, Snowball Throw, Christmas Tree Stack, Candy Cane Fishing and the popular Reindeer Relay Race. Students divided and conquered the variety of stations and everyone enjoyed the fun competition.

This year Bellefonte Elementary was able to distribute the money raised to a variety of organizations. The Faith Centre, Tides, the American Cancer Society and Easter Seals of Central PA provide valuable assistance to people in the Bellefonte Community and our contribution to their efforts was a small way of saying "THANK YOU!" to each organization for all that they do.

We would like to say "Thank You!!" to the students, parents and staff of Bellefonte Elementary. We look forward to next year and a new opportunity to give back to the Bellefonte Community.





Benner students and their families converged on Benner Elementary from 6:00-8:30 pm on Friday, January 9, for the annual PTA Winter Carnival. Families enjoyed hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, and other snacks for dinner. Over 400 were in attendance for dinner, games, and a silent auction. The event was sponsored and coordinated by the Benner Elementary PTA



Science in second grade is hands-on and exciting. We are currently studying changes. The children have been conducting experiments to see how they can mix and separate different ingredients. The children predict what they think will happen before each experiment and then write their conclusions about what happened following the experiment.



Volunteers Are Key to the Success at Benner Elementary



Parent and community volunteers continue to play a key role in the success of the students and teachers at Benner Elementary School. Bethany Eicholtz and Alex Shaw work on an activity together.

Volunteers are partners working together for improving America's future.--Mayor Richard Daly

Benner Second Graders Thank Veterans

On Monday, Nov. 10th, second graders from Benner Elementary made cards thanking veterans for their service. Several of those second graders and one third grade sister met their teachers at Centre Crest to deliver the cards to veterans. We chose to go to Centre Crest because the veterans there aren't able to attend Veterans Day activities in the community. The second graders went with their teachers to the rooms of the veterans to give them a card and thank them for their service to our country. They also offered to sing a patriotic song to the veterans. It was good for the second graders to see veterans who had spent part of their lives serving our country. The veterans also enjoyed the visit from the children and a few shared stories from their service with the children.



The first graders at Benner Elementary held a Writer's Symposium to celebrate the end of their writing unit. The students were able to show off all of their hard work by reading their non-fiction chapter books to parents.



Community Supports Marion Walker



MARION WALKER

Where is **SWPBS (School-Wide Positive Behavior Support)** taking off? Toward excellence in behavior for students at Marion-Walker!

Due to the overwhelming support and generous hearts of 33 local businesses (one was an anonymous sponsor), we have lots of rewards for the children (and the occasional staff member) at Marion-Walker. When students demonstrate good choices by being kind, attentive in lessons, respectful and safe anywhere at school (including the

playground and bus), they get a "High-Five" ticket. This card gets put in a container with others and used for drawings during assemblies. We also do drawings during some morning announcements, and we look so forward to those rewards! Knowing the business community is behind us 100% is further encouragement to do our best to make choices that make our teachers, families, community, businesses (and ourselves, too) proud. We all want the community to know how much

their contribution and participation means to us! We look forward to thanking you in person when we stop by your businesses so we can get the chance to tell you how much we appreciate you, and to let you know our good choices and character development really is "taking off!"

Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.—Frank A. Clark (1993)

Honoring our Veterans



Marion-Walker Elementary honored and remembered our country's veterans on November 10th. Special military guests were escorted into the program by students carrying emblems representing each branch of the service. The Boy Scouts led the school in saying the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by the singing of the national anthem. The anthem was lead by second graders Emma Haagen and Jordan DuBois. During the program, several fourth and fifth grade students gave information and read poems about Veterans Day. The students and staff were treated to a performance by the Penn State Air Force ROTC Honor Guard Trick Rifle Squad and a video featuring the song "The Great Defenders." Throughout the day, guest veterans spoke to students in their classrooms about the military and the importance of Veterans Day. The program is an annual celebration to thank all veterans, especially those in our community. **Thank you for serving!**



Marion-Walker Elementary was recognized for its School Performance Profile scores in 2012-2013 through the Governor's Expanding Excellence Award. This Award was presented to K-12 schools across the state for their achievement on the Pennsylvania State System of Assessments (PSSA). Any school who received this recognition was invited to apply for a Governor's Expanding Excellence Grant in the amount of \$25,000. The grant was competitive and Marion-Walker Elementary was a recipient! Through this funding, Marion-Walker will act as a "mentor" school. The mentor school is assigned a "mentee" school that has been targeted by the state for improvement. The mentor and mentee schools will partner and share programming, ideas, instructional strategies and methodologies as they work toward continual school improvement. Marion-Walker will be working with the Clearfield County school throughout this school year.

Congratulations to the staff and students!



Online Safety Night

Pleasant Gap Elementary held an Online Safety Night for parents and community members. The goal of this night was to educate parents on the technology that is out there and how they can educate themselves and their child(ren) about it.

This night included a presentation by Arlin Roth, BASD Instructional Technology Specialist, and questions answered by a panel of guests. These guests included Dr. Gina MacFalls, Director of Special Education; Jason S. Dunkle, Esquire, JD Law, P.C.; Officer Chris Snare, Spring Township Police Department; Officer Shawn Luse, Bellefonte Borough Police Department; and Ken Burns, Wireless Made Simple. The highlight of the night was a Chromebook given away by the Pleasant Gap Rotary Club.

Mr. Roth's presentation covered topics such as apps that are available to students, news articles about technology use, suggestions on what parents can do to educate themselves and their child(ren) about using technology and resources for parents to use. Panel guests were able to then share information and insight they have based on their experiences. Parents and community members were then able to ask questions to Mr. Roth and the guest panel. The night concluded with Missy Etters winning the Chromebook courtesy of the Pleasant Gap Rotary Club. A special thank to those from the community that helped out with this event!



Mrs. Jodon's and Mrs. Hendershot's classrooms at Pleasant Gap have been studying Native Americans. They have been learning about how the first American Communities live off of their land by using the natural resources. As a culminating activity, the students choose a Native American tribe to study and create a diorama depicting the tribe.

Student Qualifies for States in the Annual Elks Hoop Shoot



Trevor Johnson, a third grade student at Pleasant Gap Elementary School recently finished in first place at the Elks Hoop Shoot competition. By winning the Regional 8 and 9 year old division, Trevor will have the opportunity to compete in the State tournament held in March.

Congratulations Trevor & Good Luck!

DICTIONARY PROJECT

Bellefonte School District is fortunate to have a number of wonderful local service clubs that give back to our schools. In this edition of Red Raider Magazine, we would like to thank and highlight the efforts of our friends at Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary and Pleasant Gap Grange.

Currently, the Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary sponsors a high school foreign exchange student. In the future, they hope to also sponsor a high school student for their summer leadership camp.

The Rotary also organizes and promotes the Children's Fair on Curtin Street. Through the Rotary's efforts, they have raised over ten thousand dollars for the children's playground at Talleyrand.

Another project that our children benefit from is The Dictionary Project. The Dictionary

Project is a nonprofit organization with the goal of assisting all students in becoming good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing students with their very own personal dictionary. The Grange and the Rotary are sponsors of this Project.

Through the Rotary, third grade students at Marion-Walker Elementary, Bellefonte Elementary, and Benner Elementary schools were provided with personal dictionaries that will serve them through elementary and middle school.

The Pleasant Gap Grange is also active in The Dictionary Project. At Pleasant Gap Elementary School, Paula Hendershot received dictionaries for her classroom of students from The Pleasant Gap Grange. Third grade students at Pleasant Gap Elementary School would like to thank the

Pleasant Gap Grange for their generous gifts in providing each student with a dictionary. Thank you, Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary, and thank you, Pleasant Gap Grange!



Elementary Instrumental Music



It has been a fabulous year so far for the BASD Elementary Instrumental Program. Orchestra Director Mrs. Diane Silvis and Band Director Miss Jayme Zimmerman have been thrilled with the progress of the band and orchestra students during the first semester of the school year and look forward to watching their skill and confidence grow as the year progresses. Many of the students had the opportunity to perform at the Holiday concerts and are working hard to prepare new songs for upcoming events. The BASD Fine Arts department is very active in Bellefonte. Check out the Fine Arts Calendar on the District Web Site to see the concert dates for all of our Elementary, Middle School and High School performance groups.

The Elementary Band and Orchestra Programs are open to any 4th or 5th grade students in the Bellefonte Area School District. Third grade parents should be on the lookout for a letter with your child's final report card introducing our program. We plan to get around to all of the 3rd grade classes in the spring to introduce them to many of the instruments we offer. This will give them a chance to start thinking about what instrument they may want to play in the fall. At the beginning of the 2015–2016 school year, students will have the opportunity to try out many of the orchestra and band instruments. During this time, they will receive further information about joining orchestra or band. We hope to see many of your at our future concerts!

CENTRAL OFFICE



Front row (left to right): Sarah Rodgers, Meghann Bierly, Carla Muse, Theresa Filipowicz, Jennifer Roth
Standing (left to right): Deborah Riegel, Georgina Knepp, Kurtis Price, Nicole Eckley, Denise Hull, Carol Olsen, James Shaffer, Lata Anantheswaran

District employees recognized at the November 25, 2014 board meeting

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 November 25, 2014, Regular Board Meeting. Employees were nominated by their coworkers in their respective district buildings. Excerpts of coworkers' nomination comments included: "...has a true gift when working with students..... displays a positive attitude and manages to find the silver lining in everything is endlessly

devoted to providing her students with the highest possible quality of education..... communicates effectively and often with her students' families.....is friendly, warm, and makes everyone feel welcome..... organizes activities to improve staff morale.....she somehow knows when things are tough on others and finds something pleasant to say to help them smile, even when her own day is overwhelming.... .she welcomes people with open arms reliable and dependablecontributes to a positive classroom environment and goes beyond daily expectations..... is always positive and kind to students..... is committed to students succeeding.....does his job with a smile on his face every time...demonstrates ALL the qualities listed as requirements for this award."

Congratulations!

Classroom Access to Instructional Resources Increases



In an effort to increase student access to instructional resources, additional Chromebook laptops have been provided to all Bellefonte Area School District schools. The Chromebooks allow students to access online lessons and resources in their classrooms rather than scheduling time in the shared computer labs.



In addition to computer lab time, which is scheduled as part of the six day rotation cycle, elementary students are provided with more time for math and reading lessons by using Chromebooks in the classrooms. Middle school students have access to Chromebooks in the library. Each grade level team has access to a shared cart of Chromebooks. At BAHS, each social studies and English teacher has a cart of Chromebooks for classroom use.



Students across the district have access to Google Drive. In addition to free, unlimited storage, Drive provides access for students to create, edit and share documents, spreadsheets, slideshows and other files. Students and teachers can use Google Classroom to share files and to electronically submit assignments. Research, writing, note taking and access to online apps are popular uses for Chromebooks.

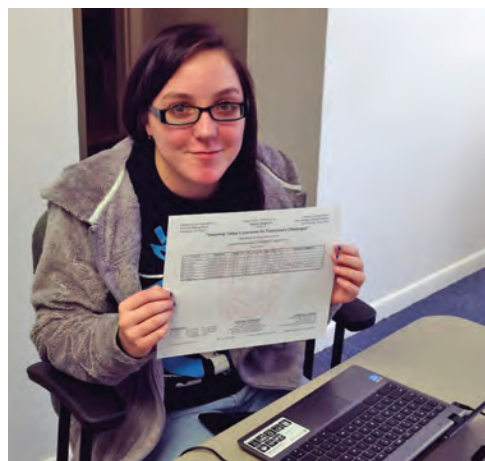
Bellefonte Area School District is one of the first districts in the state using Chromebooks to complete Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) testing. Used in grades three through twelve, the CDT assessments provide teachers with reports that identify areas of strength and weakness based on the assessment anchors and eligible content used by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) and Keystone Exams. Chromebooks have also been used successfully for Keystone Exam testing.

BeLA

The Bellefonte E-Learning Academy (BeLA) is continuing to grow and provide new opportunities and alternatives for Bellefonte students. This spring, we rolled out our first custom created courses. These courses were created by Bellefonte teachers and are being taught by Bellefonte teachers. This has enabled us to align this curriculum with the scope and sequence that students would see in the traditional classroom setting.

The number of students in the program is continuing to grow and so are the activities that many of them are involved in. Current BeLA students are participating in intramurals, clubs, and varsity sports at our schools. They attend field trips and school dances with their peers. Several BeLA students are currently attending CPI. The students are learning in a non-traditional setting, but are still utilizing the opportunities offered to them as BASD students.

Although these students have an onsite coordinator, the students that are successful in BeLA are self motivated, have a strong desire to learn and achieve, and a huge amount of responsibility. The discipline, dedication and drive of our current students should be commended.



Health Insurance through **CHIP**

Do your children have health insurance coverage? Is your family under-insured? The Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program (**CHIP**) can help.

There are a lot of reasons kids might not have health insurance – maybe their parents lost a job, maybe their parents don't have health insurance at work or maybe it just costs too much. Whatever the reason, CHIP may be able to help.

For most families, CHIP is free. Families whose incomes fall in the low-cost and full-cost CHIP ranges must also show that the child has been uninsured for six months, unless the child is under the age of two, the child has lost health insurance because a parent lost their job or the child is moving from another public insurance program.

For more information, please contact your school nurse.



Some Bellefonte Area Education Association (BAEA) members with the macaroni and cheese donation to the Food Bank in Bellefonte to help replenish the shelves in January 2015.



Our members are committed to the education, growth and success of the students in the Bellefonte Area School District. We are a community of members with common goals and a passion for education. One of these passions is going above and beyond the school day as volunteers for our community.

BELLEFONTE READS



One Book, One Bellefonte: BASD holds first community literacy night

After months of planning and preparation, Bellefonte Reads held its inaugural community literacy event on February 19.

Despite the frigid temperatures, more than 100 families braved the weather to participate in the night's reading-themed activities for pre-K through adults. Stations ranged from blackout poetry to life-sized Boggle, from Word Duels to Dominoes. Additionally, Clifford the Big Red Dog made an appearance, and the Penn State majorettes came to do book readings for young children. Visiting author Martha Freeman held two book talks for all of the attendees, the high school hosted a book fair for students and parents of all ages, and families who pre-registered walked away with a free copy of *The Red Pencil*, a book Bellefonte Reads plans to hold community events around in the coming months.

Dinner for all guests included pizza provided by Pizzeria Mia, fruit and veggies donated by Wegmans, and bottled water given by the Coca Cola Bottling Company of Milesburg.

Among student's favorite activities was the photo booth where the line to take a "Shelfie" was packed all night long. Abigail Haas, a kindergartner at Benner Elementary and girls from Daisy Troop 40034 all said they loved getting their picture taken with the fun props and their favorite books.

Students also took full advantage of the tables filled with second-hand books that could be taken home either by swapping a title or giving a small donation. Daxton Kreiger, a kindergartner at Marion Walker was excited about his nonfiction book about bats. "I wanted mommy to be afraid," he said, giggling. Haley Thomas, a fifth grader also at Marion Walker left with an

armful of 22 new Goosebumps books to read. Parent Kristy Brown said her six-year-old who attends Bellefonte Elementary also liked the book swap and Clifford was a big hit with her three-year-old. "We brought them because a love of reading opens a lifetime of doors," she said.

Bellefonte Reads was organized by elementary and secondary literacy coaches, Jennifer Zahuranec and Jackie Wynkoop.

"The idea for Bellefonte READS began as a 'One Book, One Bellefonte' initiative, where we hoped to get as many people in the community as possible to read and talk about the same book," Jackie said. "From there, we decided to kick off the initiative with a literacy night for people of all ages. Our purpose for this was to help foster a love of reading within the entire Bellefonte community."

And for Bellefonte Reads, getting the whole community involved wasn't just about the attendees. The organizing committee also included students, teachers, administrators, and Bellefonte business members.

BASD support for Bellefonte Reads was at an all-time high. More than 50 volunteers including teachers, support staff, and administrators volunteered their time and efforts throughout the evening, and principals at all three school levels were in attendance. BAHS English teacher Elizabeth Fegert said she volunteered her time because "any opportunity for parents to read with their kids is enormously beneficial. It's great to see how many parents are promoting the love of literacy with their children from such an early age."

Members of the high school Key Club also gave their time to the evening. Freshmen Sierra

Pletcher and junior Emma Mills said they wanted to "help and inspire young children to continue reading." Additional literacy stations were manned by members of the Bellefonte Women's Club, the Centre County Library, the Bellefonte Poetry Club, and the Bellefonte Art Museum.

Superintendent, Dr. Cheryl Potteiger spent her evening supervising gift baskets full of prizes and books to be raffled off to attendees. "When Jackie and Jen came to us, they talked about the importance of getting the love of reading out, not just to the kids, but to the community. This is too important not to support," she said.

Dr. Michelle Saylor, assistant superintendent, said she was thrilled with the level of engagement at the night's event. "Every child has actively participated," she said, noting all the smiles she saw on children's and parents' faces.

Winners for the door prizes were announced via the Bellefonte Reads Facebook page later that evening and winning families were notified via email and phone. The next Bellefonte Reads event will be Sunday, April 26. The community is invited to attend for an opportunity to discuss *The Red Pencil* and take part in new literacy activities centered around the book.

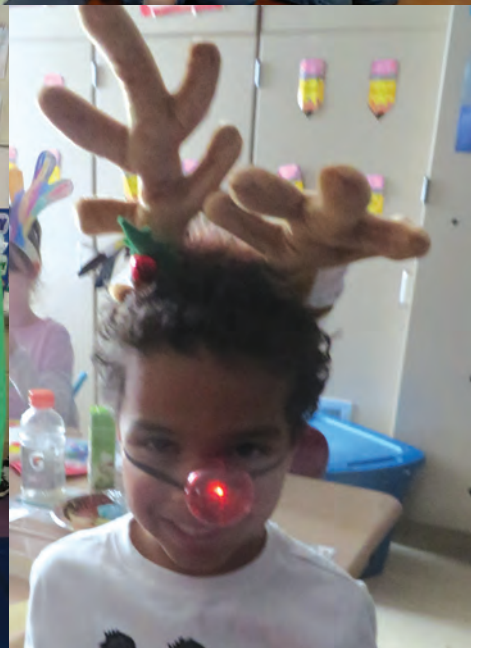


CHINESE GALA





CELEBRATIONS



“Be so happy that when others look at you they become happy too.”

Yogi Bhaajan

Bellefonte Area School Board President - Jenna Moorehead



Happy 2015 to All Bellefonte Area Families and Friends! The Board of School Directors is committed to delivering the best possible education to every student in our community. We want to ensure that each child is afforded the opportunity to be successful in our changing world. It has been our privilege to approve robust curriculum and technology advancements to help facilitate that goal. Progressive methods and innovative ideas will lead us in the direction of our vision. Our district enjoys a positive working relationship among the dedicated administrators, teachers, support staff, and School Board while thriving on great community support. We believe your contribution is a vital component to the District's mission. We hope to see you at meetings or sharing your time and talents in committees, school activities, and classrooms. In Raider Pride, Jenna Moorehead.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM



We are excited to announce the theme of this year's summer reading program as "every hero has a story!" The district library staff is working on a design for a thrilling program for each and every student. In the spirit of community, we are asking for any and all ideas to make this a summer program to remember. If you have a suggestion for attracting readers to the library during those summer months, we'd love for you to complete our survey! All submissions will be entered into a drawing for one of three Barnes and Noble gift cards. We value your input and hope to have a great program for your children. Happy reading!

<https://docs.google.com/a/basd.net/document/d/1SXQkTUKXp7MZc49w2YlpdqHntiqHyr2ZvrmAvMMCvH0/edit>





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We look forward to your next visit.*

Please take the time to complete our Customer Satisfaction Survey
by using the QR code. Your feedback is important to us!

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

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

/ *Red Raider Magazine Winter 2015*