



Red Raider

m a g a z i n e

Focusing on



Students

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How to Reach Us

Administration Building

All Numbers.....355-4814
Superintendent's Office.....Ext 3002
Director of Fiscal AffairsExt 3015
Director of Curriculum & Inst.....Ext 3004
Director of Special Education.....Ext 3021
Business OfficeExt 3001
Director of Physical Plant.....Ext 3006
Director of Food ServiceExt 3010
Director of Transportation.....Ext 3009
Bellefonte Elementary355-5519
Benner Elementary355-2812
Marion-Walker Elementary357-2425
Pleasant Gap Elementary.....359-2739
Bellefonte Middle School355-5466
Bellefonte High School.....355-4833
B.A.S.D. Action Line.....353-2413
Web Site www.basd.net

Discrimination Policy

The Bellefonte Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. Information relative to special accommodations, grievance procedure, and designated responsible official for compliance with Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be obtained by contacting Dr. Michelle Saylor, at 355-4814, Ext 3004.

A Message from

Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger

Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent



Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year. Last year we had a productive school year with much to be proud of. I thank our incredible students and staff members for continuing to rise to new heights of excellence.

Last year, we were very busy working on the development of our Kindergarten through 12th grade language arts curriculum. This year is the first year of implementing that curriculum. Lead 21[®] was chosen as the resource for our Kindergarten through 5th grade, while SpringBoard[®] was chosen as the resource for our 6th through 12th grade Language Arts curriculum. The teaching and administrative staff are working

extremely hard to ensure that we provide all of our students with a comprehensive curriculum that best meets their needs.

This year, with the help of Dr. Michelle Saylor, our new Assistant Superintendent, our staff is working diligently to rewrite the Kindergarten through 12th grade math curriculum. Each year, we will revisit each of our curricular areas, Kindergarten through 12th grade, to ensure that we are addressing the Common Core that the state has adopted.

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

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

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

A Message from **Board of School Directors President,**

Becky Rock



include establishing goals and policies, approving budgets, appraising the superintendent's performance, monitoring student achievement, communicating with various constituencies, and advocating for public education.

We appreciate the public's interest in our board meetings and the business of our school district. We encourage members of our community to attend our board meetings and to get involved in our schools. Public understanding, participation, and communication are vital to the success of our school district.

From time to time, I field the question, "What is the role of the School Board?"

The members of our school board play an important role in focusing the work of our school district. Our major responsibilities

The minutes of our board meetings and our agendas are posted on the district website to assist in your active participation.

We also set aside time for public comment at the beginning of each meeting. The board always welcomes input from the public. If you are unable to attend our board meetings C-NET provides streaming video of our board meetings. The link to C-NET is <http://cnet.pegcentral.com/index.php>.

I would like to thank the members of our community who have already joined us. We appreciate your interest and your participation. I would also like to encourage members of our school community who have not yet become involved to get involved in our schools. Working together we can ensure that great things happen in our school district. ■

Looking Forward: A Message from

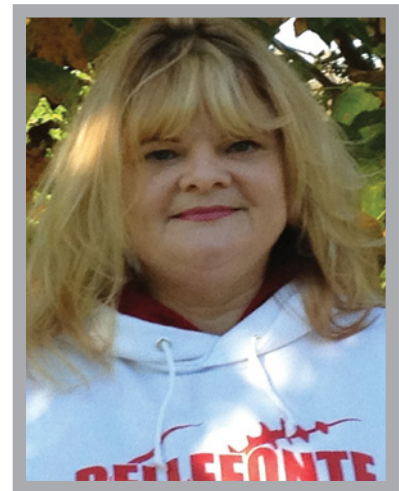
Dr. Michelle Saylor
Assistant Superintendent

I enjoy walking in the evening. While wandering through the parks and past the old Victorian homes that line our streets, I can't help but reflect on the beauty and warmth of our community. It's not just the architecture, the endless views of the mountains, or the wild flowers blooming along the creek. It's the people.

In the short time I've been here, I've found everyone to be gracious and welcoming. Just the thought of getting to know you better makes me smile. I'm looking forward to working alongside our staff and community to build additional opportunities for our students.

This year, like last, will be a year of change as we implement a new English Language Arts program K-12, articulate our math curriculum and work to increase rigor and opportunity for our students, transition to the Common Core State Standards, and revisit our gifted programming. Additionally we'll be working together to streamline district processes, increase access to technology, build global partnerships and experiences for staff and students, and complete the initial phases of our district's comprehensive plan.

These are big tasks, some more challenging than others, but they also



bring increased opportunities for our teachers, students, and community. As we progress through our work, we will keep you informed. On behalf of our district, we welcome you to be a part of our conversations around teaching and learning; and, we look forward to getting to know you throughout the year. ■



A Message from the **Business Manager,** *Ken Bean*

The 2012-2013 school year has barely begun and we are already looking to 2013-2014 to begin the budget process. The State announced the ACT 1 index (maximum amount that the District is allowed to raise real estate taxes) at 2.20%, which is the same increase as last year. In 2012-2013, the Bellefonte Area School District was able to keep the tax increase to the State mandated limit without using any exceptions. Exceptions allow a district to raise taxes above the mandated limit. We are the only District in Centre County to do so.

A topic you have probably read or heard about in the news is the State

Retirement System. The State mandated retirement rate charged to school districts is projected to be 16.69% for 2013-2014, an increase of 35% over the current year rate. This means the District will owe an additional \$865,000 to the retirement system without any other changes to the budget. The index increase of 2.2% means an additional revenue flow from real estate taxes of \$463,260 leaving a shortfall of approximately \$400,000 before we even begin the budget.

The District will be anxiously awaiting the Governor's budget to determine if any additional funding may be added by the State. In the meantime, the District will proceed by looking for ways to provide the same high quality instruction for less. The District is well positioned economically for the increased retirement contributions due to the district's management of funds over the past several years. Funds have

been set aside to lessen the retirement impact as well as reduce the burden to the taxpayer. Many school districts are reducing or cutting programs and eliminating positions. The District does not believe that will be necessary; however, any additional reductions in State funding may require difficult decisions by the Board of School Directors.

The final budget is scheduled to be approved in late June, 2013. The Board of School Directors will discuss the budget at a minimum of six meetings during the year. If you are interested, please plan to attend a meeting. The meeting schedule as well as a link to view meetings on CNet is available on the district web site (www.basd.net). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (814) 355-4814 or by email at kbean@basd.net. ■



Building Gets A **Paint Job**

The BASD Administration Annex Building received a face lift this fall when the building mortar joints were repaired and the entire building was repainted. A new insulated garage door also was installed to replace the old energy inefficient door that was falling apart. ■

A Message from the **Director of the Physical Plant,** *Aaron Barto*

It seems that no sooner is school over and the custodians begin summer cleaning that the doors are opening for the students to return.

This past summer the Physical Plant Department was busy preparing the buildings for school in September, completing projects and overseeing projects. The building custodians worked tirelessly cleaning the buildings from top to bottom, scrubbing floors, cleaning furniture and waxing floors. The buildings always look marvelous that first day of school and again the custodians do their best to try to keep them as clean as possible during the school year.

In other news, The Board of Education approved an electrical upgrade project through the Keystone Purchasing Network that provides 2 additional electrical circuits to each classroom and one additional circuit to each office at Bellefonte Elementary. The electrical infrastructure of the building has not changed much since 1941 and with technology demands the circuit breaker tripping carousel that happened on a daily basis should be a thing of the past.

Speaking of technology, the Physical Plant Department provided additional

electrical outlets for and installed promethean boards throughout the district that provide teachers with the latest technology in smart boards.

The maintenance staff has also been busy running miles of wire for the new wireless internet system in the district, the new phone system upgrade, and for additional security cameras at the Middle School.

The students at the high school will notice that the gymnasium lighting has been changed from the slow metal halide lighting to new instant on fluorescent lighting with individual motion sensors. Each light will be able to operate individually on and off depending on occupancy with a keyed switch for 100% lighting for athletic events. Now when you drive past the high school late at night the gymnasium lighting should not be on anymore unless the gym is being cleaned during the overnight shift (10:30 pm to 7:00 am)

The middle school will receive new stage curtains and pulleys and Benner Elementary has received new solid plastic restroom stalls to replace the old metal ones that were rusting and that the custodians could not properly disinfect and sanitize anymore.



During the high school renovation the school was equipped with a security system that included proximity access cards for staff, and in an effort to provide additional security throughout the district, the remaining 5 schools and 2 administrative buildings received/will receive a badge access system that allows staff to enter and exit without the hassle of keys. The current identification badges will be modified to allow building access and also allow the district to restrict access during non-school hours.

Finally, the Physical Plant office moved this summer to the second floor of the former Bellefonte Family Resource Center (310 N. Allegheny Street). The contact information will remain the same. ■

Springing Students to Success in Language Arts: *Exciting Changes in BASD Literacy*

While the students spent their summer break relaxing and hanging out with friends and family, language arts teachers were busy attending trainings to learn all about the Bellefonte Area School District's new literacy program for grades 6 – 12.

Beginning this year, students will be participating in a research-based language arts program from the College Board called Springboard: English Textual Power. A committee comprised of district leaders and teachers selected the program last spring after a careful review of its unique features and the positive student achievement seen in districts across the nation that have implemented SpringBoard.

The program's rigorous coursework challenges and engages all students so that they are ready for the future, whether they choose to pursue a post-secondary education or enter the workforce. Currently, Springboard is used in over 1,000 schools across the nation, and was recently highly recommended by Phi

Delta Kappa International as a program of exceptional quality.

If you have children at the middle and/or high school level, feel free to take an active role in their participation in the SpringBoard program so that you can support and monitor his/her progress along the way. Throughout the year, you will see your child grow in his/her ability to apply and communicate language arts concepts - qualities that are transferable to other subject areas and to real-world situations. With both SpringBoard and the support of parents, teachers, and community members, our students have the potential to realize a very bright future, no matter which path they choose after high school.

Please contact your child's teacher, or browse the resources available on your child's SpringBoard Online account for additional information. You may also visit the SpringBoard website at <http://www.collegeboard.com/springboard>.



Finally, Jackie Wynkoop, BASD's 6th – 12th grade language arts coach this school year, plans to work closely with teachers to assist and support them with the implementation of Springboard. Wynkoop also hopes to hold parent/student book club sessions at both the middle and high school level. More information about this is to come.

Thank you for your continuous support in maintaining an active role in your child's education. Together Everyone Achieves More. ■

Special Education *Update*

Special Education is an essential aspect of education programming at Bellefonte Area School District, as the Bellefonte Area School District services approximately 400 students in its K-12 Special Education program.

The district offers emotional, learning, multiple disabilities, life skills, speech and language, and autistic support services

to students who need those services to be successful in the general education curriculum.

Dr. Gina MacFalls, Director of Special Education, indicates that although the bulk of services delivered to district students are in their home school buildings, the District also offers services in other settings to students who have a higher degree of

need and specialization. In addition, Dr. MacFalls adds that many students qualify for related services such as occupational and physical therapy, and some outside counseling services.

A related service is something that allows students to access their program or to gain educational benefit from it. The district employs 24 special education

Standards Update: *The Common Core*

The Common Core State Standards, adopted by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education in July, 2010, are a clear and consistent framework of what students across the United States need to know and be able to do to ensure college and career readiness.

These standards, more rigorous than our previous state standards and designed to deepen student understanding, were developed in collaboration with teachers, administrators, and experts in the field.

Pennsylvania's adoption includes all of the national Common Core with the option of including a limited number of additional standards in the future as the state continues to analyze the rigor and range of the new Common Core. This past summer, the State posted the drafts of the Pennsylvania Common Core on the department website.

Currently, Pennsylvania is in a transitional phase as educators work toward full implementation of these standards. By spring of 2014, our state end-of-the-year assessments (PSSA and Keystone) will fully reflect alignment to the Common Core. Bellefonte Area School District

is re-aligning our curriculum, reviewing and evaluating supporting resources, and working with teachers to help them deepen their understanding of the instructional changes that will accompany this implementation.

Currently, the Common Core addresses Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical subjects. Key changes between the Pennsylvania Standards we have been using and the new Common Core are an emphasis on mastery of skills, greater text complexity, literacy across disciplines, and incorporation of both the habits of mind necessary for success in Mathematics such as perseverance in problem solving (the practice) as well as the content and application of the standards aligned concepts and skills.

The Common Core Standards have been intentionally developed to promote a more focused and coherent order addressing the problem of our current curriculum which is often described as being "a mile wide and an inch deep". This change will better help students develop

the skills and understandings they will need to demonstrate to be successful in a 21st century globally competitive society.

You can learn more about the Common Core Standards and Pennsylvania's implementation of these standards by going to the following website: <http://www.pdesas.org/Standard/CommonCore>.

At this site you will find answers to frequently asked questions, the complete list of standards, as well as emphasis guides and tri-folds explaining the changes in both English Language Arts and mathematics and the progression of the mathematical expectations. The Hunt Institute's Common Core Video Information Playlists provide a nice overview of the Common Core Standards and may be accessed at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheHuntInstitute/featured>.

Over the course of the year, we will be sharing additional information about the content standards, the mathematical standards of practice, and how you can help your child acclimate to the increased rigor and expectations the Common Core bring to learning. ■



teachers, three speech and language therapists, and a number of classroom and individual personal care aides to assist students with disabilities.

When asked about the greatest strength of the Special Education department, Dr. MacFalls stated, "I have been in special education administration for almost 17 years and in a variety of districts and Intermediate Units across

the Commonwealth. Both the special education teachers and the administrators in this district think outside of the box and are willing to be creative to help make students successful. We have a very strong parental component and parents who come to our meetings and participate meaningfully in their children's education."

MacFalls opined that the biggest challenge to special education is providing

services in a fiscally responsible manner. She indicates that federal and state funding do not always stay on pace with increasing needs of students and the requirements that govern services that must be provided. Dr. MacFalls added that this state of fiscal affairs is not new, and that it is something that all districts face and work through on an annual basis. ■



Elementary Schools Adopt a New Language Arts Program

Each school year brings many changes.

One change you will notice this year is new reading books and materials coming home with your elementary students. The elementary schools have adopted a new Language Arts program entitled LEAD 21.

The adoption of this program is the result of a year-long process involving a Language Arts Curriculum Committee. The committee was comprised of K-5 teachers, reading specialists and special education teachers charged with the task of reviewing the new

Common Core Standards, writing curriculum, and researching and recommending a core Language Arts program to the School Board of Directors for adoption.

LEAD 21 is published by Wright Group/McGraw Hill transforming literacy instruction for 21st Century students.

Literacy expanded – LEAD 21 provides the basics of literacy instruction and beyond in both print and digital formats.

Equity ensured – LEAD 21 makes certain

that all students have access to grade level content.

Acceleration achieved – LEAD 21 provides a plan to accelerate progress and proficiency for all students.

Differentiation refined – LEAD 21 provides structured differentiation through uniquely leveled differentiated readers.

21st Century – LEAD 21 teaches all of the critical 21st Century skills students need for school and beyond. ■



Healthy Hunger - Free Kids Act Impacts School Cafeterias

The 2012-13 school year has provided schools across the nation an opportunity to show their commitment to student health by implementing the nutritional changes required by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. As everyone knows, healthy students are better prepared to learn, miss less school, are more attentive in class, and tend to perform better academically.

Federal requirements went into place beginning July 1, 2012, establishing new nutrition standards for school meals. These standards are based on a collection of scientific research and are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

There have been many changes in our school cafeterias. We offer a greater variety of fruits and vegetables since students

must take at least a half cup of one or the other in order to have a complete lunch. There are more whole grains offered daily, including whole grain pizza crust, hamburger and sub rolls and tortillas. The flavored milk is now fat free, although students can choose white milk with 1% fat content. In order to stay within required minimum and maximum ranges for grains, meats and calories, portion sizes are often reduced from what they previously were. These requirements were established using scientific data for the general population. By taking the increased servings of fruits and vegetables, most students should be able to obtain the appropriate amount of food needed for a student their age.

As noted by USDA, "As the new

school year begins, the implementation of these standards is generally proceeding smoothly across the country, representing an important step towards combating a growing obesity problem that has left one in three American kids overweight or obese. This is a serious, national problem that puts our children at risk of serious health complications like diabetes and heart disease and threatens to impact our nation's health for decades. If left unaddressed, health experts tell us that our current generation of children may well have a shorter life span than their parents."

So, don't forget to say "yes please" when it comes to fruits and vegetables and be a part of the healthier generation of students. ■

K-12 Mathematics:

What's happening lately in BASD?

As the 2012 – 2013 school year unfolds, there is a great deal to share in regards to K – 12 mathematics.

From K – 5th grade students completing mathematics packets last summer, two K – 8th grade math intervention specialists being hired, a committee comprised of K – 12 teachers and administrators writing district mathematics curriculum, to K – 6th grade students and parents attending mathematics nights, BASD is creating opportunities to enhance and support student success in mathematics.

Once again, at the end of 2011 – 2012 school year, our K – 5th grade students were offered summer math packets. We had 178 students turn in completed packets in early September. In addition to the packets providing students an opportunity to practice and/or extend their mathematical thinking, each student who turned in a completed packet received a coupon for a free small pizza from Pizza Mia, located on Spring Street in Bellefonte. BASD would like to thank Pizza Mia for its continued support and dedication to students. Please note that summer mathematics packets will be provided to kindergarten through sixth grade students at the end of this school year. In addition, Pizza Mia has graciously promised to award students who have a completed 2013 summer math packet a coupon for a free small pizza.

Given the unique nature of individual student thinking, it should come as no surprise that students come to make mathematical connections at different times. While our K – 8 mathematics classrooms differentiate on a daily basis to support students meeting expectations on individual timelines, research and experience indicate there are typically a small percentage of students at both ends of the “meeting expectations continuum.” That is, there are typically a small percentage

of students who really struggle to meet expectations and typically another small percentage of students who meet and surpass expectations.

Our gifted teachers service students with GIEPs to enrich their mathematical experiences beyond the classroom. At the beginning of this school year, two Math Intervention Specialists, Mrs. Pat Zimmerman and Ms. Olivia Nugent, were hired to support those students who really struggle in mathematics. Mrs. Zimmerman and Ms. Nugent will provide extra mathematics instruction to struggling mathematics students in four elementary buildings and the middle school.

A committee of K – 5 elementary classroom teachers, 6 – 12 mathematics teachers, K – 12 special education teachers, and administrators is working collaboratively to write mathematics curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM) that was released in June 2010. CCSSM have been created to support consistency across the nation in our K – 12 mathematics classrooms. The standards provide both content standards and standards for mathematical practices that call for a focused, coherent, rigorous mathematics curriculum. Please take time to check out the official website for the standards at www.corestandards.org/math.

We already held our K/1 Parent and Student Math Night on October 11th, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Middle School Cafeteria. Students and parents rotated among mathematics stations to play and engage in activities and games from current K/1 mathematics classrooms. The students also traveled to the computer lab towards the end of the evening. This gave the parents an opportunity to gain a more in-depth understanding of appropriate development stages concerning foundation understandings of the four basic operations. Parent and Student Math

Finally, BASD's Third Annual Winter Family Math Night for K – 6 students and families will be held on Thursday, March 7 from 6:30 pm – 7:00 p.m. at the middle school gymnasium. The event will be a fun educational evening for both students and parents to engage in mathematics games and activities experienced in mathematics classrooms throughout the school year. The district will provide a pizza snack from Pizza Mia and several local businesses donated prizes that will be given away.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to achieve the goal of providing your child with a K – 12 mathematics education that will enable him/her to meet the demands of the 21st Century. ■



ELL Students have a Home at Bellefonte



As the country becomes more diverse, so do our schools.

The Urban Institute's Immigration Studies Program estimated that by 2015, children of immigrants will make up 30 percent of our nation's school population (Honigsfeld, 2009). With that said, school systems have been integrating English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. These programs are put in place to address the diverse needs of the English Language Learners (ELL) so as to give them the best educational opportunities available.

Bellefonte Area School District has been serving English Language Learners for several years. The late Mrs. Wanda Garbrick began the program at a time when she realized the Russian population was especially growing in Bellefonte. The work she started continues today by a team of dedicated teachers who together work to ensure that these students are given equal opportunities when it comes to academics.

Currently, there are four active ESL teachers within the district. Mrs. Elizabeth

Whitehead has been teaching ESL in the district for eleven years. She teaches the ELLs in all four elementary buildings. This year, she has twenty-three students. Rebecca Baney, Amanda Dodson, and Victoria Butch all teach Spanish and ESL at the high school level and/or middle school. This school year, there are seven middle school students and nine at the high school level for a total of 39 ELLs district wide.

The ESL program aims to make sure that every English Language Learners' individual needs are met. These range from very basic everyday things needed to survive in our American culture, to more complex, academically related areas. The ESL team of teachers works in conjunction with the content teacher, to make sure the students have the same opportunity to succeed.

To help ESL teachers determine the various needs of ELL students, all ELLs take a standardized assessment in the Spring. This assessment focuses on the four domains of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

This test, the WIDA ACCESS, is administered to all active ELLs. The results of the WIDA determine placement in the program. Students will either receive services, be monitored for two years, or exited. Students whose scores indicate that they need more support will receive direct instruction. Students whose scores indicate that they are progressing but not fully developed in their English reading, writing and speaking skills will be monitored. These students must maintain a C average in all of their core classes to remain on the monitored track. Of the thirty-nine ELLs in the district this year, eleven of them are being monitored.

The ESL program continues to grow each year. With the support of administration and faculty, we will be able to continue to serve these students and give them the best education possible. This population of students has so much to share and contribute to our schools. They bring culture, diversity, and a unique perspective to the family of Bellefonte Raiders. ■

Spotlight on *Educators*



The Bellefonte Area School District appreciates each employee for contributing to the success of our students. An Employee Recognition System was created to provide an opportunity to recognize employees. The Board of School Directors congratulated the following recipients of the Employee Recognition System award at the May 22, 2012, Regular Board Meeting. Employees were nominated by their coworkers in their respective district buildings.

Excerpts of coworkers' nomination comments included: "...takes great pride in work...kind and caring...pleasant and does fantastic job...remembers little things...friendly and pleasant...work ethic is unsurpassed...character, attitude, and commitment to excellence are examples for us all...outstanding compassion to students...amazing job...hard work and willingness to help on a daily basis...dedication to school, staff, and students...employee should be patented...strong

team player...really knows her students...genuinely cares about each coworker...enthusiastic and dedicated worker...pleasure to work with...comes in with a smile every morning...devoted to student achievement and success of students...goes above and beyond duties...does outstanding job...always willing to help...kind, considerate, and polite to everyone...

Congratulations! ■

Professional Staff Recipients:

Barbara Hoffman	Bellefonte Area High School
Jennifer Hoover.....	Bellefonte Area Middle School
Jackie Wynkoop	Bellefonte Elementary School
Rebecca Roos.....	Benner Elementary School
Jennifer Carroll	Marion-Walker Elementary School
Nicole Conway.....	Pleasant Gap Elementary School

Support Staff Recipients:

Harold Roan	Bellefonte Area High School
Leslie Elder	Bellefonte Area Middle School
Alice Emery.....	Bellefonte Elementary School
Shelby Palmer.....	Benner Elementary School
Maryann Haagen	Marion-Walker Elementary School
James Shaffer.....	Pleasant Gap Elementary School



Meet *BASD's* New Teachers

The start of the school year is an exciting time for students, parents, and staff. Not only is it a new beginning, it also brings with it fresh opportunities and invigorating challenges.

Our teachers are the heartbeat of our schools and the first to embrace these opportunities for your children. This year

we're thrilled to welcome several new teachers to our Bellefonte family.

Our new teachers completed two days of induction workshops in August and one in September to introduce them to our district culture and our instructional programming. They will continue to receive support throughout their first year

and beyond to ensure they successfully meet the needs of and facilitate learning for your children.

Please be sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them in our schools or out in our community. ■



Bellefonte Area School District student and violinist Gehrig Schuster stands with Bellefonte Area Middle School teacher Mrs. Julie Renne after receiving the second annual 2012 Valerie T. Heidt Memorial award. This award is presented each spring in memory of orchestra student Valerie Heidt who was killed in a boating accident and is given to a student who demonstrates superior musicianship, leadership, and academic performance. Pennsylvania state legislation is in place to change the DUI laws as they apply to boating as a result of the tragedy involving Valerie Heidt. ■

Please Welcome: *Dr. Michelle Saylor*

BASD's new Assistant Superintendent

By Mary Elder, Bellefonte Area High School Senior

Bellefonte Area High School welcomes a new face this year: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michelle Saylor.

Prior to living in Bellefonte, Dr. Saylor was able to live in a variety of different places. She grew up in Lehigh Valley, but was able to live in West Palm Beach and Tampa, Florida, Catawissa and Columbia, PA. Along with living in a variety of different places, she also went to a variety of different schools for post-secondary education.

"I did my undergraduate work at Bloomsburg University (B.S. in secondary education with a certification in English 7-12), my Master in English at the University of Scranton, my Master in Education and my principal certification at California University of PA, and my doctorate and letter of eligibility at Widener University. I also did post-graduate work at Bucknell and LaSalle and did a fellowship at the University of South Florida," said Dr. Saylor.

Bellefonte is not the first home for Dr. Saylor seeing as she has a wealth of experience.

"I worked in private industry for many years before coming into the educational field. As a teacher, I taught high school English and worked as an adjunct for both Bloomsburg University and Penn State University," said Dr. Saylor. "I also developed and taught online AP courses for the intermediate unit. As a building administrator I worked at both the middle school (grades 5-8) and high school levels. Most recently, I worked in central office as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Staff Development, pre-k-12, at Wilson School District outside of Reading, PA."

The transition from teacher to administrator was different for Dr. Saylor. She had to undergo many different changes, but she has done so with ease.

"My classroom is different. I've always considered myself a teacher - even in private industry staff development often became one of my responsibilities. As I've evolved in my career in education my students have changed, the structure of the classroom is also obviously different, but everything still focuses on learning and growing. My responsibilities are more varied and I have more interactions with a wider range of stakeholders. Where before I worked directly with students, now I'm working with the adults who affect our students. I'm creating more of the frameworks that we work within to promote student success and doing more troubleshooting so our teachers and administrators can do what they need to do more easily," said Dr. Saylor.

Although Dr. Saylor is new to the school district she has the best in mind for everyone. She is truly looking out for the best of the students, parents, and faculty.

"I want all of our students to leave BASD with the best educational experiences possible. I believe all students can learn and achieve and all students need to be challenged and supported. Students rise to our expectations. I also am passionate about ensuring our students leave Bellefonte with global competencies so they can be successful citizens in a global community. If I had a magic wand, every student would either study abroad, engage in an embedded cultural experience or immersion opportunity, or some other 'deep' cross cultural

collaborative opportunity. I'd like to see critical languages at Bellefonte, and, global education integrated at all levels across content. I'd love to see more integration between science, math, technology, and the arts; I'd love to be able to grow a robust engineering program (like Project Lead the Way)," said Dr. Saylor. "I'd like to see more pervasive use of technology as a tool to facilitate learning and increase student opportunities to collaborate with others outside of our walls. I believe technology can also help us eliminate time as variable in learning, and it's important for us to get beyond the traditional structures. I also believe it's very important for our teachers to have time to collaborate around their practice, to analyze data and use it to improve student learning, and to develop integrated lessons - I'd like to see that time built into their day on a very regular basis in some way, and all this while not losing those qualities that make Bellefonte special - the passion, helpfulness, and sincerity of our community."

Dr. Saylor may be new to Bellefonte, but she has not ceased to fit in and strengthen the district.

"I'm enjoying meeting everyone - getting to know what makes Bellefonte tick. There are many many hectic days and challenges for sure, but I look at them as opportunities for growth and as avenues for us to make differences in children's' lives. Bellefonte is a very welcoming and gracious community. I appreciate that about Bellefonte and our district," said Dr. Saylor. ■

Public Education: A Cut Above the Rest

Respectfully submitted by the Bellefonte Area Education Association

With the political race recently in the heat of battle, and the economy fluctuating day-by-day, you can guarantee one thing will continue to be strong: the education of your children.

Public education remains a powerful focus in the development of community. Through public education, the students of Bellefonte are given the opportunity to learn how to communicate and collaborate with a diverse group of individuals, excel in traditional subjects as well as investigate their interests through elective courses, participate in extra-curricular activities, and be exposed to, as well as utilize, classroom equipment that would not be accessible through other methods of learning. Through these opportunities, students are able to compete with those from around the world.

Because of Bellefonte's growing diversity, students are being introduced to new cultures and ideas, thereby learning how to embrace and accept differences amongst groups and individuals while

maintaining a focus on the ideals they hold close. Student development of understanding and tolerance of others promotes positive communication and incorporates the thoughts and ideas into future schooling and career environments.

The teachers of Bellefonte are dedicated to providing a wide-range of courses and extra-curricular activities that appeal to diverse interests and hobbies. Not only do Bellefonte teachers prepare our students in the required educational elements, but they encourage our students to explore a variety of interests and to develop their own paths to success. Besides providing such diverse opportunities, the staff and faculty of Bellefonte prepare our students through in-depth lessons that promote student achievement, exceeding state expectations above and beyond AYP.

Through this, we are preparing the students for life after high school in the ever-changing world.

In order to provide students with such

opportunities, Bellefonte works hard to provide all of the necessary materials and equipment needed to effectively present ideas to the students, and provide them with the opportunity to apply the ideas to real-life situations. This is something many students lose when taken out of the public education community. In order to meet the educational needs of all, Bellefonte has introduced its own online schooling opportunity known as BeLA. The district-run cyber school is an opportunity for current teachers to satisfy the educational needs of the students through 21st century technology.

Overall, the teachers of Bellefonte are keeping up with the changing times in education in order to provide your students the education and opportunities to be successful in today's changing environment. Through the public education your child is receiving, they are preparing to take the world by storm and show they have what it takes to succeed no matter what the future holds. ■

PASR Awards Two *BASD* Students

On June 6, 2012, the Centre Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) awarded a scholarship to Tracy Barnett, a senior at Bellefonte Area High School.

This scholarship, presented at the Bellefonte Area High School Senior Awards Night, commemorates the 75th Anniversary of PASR, the association representing more than 190,000 public school retirees across the Commonwealth.

PASR's more than 33,000 member teachers, administrators, and school support personnel are dedicated to serving others in need and helping one another enjoy retirement.

PASR's Centre Chapter sent applications to the guidance departments of every high school in the county. To be considered for this commemorative scholarship, applicants were asked to write an essay on one of the topics:

- What makes a good teacher?
- What are the challenges facing public education today?
- What are the qualities that the best teachers bring to education?
- Identify traits of specific teachers whom you believe made all the difference in how you learned. Explain how or why you feel you will be able to emulate those traits, as you prepare to be an educator.

Update: *the Bellefonte Education Foundation*

A big thank you to the local businesses that support the Bellefonte schools through monetary donations. The Bellefonte Education Foundation is very pleased to announce that they have received \$25,194.00 in Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donations so far this year. Our teachers and students will benefit from contributions made by Susquehanna Bank, Giant Foods, Restek Corporation, First National Bank, Fulton Bank and Northwest Savings Bank. The EITC money will be used to support new innovative educational programs at the Bellefonte Area School District.

As an example of the exciting programming offered as a result of the EITC donations, this fall the BAHS will be using the funds to pay for a local artist to present writing workshops with our students. Pamela Monk is a playwright and freelance journalist who has taught for the past thirty years. The art of writing plays is ancient and collaborative. In a residency, Pam will guide students through this time-honored process. Students will write short plays with coherent plots and distinct characters and, after presenting their work for critique

and feedback, will revise their pieces accordingly. The content of these plays will be drawn from the curriculum or from student interest and needs as identified by the teacher or by the students.

Besides the Artist program, the BEF also has received approval from the Department of Community & Economic Development for the Promethean Project. This will allow the BEF to assist with the purchase of promethean boards. The promethean board is an interactive learning whiteboard that connects to a computer. Through this new technology, students are able to have hands on practice and personal involvement with their learning.

Currently, we are working on getting more programs approved and we will be able to fund them in the near future.

Do you own a business and would you like to support the schools? Would you like the share in the warm feelings that come from helping students and teachers? You are eligible to participate if your business is authorized to do business in Pennsylvania and you are subject to one or more of the following taxes: Corporate

Net Income Tax, Capital Stock Franchise Tax, Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax, Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax, Insurance Premiums Tax, Mutual Thrift Institution Tax, or Personal Income Tax of S corporation shareholders or Partnership partner.

You can receive tax credits equal to 75% of your contribution up to a maximum of \$400,000 per taxable year; this can be further increased to 90% of your contribution, if the business agrees to provide the same amount for two consecutive tax years.

If you are interested in this program where your tax credit can be directed to the Bellefonte Education Foundation please contact the DCED Center for Business Financing, Tax Credit Division, 4th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building, and 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120: (717)-787-7120 or RA-EITC@pa.gov. Or, if you prefer, contact Pam Vaiana, Executive Director of the Bellefonte Education Foundation. ■

- Write a letter to a specific educator whom you feel has been the best role model as an educator. Be prepared to send this letter to that educator, if you are selected for this scholarship.

Essays were judged on the following criteria: clarity, content, organization, style, and creativity. After much deliberation, Tracy Barnett was selected as the PASR 75th Anniversary scholarship recipient.

PASR's Centre Chapter believes that Tracy is an outstanding student deserving of this accolade and commends her

scholastic achievements and career aspirations. Tracy will be attending Millersville University to become a history teacher.

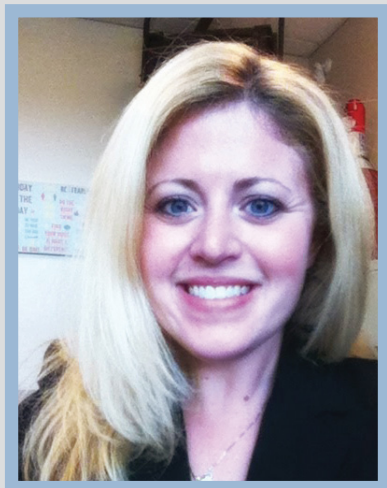
In addition to Tracy, On June 6, 2012, the Centre Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (CCASR) awarded a scholarship to Miranda Boatman, a senior at Bellefonte Area High School.

This scholarship, presented at the Bellefonte Area High School Senior Awards Night, rotates annually through

the four Centre County School Districts represented by the Centre County Chapter. Over 350 members of the Centre County Chapter were pleased to be able to honor a student entering education with a scholarship.

Miranda will enter the Penn State Behrend campus to major in early childhood education. The Centre County Chapter believes Miranda to be an outstanding student and commends her scholastic achievements and career aspirations. ■

A Message from the new **BAHS Vice-Principal,** *Sommer Garman*



I extend a warm hello to the students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members of the Bellefonte Area School District.

My name is Sommer Garman and I am new to the district this year as one of the Vice-Principals at the Bellefonte Area High School. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this district, as I have lived in the district for several years and have watched

as the district has made great gains in moving forward in the ever changing world of education.

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

I am a proud graduate of Curwensville Area High School. Post graduation, I completed my bachelor's degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where I was also the captain and president of the IUP Women's Rugby team. My major was elementary education with a minor in Spanish. As part of my programming, I completed an internship in Mexico where I spent a summer teaching 4th grade. I earned my Master of Education degree

and my K-12 Principal Certification from California University of Pennsylvania.

Being an educator is an awesome responsibility.

I am very passionate about not only educating our youth but also providing them with a secure environment in which they can learn. I believe that school is a place where students should feel like they have a voice, they are being challenged, they will be safe, and yes, even have fun. In the short amount of time that I have been with this district, it is easy to see that the staff, school board, and administration truly care about their students and their education and take great pride in providing the best learning environment for everyone. I am delighted to live in Bellefonte with my husband, Matt, and our three year old daughter, Brooklyn, and I look forward to spending many years with the Bellefonte Area School District. ■



LEFT: Teacher, Mr. Danny Miller, explains the RAIDERS expectations to male students for the locker room and physical education class.

BELOW: Teacher, Mr. Jay Zimmerman, leads the student body in a cheer as part of one of the relay races during the pep rally.



Reviving RAIDERS at BAHS

Bellefonte Area High School has always been proud of the dedication of its students, staff, and community members.

Many alumni have fond memories of their time at BAHS and continue to live in the Bellefonte community. Over the years, generations of students from the same families continue to keep BAHS's traditions alive. Alumni honor the motto of Pride, Tradition, and Excellence. It was with this thought in mind that the School Wide Positive Behavior Support team at BAHS developed school-wide expectations.

School-wide positive behavior support is a framework that develops school-wide expectations for all students. At BAHS, RAIDERS is used as an acronym for school-wide expectations. Last school year, BAHS students offered suggestions for school-wide expectations and voted on the expectations they liked best. The expectations are:

Respect
All
Individuals
Demonstrate
Excellence
Responsibility
Safety

The motto of Pride, Tradition, and Excellence inspired BAHS to continue to promote these virtues in students to be respectful, excellence, responsible, and safe. As you pass by the high school, you may notice flag banners on the light posts that display these principles. There is even a large banner outside the main entrance and many more in the hallways. These banners serve as a reminder to students to be RAIDERS throughout each day at BAHS. It is also important to note that all of the 20+ banners were paid for with grant money and money raised through the fundraising efforts of the high school Renaissance program.

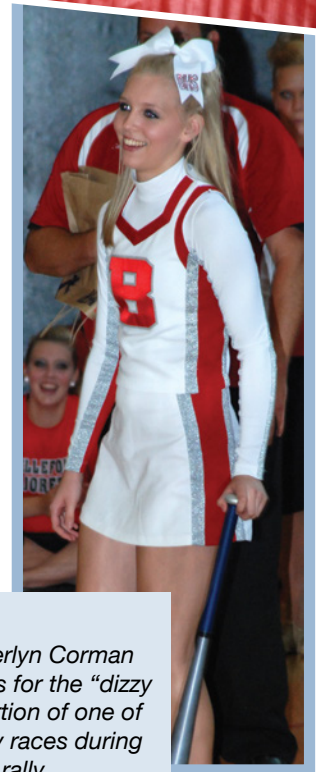
During the first week of school, students at BAHS were introduced to expectations by a kick-off assembly.

Students revisited the school-wide expectations and explained the various aspects of school-wide. Students who exhibit behaviors that reflect the school-wide expectations can receive SpARK cards. SpARK (Spectacular Acts of Random Kindness) cards are slips of paper that teachers and staff give to students who exhibit positive behaviors. For example, students might be recognized for picking up trash, opening a door for another person, or helping a student in need.

Students can then turn in SpARK cards for prize drawings. The students were very excited to know that they could win privileges such as a special parking space, a first-in-line-at-lunch pass, or free time with friends. They can also win tangible prizes such as gas cards, iTunes gift cards, Bellefonte gear, or a variety of donated items. Students had an opportunity during the first week of school to complete a reinforce survey to tell us what items would be rewarding to them.

Later in the week, teachers accompanied students to different areas in the school and taught students about how expectations look in those areas. For example, being safe in physical education class is somewhat different than being safe in the chemistry classroom. Students were able to participate in skits and lessons to make these expectations clear. Students in video production class, with the help of teachers, also put together some videos demonstrating the use of the school-wide rules. Students were able to view these in their homerooms and teachers facilitated lessons to accompany these lessons as well. It is important that all students have a clear picture of what is expected of everyone in all parts of the school.

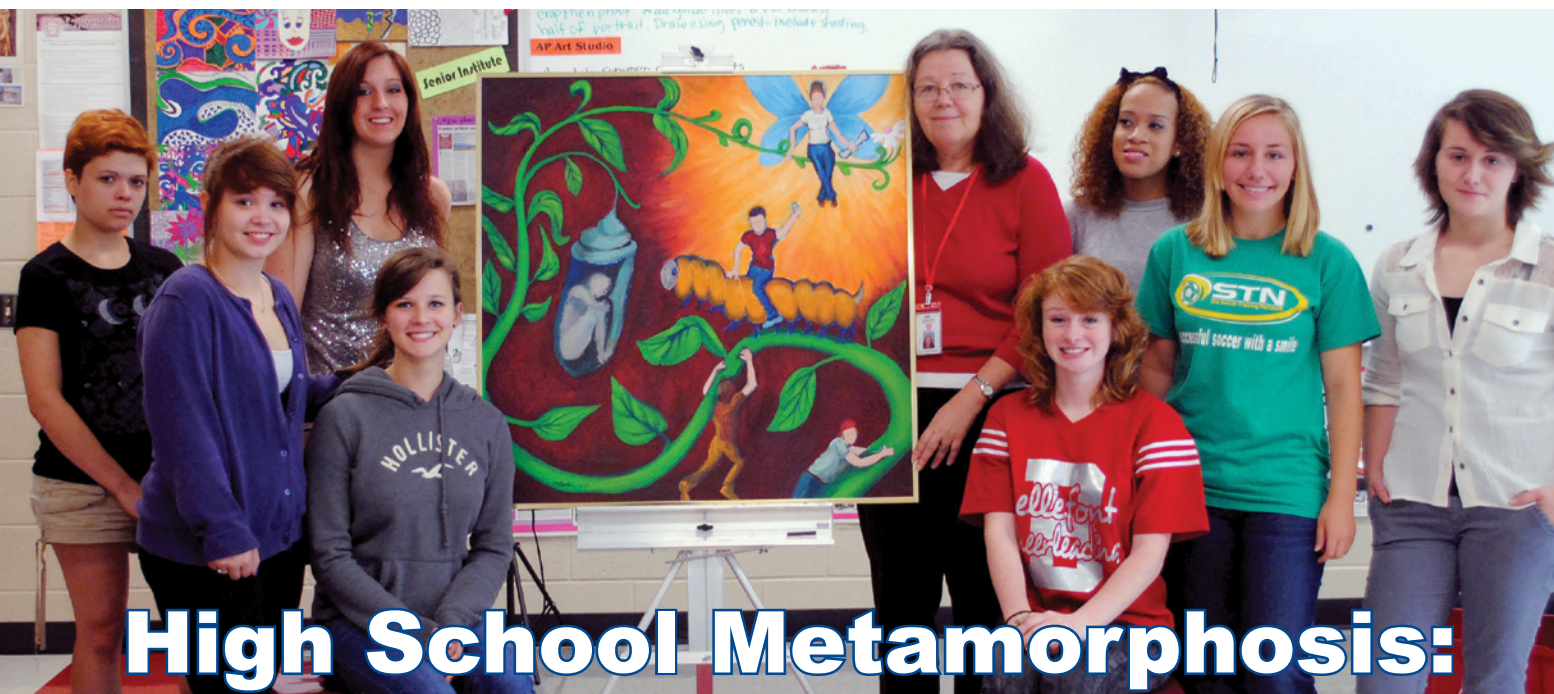
The week ended with a pep rally to celebrate everyone's hard work and to support fall sports teams. The BAHS band played several songs including the Alma Mater. The cheerleaders led several cheers



Chamberlyn Corman prepares for the "dizzy bat" portion of one of the relay races during the pep rally.

and students and staff participated in relay races. Coaches introduced their teams and senior football captains addressed the student body. It was a great end to the first week of school.

As the school year continues, the school-wide committee and teachers will continue to recognize students for exhibiting positive behaviors. Both students and teachers can win some great prizes, participate in some exciting events, and continue to make greater positive contributions to the school and community. Let BAHS show you Pride, Tradition, and Excellence by being RAIDERS. ■



High School Metamorphosis:

How a Painting Captured the Attention of a School

Way back in the spring of 2009 Mrs. Barton, the high school art teacher, was demonstrating the basics of stretching a canvas and the steps for beginning an acrylic painting to her AP Art Studio class. Originally the students were to work in groups to create a layout of their own to draw onto the stretched canvas, but because it was nearly the end of the school year, students did not get the opportunity to do the proper planning. Mrs. Barton then came up with a layout for the stretched canvas and demonstrated the steps for beginning a painting using charcoal and thin washes of paint. The theme would be the high school years.

During the following year (2009-10) school year, the painting sat on a large easel. Students asked about the theme, and they shared their experiences of their years at the high school. Generally, students felt disoriented during the freshman year. Looking at the painting, the bottom figure represents the freshman student climbing up the large vine.

Most students felt the sophomore year was the most fun. This center figure is riding the "caterpillar" rodeo style while holding a cell

phone. The cocoon represents the most difficult year. Most students felt the junior year was stressful with PSSA and SAT testing and looming pressure to get better grades for college applications, while at the same time taking the more difficult science and math classes. In addition, some students were experiencing work in the real world and had to better manage their time. They also felt that while going through this stress, they matured as young adults.

Finally, comes the figure at the upper right corner; the figure with wings, clutching a high school diploma. The brilliant sun light emphasizes this figure. She is the one ready to fly off, to experience her opportunities that come her way. One last figure on the lower center part of the painting shows a figure clinging onto the vine. His feet are hanging off the vine completely. He appears to be ready to fall. This is the figure who is struggling to stay in high school. He could also be the figure, who falls and fails to get his diploma. These figures represented students who were going through the stages of high school just like a caterpillar going through the stages of metamorphosis, hence the title, "High School Metamorphosis".

Non art students also saw the painting, and they wanted to know all about it. Students saw some progress, but the painting was still unfinished during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years. Finally Mrs. Barton's AP Art studio class made a challenge. They would spend their summer completing the AP summer assignments, and they would expect Mrs. Barton to finish "the painting".

During the summer break Mrs. Barton brought the painting home and finished in time for the start of the school year. Mrs. Barton wanted Mrs. Brown, the Bellefonte Area High School Principal, to see the finished painting since so many students had displayed an interest in it. Mrs. Brown was so impressed with the painting that she had the painting framed and hung it in the main lobby of the high school. As you walk into the main entrance of the high school the painting can be found on the right side of the school district seal. The painting reminds all students that as they change through learning and maturity, they too can reach their goal.... graduation and a high school diploma. ■



Both the boys and girls cross-country teams had great seasons, as the smiles on the faces of these seniors shows.



BAHS senior Mitchell Smith won states this after three years of dominating league competition.

Boys Run to a Championship

The Bellefonte Area boys XC team made history by winning back-to-back Mountain League XC Championships this year.

Mitchell Smith won the race in 16:45 followed by a PR run for Andrew O'Donnell finishing 3rd overall in 17:47. The Red Raiders executed its tight "pack running" by taking spots 6th - 9th to clinch the title. The finishers in order Mike Lewis (18:16), Sean Gipson (18:21), Garrett Pensak (18:25) and Matt Dabiero (18:28). Ethan Diefenbach completed Bellefonte's top seven by finishing 15th in 19:14.

The Bellefonte Area JV Boys swept the top seven places dominating the Combined Junior Varsity race. Manny Meinen won the race in 19:31. Bellefonte Area finishers were: 2. Michael O'Donnell (19:44) 3. Daniel Tanney (19:59) 4. Joshua Cetnar (20:14) 5. Mike Trowbridge (20:27) 6. Grey Rockey (20:45) 7. Ben Gibboney (20:49) 10. Zachary Musser (21:09) 13. Brett Finley (21:59) 19. Seth Weaver (23:43) 20. Andrew Hamilton (25:12) 25. Erin Lemons (27:12) 27. Meagan Button (28:29)

The Bellefonte Area girls team finished 3rd out of 6 teams in their best showing of the season. Alexis Franks led the way for the Lady Red Raiders finishing 5th overall in 22:09 followed by Anya Hoaglund finishing 8th overall in 22:31. Rounding out the top 6 for Bellefonte were Charlotte Martin (26:04), Brooke Shirey (26:15), Kailey Bone (26:22) and Kellie Rice (27:49). ■

Welcome to the Jungle

That is the theme of this year's High School marching band show. The concept was inspired by a conversation this past spring between Karissa Dixon, a senior in the silk squad, and Mr. Zimmerman, the high school band director.

Musical selections include "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns and Roses, "The Lion Sleeps tonight," "Jungle Love" by the Steve Miller Band, an original drum solo written by staff instructor Trevor Calabro, and closes with "You'll be in My Heart" from the Disney Movie Tarzan.

The musical arrangements and marching drill design were written by band director Jay Zimmerman. The visual concept was developed by staff member Skip Headings. Soloists in the show are Matt Swartz and Jeff Rose on trumpet and Megan Montgomery on Mellophone. Numerous visual soloists throughout the show include: Malinda Rossi, Maddie Falcone, Gabby Dugan, Annie

Shumway, Molly Munnell, Whitney Stahley, Karissa Dixon, Alisha Tyler Lohr, Madison Stewart, Karah Mothersbaugh, Alayni Caprio, Aleah Wolfe, and Lauren Filipowicz.

This year, the marching band consists of 108 students. They are lead onto the field by senior drum major Brandon Houtz. Student officers of the Bellefonte Band are: Ian Charney- President, Megan Montgomery- Vice President, Manny Meinen- Treasurer, and Lily McCullough-Secretary, The Instructional Staff for the marching band includes: Jay Zimmerman-Director, Susan Zimmerman - Assistant Director, Holly Knepp - Majorette Instructor, Skip Headings-guard Instructor and visual coordinator, Kim Weaver - Choreographer, and Trevor Calabro - Percussion Instructor.

A good band needs the help of many individuals and we have been blessed here at Bellefonte to have several volunteers help us out. Volunteer instructors are: April Dietrich,

Josh Wiedner, Jayme Zimmerman, Amber Garbrick, Brenna Bixler, and Max BeSong.

After a busy summer of parades, carnivals, fairs, and festivals, the band has performed its show at all the fall football games. In addition to Friday nights, the band also performed at the girls' and boys' soccer games and the volleyball team's senior nights.

The band also participated in the Clearfield/Centre County band show at Glendale High School on October 20th. The band is scheduled to perform at the Bellefonte fall festival Halloween parade and the American Legion Veterans Day Ceremony. All in all the 2012 marching band will have performed 25 times since the beginning of summer, supporting our local civic organizations as well as our high school sports teams. ■



BAHS Celebrates *Banned Books Week*



During the first week of October, the BAHS Media Center joined with the American Library Association to celebrate "30 Years of Liberating Literature."

The ALA states, "Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship."

Students created written and visual representations of censorship through poetry and artwork. Additionally, a library display featured books that have been challenged or banned throughout the country. Enriching conversations about the broad history of censorship were thought-provoking and enlightening.

Seniors Elizabeth Catchmark & Rachel Brissenden created the graffiti-inspired art in the library.

Rachel stressed, "The ability to learn should never be censored, especially for students."

In agreement with Rachel on the importance of open discussion, Elizabeth said, "Allowing students to be exposed to diverse perspectives creates a better education and hopefully a more tolerant world."

That is exactly what the Banned Books Week strives to accomplish.

To learn more about Banned Books Week visit: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek>

Artwork: Elizabeth Catchmark and Rachel Brissenden ■

Agriculture Program Approved

Agricultural Sciences teacher, Myken Poorman, in conjunction with Grant and Outreach Coordinator Pam Vaiana, has been working with PDE to attain program approval for the Agriculture Program since last spring.

An approved program will bring money into our district. Schools of similar demographics with similar numbers of students in the agriculture program bring

in well over \$100,000 with an approved program.

In September, a group met with PDE representative, Chris Weller, to discuss the steps needed to attain program approval and after a long application process and inputting much data, the program has been approved.

The Agriculture Program has grown considerably in the past four years.

One of Mrs. Poorman's goals is to get students, teachers, and our community to understand that agriculture is so much more than "just farming." Her classes integrate numerous topics that are current, with up-to-date issues. Each class is designed to meet the needs and interests of the students as well as to prepare them to become responsible citizens in their communities. She uses creative ways to implement core

Teacher Receives Study Grant for Quebec City



The BAHS French program just got a little stronger.

Linda Misja, high school French teacher, was awarded a grant to study French language pedagogy and the dialect, history, and culture of Quebec at the University Laval in Quebec City, Canada as part of an intensive summer program designed for French teachers from around the world.

She took classes in current methodologies along with conference sessions on Quebec history, politics, film, adolescent and children's literature, art, and music, all conducted in French by experts in the field.

As part of her program, she had to write a portfolio for other teachers to use once they return to their respective countries. In addition to her intensive studies, Ms. Misja also went whale watching on the St. Lawrence Seaway, saw the Quebec City Summer Music Festival, which brought in

international music artists, and also visited several historical sites in the French-speaking province.

In August, Ms. Misja presented a paper at a professional language teachers' conference on a project she had created for her students at Bellefonte High that she hopes other foreign language teachers will be able to adapt to their respective school programs.

This is Ms. Misja's third study-abroad grant since she came to BAHS in 2006. ■

BAHS French teacher
Linda Misja whale
watching on the St.
Lawrence Seaway.

standards from Science, English, and Math into her classes.

Mrs. Poorman wants to increase awareness of the need for agricultural literacy. It is her goal to give students many diverse experiences and to show them opportunities in the agricultural industry that they didn't know existed.

Agriculture education is very important and now having an approved program will only allow our program at BAHS to get bigger and better.

Mrs. Poorman's Agriculture class designs educational "mini" landscapes for the courtyards at the high school for teachers to allow their students to explore the various areas of agriculture and the environment. ■



Girls' Golf Just Wins



This season the Bellefonte Girl's Golf Team went undefeated with a record of 7-0.

Winning the Mountain League is a great success for the girls. The Mountain League consists of Bellefonte, Philipsburg, Clearfield, and Penns Valley. However, most of the matches were also played with Hollidaysburg.

Coach Myken Poorman took a team of four to two different tournaments; the DuBois Invitational and Coudersport Tournament.

Senior Alyssa Sinclair placed second individually at Coudersport. Alyssa, Kaitlyn Vogel (11), Emily Sinclair (9), and Ashley Morris (10), have been a great traveling team. All the girls are very consistent with their scores and continue improving every match. Kaitlyn V. and Emily S. have scored in the mid-40's to low 50's for 9 holes and Ashley M. has finished off the top 4, shooting in the mid-50's. Kaitlyn Vogel won 5th place at the District Championship shooting in the 90's. This team of four placed 2nd

overall at Districts as well. However, the best match of the season was played on Sept. 26 at the Elks in Boalsburg. The top 6 combined scores for 9 holes was a 184, defeating Hollidaysburg, PO, Clearfield, and Penns Valley. Hollidaysburg was the closest competition with a 205.

The regular season is over, but it's not an end for all.

Alyssa Sinclair has been a great asset to the team. She, along with the other seniors, will be greatly missed. They really made the team come together and demonstrated leadership as seniors. They always gave encouragement to the younger players, which was really motivating for them.

Although the season is over, this is a new beginning for Alyssa Sinclair. Her high school season is ending, but her college career is just beginning.

Alyssa will continue to play in college and although she has not declared which

college she will be attending, she will be a great addition to the golf team. She has been a consistent low scorer on the high school team for many years, shooting in the low 40's for 9 holes and the low 80's for 18 holes. Alyssa won 2nd place at the District Championship this year and broke a school record shooting a 78 on 18 holes. You can tell how much this sport means to her by seeing how much passion she puts into it.

This year, we had ten girls come out for the team; Alyssa Sinclair (12), Kaitlyn Vogel (11), Emily Sinclair (9), Ashley Morris (10), Kady Stodter (9), Paige Urban (9), Kaitlin Rogers (11), Katelyn Knisely (12), Mary Elder (12) and Laynie Steen (12) (not pictured). It has been a very successful season and we are looking forward to taking Alyssa Sinclair, Kaitlyn Vogel, Emily Sinclair, and Ashley Morris to Districts at Penn State. ■

Lady Raider Volleyball Team

Helps Raise Funds to Fight Cancer

This fall, the Lady Raider volleyball team has worked diligently to raise money for two cancer research programs. The team chose to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for childhood cancer research, as well as the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® to battle breast cancer.

This year, the Lady Raiders sold lemonade during the Bellefonte vs. Central Mountain game on September 21, 2012, as part of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF). In 2000, four-year-old Alexandra "Alex" Scott announced that she wanted to hold a lemonade stand to raise money to help find a cure for all children with cancer. Alex was also diagnosed with cancer. Since Alex opened that first lemonade stand, her foundation has turned into a national fundraising movement. Today, it has thousands of supporters across the country. The Lady Raider volleyball team sold lemonade for a \$1.00 a cup at the game. The team sold over 350 cups of lemonade to earn \$500.00 in donations!

In addition to selling lemonade for Alex's Lemonade Stand, the team chose to raise money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. Susan G. Komen was diagnosed

with breast cancer and spent her much of her time thinking of ways to make life better for other women battling breast cancer rather than worrying about her own situation. Susan's sister, Nancy, was so moved by her sister's compassion that she vowed to do everything she could to help end breast cancer forever.

Today, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® is the global leader of the breast cancer movement. It has become the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists, investing more than \$1.9 billion dollars to research since 1982. The group has worked together to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find the cures. Because of the members' dedication and generous contributions, the organization has become the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world.

The Bellefonte Lady Raider Volleyball program instituted a Pink Out night during the last home game of the season on October 23, 2012, versus Central Mountain. This was also Senior Night. The members of the Bellefonte Lady Raider Volleyball program

have all been affected by breast cancer in one way or another and want to help fight for a cure. Pink Out shirts were sold for the game to raise money to help in the fight against breast cancer. ■

<http://www.alexslimonade.org/>

<http://www5.komen.org/>



Alexis Wetzler (left) and Clara Maggs (right) sell lemonade as part of Alex's Lemonade Stand fundraiser during the Bellefonte vs. Central Mountain football game on September 21, 2012.

BAHS Students Attend Congressman Thompson's Government Outreach Program

On September 24th, Bellefonte Area High School AP Government and Enrichment students travelled to Lock Haven University to participate in Congressman Glenn Thompson's "Government Outreach Program," to learn what it means to hold the government accountable for its actions.

For many students, the highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet and have a question and answer session with the Congressman.

Having done extensive research on his background and voting record, Bellefonte was able to accurately and professionally ask Thompson to defend his choices and explain

his opinions on matters such as: Don't Ask Don't Tell, Guantanamo Bay, school lunch reform, education reform, and several others pressing national and state issues.

After speaking with Congressman Thompson, students attended workshops with various motivational speakers and a group from the LHU admissions office. Upon returning to the school, several students took time to email Thompson, thanking him for the opportunity and asking any unanswered questions.

Students invited to attend included Juniors Jacob Mann and Grant Stone, and seniors Deb Armstrong, Kristin Buchanan,

Kati Caldana, Tod Confer, Mary Elder, Sean Gipson, Emily Martell, Lily McCullough, Molly Munnell, Ciara Stehley, Mike Trowbridge, and Jesse Walker. ■



Bellefonte FFA Teaming up with Gifted Education Program



Agriculture teacher Mrs. Myken Poorman, and grant writer, Pam Vaiana, recently wrote a grant to sustain Bellefonte Area High School's composting program. However, Mrs. Poorman was approached by Gifted Education Coordinator Mr. Ed Fitzgerald to collaborate with the Gifted Education Program to begin a composting program at Bellefonte Area Middle School.

The goal of the project will be to increase the literacy of the middle school students in terms of environmental sustainability and energy conservation. This will include reducing the impact of food waste as a polluter.

Two students from the high school Gifted Education Program (Jesse Walker,

senior; Sarah Horner, junior), along with one alumni (Christian Domanick), Mr. Fitzgerald, and Mrs. Poorman will be teaching the gifted education students at the middle school about the importance of composting and being more sustainable.

This project will not only focus on the science side of composting, but will also give the students the opportunity to enhance their public speaking and math skills.

Compost is the most nutrient rich soil that can be used to enhance the growth of plants. The compost made at the middle school will be donated to local food bank gardens and other charities that support more natural ways of growing food for the community. ■

Exploration-U at BAHS

On Thursday, November 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., BAHS was transformed into a science museum that was open to all members of the community.

The event is being planned in partnership with Penn State University Eberly College of Science office of Outreach and Science Engagement.

Those attending Exploration-U can expect a fun-filled evening of science with

something for everyone in the family. There will be an inflatable planetarium set up in the lobby, a chance to see molecules and the inside of the heart projected in 3D, an area where attendees can interact with snakes, fun chemistry and physics demos, chances to win prizes, and so much more.

Student groups from Penn State, BAHS, and BAMS will have a wide variety of booths and exhibits on topics ranging from glowstick

chemistry to robots, to rockets, and space to science as art.

Admission and parking for the night are free, and there will be lots of chances to do hands-on science activities, so come check out this year's version of Bellefonte Family Science Night. ■

BAHS Life Skills Update

Every day Bellefonte Area High School's Life Skills students recycle paper, plastic, metal cans, and glass for BAHS. The students divide the school into different sections to organize the cleaning. If all of the daily recycling goals are accomplished, the students get to play UNO.

Amy Shurf, who is in charge of the Centre County school recycling program visited

the class Monday, September 24th and presented the students with an award for the outstanding job they do at BAHS. She also gave the students information about entering a paper recycling contest. Mrs. Hoffman, our past recycling teacher, is going to help us with "cash for cans." ■



A Message from **BAMS Principal,** *Karen Krisch*

School started full speed ahead with Back-to-School Night for sixth graders in August and then seventh and eighth graders during the first week of school. Hiring new teachers and support staff also continued well into September to keep things even busier.

Teachers are working hard to continue the work of increasing student achievement and a positive school culture. This work requires a lot of staff time in and out of school.

One new teacher activity this year is our Tuesday Committees. The teachers stay each Tuesday until 4 p.m., according to their professional contract, to engage in meetings and committee work. At the Middle School, all teachers are part of school-wide efforts and initiatives through these Tuesday Committee meetings. About every other Tuesday, the Committees, facilitated by professional staff, meet to get the work done.

The School-wide Positive Behavior Support committees work to analyze hard/

soft data to find patterns. This involves looking at discipline referrals, behavior reflections from students, and detention and suspension numbers. Teachers are also learning to collect soft or anecdotal data to assist teachers and administration in supporting positive student behavior. This group can then make referrals for groups or individual students to receive additional behavioral supports. The Moon Committee and the Quarterly Events Committees of the SWPBS efforts work to plan quarterly events and operate the Shoot for the Moon system for students to maintain school spirit, get rewards for positive behavior, and have consistent consequences for negative behavior.

Along with the SWPBS committee, the Student Assistance Team is a specially trained team of teachers who accept referrals for students who may have issues that are interfering with their education. They collect data and refer students and their families for services.

The Safety Committee is working on

issues big and small. It discusses small issues such as the hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. Bigger issues that they talk about are Evacuation drills, lockdown drills, and other safety drills that prepare students and staff for issues such as a power outage or something more serious like a fire.

The Data Committee is looking at district, building and classroom data to analyze trends in our PSSA data, our Classroom Diagnostic Tool data, and classroom tests and quizzes to determine students who need additional supports and to craft ways to match supports to student need.

With all of the teachers working so hard to make sure BAMS is a wonderful place we are all very optimistic about the 2012-2013 school year. The students are bustling around and many plans are being made. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. ■

Safety First at BAMS

Things just got a lot more visible at BAMS.

BAMS recently more than doubled the amount of security cameras on site, covering all major interior intersections, each hallway from two different angles, the bus platform area in front of the school, and the rear entrance to the school.

In total, there are 15 cameras inside BAMS and two outside of BAMS, for a total of 17. Security cameras serve a two-fold purpose: they record activities that occur inside the school 24 hours a day and they also provide an additional layer of safety to go along with the already meticulous crafted safety procedures in place at the middle school.

"The more eyes we have the better. The new cameras will help keep BAMS a wonderful place for the students and staff," said Vice-Principal Kevin Briggs.

It took over two weeks to get the new cameras properly installed. ■



BAMS Physical Education

Warms Up in 2012



Students at Bellefonte Area Middle School are starting out strong this school year. All students are strengthening their bodies and minds by beginning each class with a warm up activity. The warm up activity focusses on the 5 main fitness components.

1. Cardiovascular Fitness
2. Muscle Strength
3. Muscle Endurance
4. Flexibility
5. Body Composition

By engaging in activity that focuses on the fitness components, our students are able to prepare their bodies for a lifetime full of activity. Be sure to ask a BAMS student what assortment of activities they are engaging in, and challenge yourself to incorporate fitness into your life as well. Let's work together to make our community a healthier place to live. ■



BAMS Library Gets Upgrades

Looking for your next read?

The BAMS Library has taken the next step in introducing students to new and interesting titles to choose from. Last year, the library science classes worked diligently to create intriguing book trailers using the Web tool Animoto.

When you visit the library this year, you'll notice a TV monitor on the column

near the reading lounge that loops the various student-made book trailers. Next time you're in the Library, take a minute to watch the screen and get ideas for your next book. If you are interested in creating a book trailer for a book you have recently read, please see Ms. Cordovani in the Library for details. ■

The SWAT Team

visits the Middle School

Throughout the course of the year the elementary Reading Specialists assemble as a team to administer language arts assessments to all kindergarten through sixth grade students. The team works closely together to gather data using the AIMSweb assessments. AIMSweb is a benchmark and progress monitoring system based on direct, frequent and continuous student assessment. This information is then analyzed to find instructional recommendations and to help best meet the needs of our students. Early this year, the reading specialist's SWAT team visited Bellefonte Area Middle School to assess students' reading levels. ■

Professional Development gets *a Boost at BAMS*

There are many exciting things happening at Bellefonte Area Middle School. Among all of the things that are happening is a thorough program of professional development.

Every other Tuesday, BAMS teachers meet in committees of their choice. They are offered six different committees for which they can sign up. The committees are aligned with the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) program, an emphasis on student data, the Student Assistance program, and safety initiatives. The teachers run the committees with help from the principals. Officially, the committees are:

- SWPBS Quarterly Events
- SWPBS Data
- SWPBS Moon Store (token reward system)

- Data
- Safety
- Student Assistance Program

By allowing the teachers to choose pre-determined committees with pre-determined goals, the teachers are engaged in their professional development. They know what they are supposed to be doing and they feed off of each other while pursuing the goals of their chosen committee. In addition, they hold each other accountable in the same way students do when they are in cooperative groups. It has worked very well so far and everyone is excited about the gains BAMS will make throughout the year.



Whether teaching students or leading staffs, the goal is simple: educators need to show people how to do things and make them want to do things (procedures and engagement). Educators owe it to students to prepare things in a way that is going to make the greatest possible positive impact.



BAMS Goes on the Air

BAMS held its annual Day of Caring Event October 4 at the middle school.

For the event there were many activities planned, most notably a walkathon that lasted from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Many students completed up to 12 laps around the middle school campus, which amounts to quite a distance.

To promote the event, members of BAMS student council and BAMS Vice-

Principal Kevin Briggs traveled to the 94.5 radio station where they were interviewed by none other than PJ the DJ. PJ asked questions about the event and generally made sure everyone was relaxed and having a good time.

PJ the DJ and 94.5 are very generous to BAMS. Last year, PJ attended three different events at no cost, simply to help create a positive school environment at BAMS. ■



A Letter from the Benner Elementary Principal,

Kris Vancas



It is exciting and is an honor to join the Benner Elementary team this year. I have spent the past five years at Bellefonte Elementary School, serving as the Vice-Principal. Prior to my time at Bellefonte Elementary, I was an elementary classroom teacher in grades 3, 4, and 5 in the Penns Valley Area School District.

I have always been impressed with the Benner Elementary students, staff, and parents. The students are talented and

hardworking, the teachers are dedicated and innovative, and the parents are supportive and involved in the school. This is a great combination and recipe for success.

There are a number of existing policies and procedures that we are assessing at this time. As we move forward, we will be working hard to ensure that we serve the students and community at Benner in the most effective way possible.

Finally, I look forward to getting a chance to know all of our families. A few months ago we held our student/parent meet

and greet, and we have additional events scheduled throughout the year. Please read the newsletters we send out and listen for School Messenger announcements so you are abreast of the many of the things we are doing at Benner.

Please feel free to drop by the school at any time during the year so that I can personally introduce myself. I look forward to the 2012-2013 school year with you and child. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. ■

All Pro Dad's Day Breakfast

On September 28, over 110 Benner Elementary fathers and children began their Friday at school sharing breakfast and conversation with each other as part of the All Pro Dad's Day Breakfast Program. All Pro Dad's Day is a one hour monthly breakfast held before school where fathers and their children meet with other dads and kids in the school cafeteria. During this time, they discuss a wide range of family topics, spend time together, create fun memories, and are equipped with resources to strengthen their relationship. ■



Benner Library Students Read for the Record

Jumpstart's Read for the Record, presented in partnership with the Pearson Foundation, took place October 4th. Jumpstart's Read for the Record is an annual reading celebration that highlights the need for quality early education in America by mobilizing adults and children to set a record for the largest shared reading experience.

"Jumpstart's Read for the Record is a call to action to recognize the importance of quality early education, especially for our most vulnerable children," said James Pringle, local Pearson representative, who

donated copies of this year's book to BASD elementary libraries.

This year's featured book was Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad by David Soman. Students viewed the online version of the story on the SmartBoard, as well as looked at the print copies. Students enjoyed the creative storyline & vivid illustrations as they reflected on their own imaginative playtimes.

Since the campaign's inception in 2006, more than seven million have helped raise more than \$7 million to support its year-round work in preschools in low-income

neighborhoods.

Benner library students also participate in an additional noteworthy initiative from Pearson.

Pearson's We Give Books digital initiative allows anyone to help donate books to children who do not have them, by simply reading from their extensive online book collection at <http://www.wegivebooks.org/>.

BASD is happy to be able to support these campaigns and give back in such an exciting and fun way.

BENNER ELEMENTARY GETS POLITICAL

The students in Ms. Packard's and Mr. Bolich's classes became members of the House and Senate as they learned how a bill becomes a law in Pennsylvania.

Prior to a very special visit with Carol Aichele, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, students spent time discussing three school related "bills" to determine which one they would use during an mock exercise involving role playing members of the legislature as they voted on whether a bill should become a law.

The first of the three bills was titled, "The Reduced School Day Bill," which involved being dismissed earlier in the school day, but would result in the school year not ending until the end of June. The second of the three bills was titled, "The School Lunch Bill," which involved an increase in the cost of lunch, provided financial incentives to encourage the purchase of lunch at school, with financial penalties given to those students who packed. The third of the three bills was titled, "The Good Behavior/Homework Bill," which offered those students who completed all of

their homework assignments on time, and displayed no behavior problems for one week, a special ten minute recess at the end of the day each Friday.

Of these three bills, the students chose the "Good Behavior/Homework Bill" to discuss as legislative members in a mock example of how a bill becomes a law.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth then visited with the kids to discuss her role, and the role of House members, Senate members, and the Governor.

Of the 51 students in Ms. Packard's and Mr. Bolich's class, 15 members were chosen as Senate members, with the rest of the kids becoming House members. Kids were chosen to step forward as members representing arguments for and against the bill in both the House and Senate.

The House initially voted "yes" to the Good Behavior Homework Bill, however, Senate members were against it. After discussing what changes to the bill would be



agreeable to the Senate, the bill was eventually passed by the majority of both houses.

Carol Aichele then slipped out of her role as Secretary of the Commonwealth to pretend to be the role of Governor Corbett to decide whether to sign the bill or veto it. Given the overwhelming agreement in both houses to pass the bill, our "governor" decided to sign the bill into law.

Throughout this experience, the kids had a great time acting out their roles, and they seemed to learn a lot from the interesting information Secretary Aichele gave them. Role playing proved to be a fun filled and educational way for the kids at Benner Elementary to learn about how a bill becomes a law. ■

A Letter from **Pleasant Gap Elementary Principal,** *Tammie Burnaford*



having all of our students and families visit our school. We are sure October will be a full and productive month as well.

The Pleasant Gap Fire Company will visit our school on October 12th as part of the national Fire Prevention Week. This would be a good time to review fire safety and your emergency plans at your home.

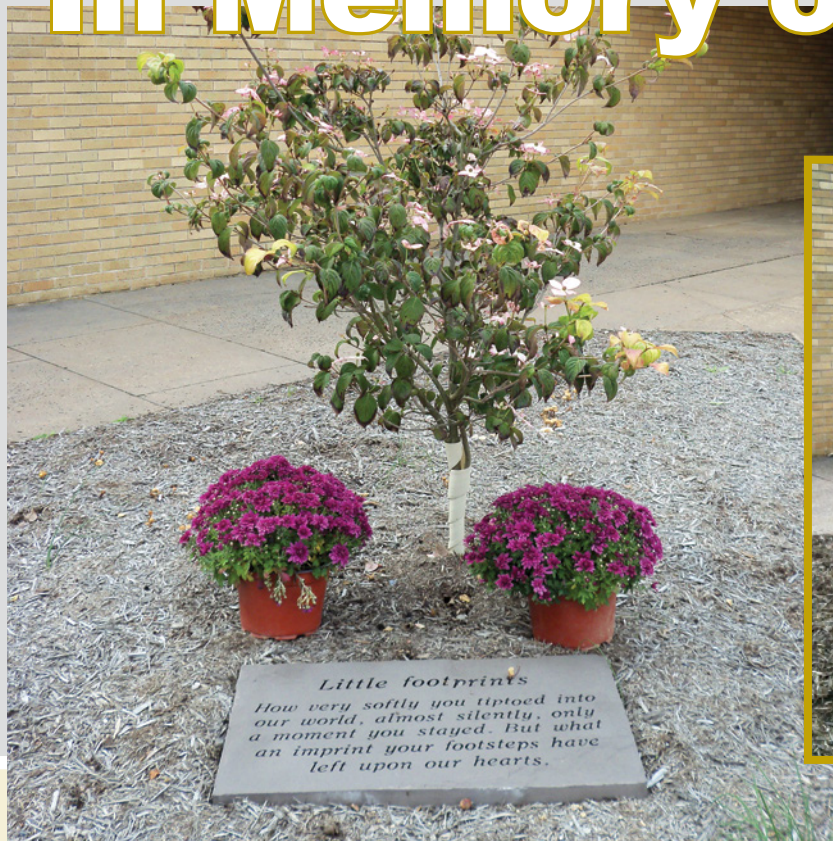
The Halloween Parade will be held on October 31st at 1:45 PM. Weather permitting, the students will parade outside in the traditional manner. More information will be sent home in the next few weeks.

We are always looking for parent or community volunteers at Pleasant Gap Elementary. More information is available in the Parent/Student Handbook and on the district website (www.basd.net). Applications can be obtained through Mrs. Shirey.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who helps our students. Pleasant Gap Elementary is truly a special school and place. It is because we have such wonderful students, parents, community members and staff. ■

Fall has been very busy at Pleasant Gap Elementary. Our Back to School Night was quite successful. It was great

In Memory of Austin



In September 2011, Austin Stitzer, a fourth grade student at Pleasant Gap Elementary School, lost his brave fight against cancer. A tree was planted in the entrance way of PGE and a dedication ceremony was held in April 2012 in honor and memory of Austin. Shortly after the ceremony, the flowering dogwood tree bloomed, as seen in the picture on the left. In September of this year, the tree displayed a very rare second bloom for the season, as seen in the picture on the right. ■

School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention System at Pleasant Gap

Pleasant Gap's new School Wide Positive Behavior and Intervention System (SWPBIS) is up and running at Pleasant Gap Elementary School. This program is nationally recognized and is being utilized in all 6 schools in the Bellefonte Area School District.

The theme for our PG program is based on newspapers and pleasant

news. During the first few weeks of school, the teachers shared the school rules with the students, and the students had an opportunity to practice appropriate behaviors. Our school rules are: Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Here and Be Ready.

Students are given a "headline" (a small form) when they are following

the rules and exhibiting the appropriate behaviors in specific areas. Please ask your child about the "headlines" they may have received. Occasionally, we will have special drawings and special events for students who have received "headlines." The students have been very excited about the program and have done an outstanding job. ■

Kindergarten Kamp at Pleasant Gap

Kindergarten Camp was held at Pleasant Gap Elementary School on August 22, August 23, and August 24. There was an evening information session with both parents and children where the participants were able to take a short bus ride, tour the school, listen to a story

read by Dr. Saylor, talk with Dr. Potteiger and Mrs. Burnaford, and meet many other school helpers. The children came back for the next two mornings where they spent time with Mrs. Hazel and Mrs. Rankin in their new classrooms. They read *The Kissing Hand* and *Cookie's Week* and

received two books to take home about the first day of Kindergarten. Pleasant Gap's Kindergarten Camp was a success and a wonderful time was had by all. ■

Our school year is *off to a wonderful start*

While students were enjoying their summer break, we were busy preparing for the school year. The district adopted a new Language Arts Curriculum as well as a core program to support it. LEAD 21 will provide teachers with an instructional resource that addresses Common Core Standards that the state of Pennsylvania has adopted. The district is also beginning to write Math Curriculum (K-12). This will be an on-going process throughout the school year.

We have new faces among our staff at Marion-Walker. Mr. Daniel Besch has joined us as our new Vice-Principal. Mr. Besch will be providing administrative support at Marion-Walker and Bellefonte Elementary. At the classroom level, Mr. Christopher Cipro, third grade, is replacing Mr. Wynkoop, and Mr. John (Zach) Mateja, fourth grade, is taking over for Mr. Perry. Mr. Nicholas Kelly has been added to the staff as an autistic/learning support teacher. We also welcome Ms. Pat Zimmerman as a

new math coach and Ms. Brenna Estel as our new librarian. Both Ms. Zimmerman and Ms. Estel will be providing service to Marion-Walker and Bellefonte Elementary Schools. And finally, Ms. Heather Snedden is substituting for Mrs. Victoria Winslow in second grade while she is on leave. Welcome to everyone.

What is the buzzzzzzzz at Marion-Walker? Our school-wide positive behavior rules have everyone buzzing. Our rules, Be kind-Be safe-Be respectful-Be here, and Be ready, have students thinking about positive behavior. Signs and posters are found throughout the building to help students remember expected behavior. Already students have earned Hive Five slips when caught following rules. The children are so proud of their recognition, and special privileges have been used to award these behaviors.

As we move into the month of October, I extend a sincere invitation to each of



you to join us in educating our children through the power of volunteerism. There are countless ways your knowledge and talents can enhance the experiences of Marion-Walker students. We look forward to working with you this year. ■



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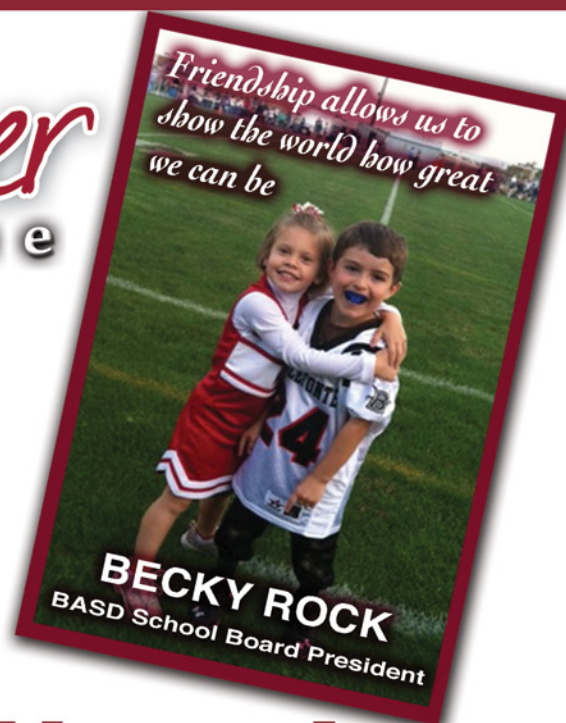
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