



Red Raider

m a g a z i n e

Focusing on



Students

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Bellefonte Board of School Directors

Mrs. Becky Rock, President
Mr. Jeff Steiner, Vice President
Mr. Charles Aikens
Mrs. Hope Boylston
Mr. Keith Hamilton
Ms. Jenna Moorehead
Mr. Robert Lumley-Sapanski
Mr. Richard W. Steele
Mr. George Stone

Dr. Cheryl Potteiger
Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michelle Saylor
Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Kenneth G. Bean, Jr.
Director of Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Scott C. Etter, Esquire
Solicitor

How to Reach Us

Administration Building

All Numbers.....355-4814
Superintendent's Office..... Ext 3002
Director of Fiscal Affairs Ext 3015
Assistant Superintendent Ext 3004
Director of Special Education..... Ext 3021
Business Office Ext 3001
Director of Physical Plant..... Ext 3006
Director of Food Service Ext 3010
Director of Transportation..... Ext 3015
Bellefonte Elementary 355-5519
Benner Elementary 355-2812
Marion-Walker Elementary 357-2425
Pleasant Gap Elementary 359-2739
Bellefonte Middle School 355-5466
Bellefonte High School..... 355-4833
B.A.S.D. Action Line..... 353-2413
Web Site www.basd.net

Discrimination Policy

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

A Message from

Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger
Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent



It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the 2012-2013 school year. There are so many new and exciting things happening that it is easy to lose track of time. Thank you to our student, staff, and community for making BASD such a special place.

As you are well aware, this winter we experienced one of the most tragic events our country has ever faced. The heart-wrenching tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary has led to schools across America taking a deep look at safety policies and procedures. At BASD, the staff and administration was already revamping safety policies and procedures as part of our annual review. Now, regrettably, we have new data to consider in light of what happened at Sandy Hook Elementary.

While we research the effectiveness of current and potential policies and procedures, in cooperation with officials from local, state, and federal law enforcement organizations, please know that the staff and administration at BASD are unified in their mission to protect the students in our schools. If you have the chance to visit one of our schools you will see that classroom doors are locked, front office personnel check visitor's identification, staff and administration are wearing identification badges, and movement throughout the hallways is kept to a minimum. This is the basic mode of operation in every school in BASD, and there are clear and simple plans in place for any critical situation that may occur.

As a member of the BASD community, please contact your neighborhood school or the central office if you are aware of anything in our community that compromises the safety of our students. Working together, we can continue to minimize safety concerns and focus on our most important task: educating our students. ■

*Inspiring Today's Learners
for Tomorrow's Challenges*

A Message from Board of School Directors President,

Becky Rock



Happy 2013!

On behalf of the Bellefonte Area School District Board of Directors I would like to wish you a happy and healthy new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the role of the school board. School board members are charged, by law, with

providing a quality education for the children of their community. Officers of a school board include a president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

By law, all school boards organize during the first week of December. At this meeting, a president and vice president are elected to serve one year terms of office. A treasurer is elected in May to serve a one-year term that begins the first day of July, and every fourth year in May, the board elects a school board secretary whose term of office is four years.

The Bellefonte Area School District Board of Directors elected its new officers for 2013 during its annual reorganization meeting December 4th, 2012. I was elected to serve another year as President and Mr. Jeff Steiner was elected to serve another year as Vice President. Mr. Hamilton is serving as treasurer and Mr. Bean is serving as Secretary.

There are nine Board Members elected to serve four year terms and school boards conduct their meetings as a corporate body at a lawful meeting. The terms are staggered, with elections taking place every two years. School boards serve as local legislative bodies for the public schools within the framework of state laws and a school

board's authority is applied through the collective decisions of the entire board acting as a governing body.

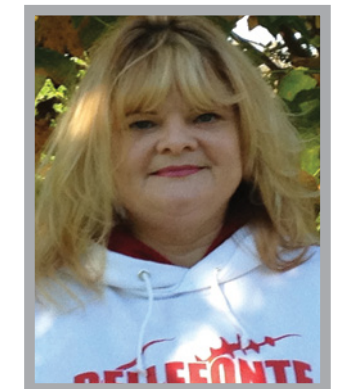
The work of the school board is guided not only by laws and mandates, but also by the values and priorities of the community. One of the key points school board members must understand and abide by is the fact that individual board members have no legal powers or authority. The board acts as an entire board.

An effective board member is also be very careful to refer community member complaints or inquiries to staff members, essentially keeping those concerns within the "chain of command," where they are properly handled. An effective board member also recognizes that the board's responsibility is not to run the public schools, but to see that public schools are well run through the delegation of authority and responsibility of the superintendent.

Would you like to provide feedback? School board meetings provide an opportunity for public input and we would love to see you at a school board meeting. If you can't make it, you can also e-mail or call the District office, or talk to a school board member. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

Looking Forward: A Message from

Dr. Michelle Saylor
Assistant Superintendent



I spent a lot of time over the past several weeks reflecting on how blessed we are in Bellefonte.

Although we have our challenges and those times when the days seem long and hard, we have each other. We were able to hold our children close and spend precious moments enjoying all of the magic the holiday season brought, together.

Yet, I'm sure each of us was also haunted by the events of last December. Hopefully our children will never experience tragedy of that depth. However, despite our best efforts to shield them, they will be confronted with tragedy and disaster through the eyes of the media, and some may face trying situations closer to home.

With this in mind, I felt it important to share some information that might be helpful when we attempt to explain the 'why' of those events to our

children and try to assure them that they are safe.

- Make time to talk; let their questions guide you
- Reassure them that they are safe; let them know that schools are safe places where many people are working together to keep them safe
- Keep your explanations developmentally appropriate; use language they can understand and don't dwell on the worst case possibilities or scenarios
- Maintain normal routines
- Review safety procedures
- Limit television viewing of tragic events – information may be out of context and only increase anxiety

(National Association of School Psychologists)

There is additional information available on our district web page: <http://www.basd.net/domain/1296>

And always remember, should your child need support coping with a tragedy or stressful event, you may contact your child's school counselor, teacher, or principal.

Childhood should be a time of curiosity, discovery, and growth. It is up to each of us to help ensure that all of our children have those opportunities. ■



A Message from the **Business Manager,**

Ken Bean

funding or many other of the important cost figures (at the present time) for the coming year.

The District feels that it will be able to meet the mandated index of 2.2% by the time the final budget is passed in June 2013. The preliminary budget is built using estimates. To be fiscally conservative, many expenditures are estimated to be on the high side and revenues on the low side.

It is always the goal of the administration and the Board of School Directors to keep any real estate tax increase to the smallest amount possible. The budget will be a discussion item at

every board meeting beginning March 26, 2013 at the Board of School Directors meeting and continuing until the final budget is approved at the June 25, 2013 Board of School Directors meeting.

If you would like to be kept informed, please plan to attend some of the meetings. You can also watch the board meetings on CNet; a link to CNet is on the district web site (www.basd.net).

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 355-4814 or by email at kbean@basd.net. ■

The Board of School Directors is scheduled to approve the preliminary budget (2013-2014) in the amount of \$45,050,000 at its February 12, 2013 meeting.

ACT 1 requires that the District approve the preliminary budget now. This budget is as the name implies "preliminary" as the District does not know what the Governor will propose for State

A Message from **Director of Food Services,**

Barbara Eckley

SunButter vs. Peanut Butter

Not all butters are created equal.

All of the Elementary schools in our district are now serving SunButter and jelly sandwiches instead of peanut Butter and jelly sandwiches. Made in the USA, SunButter is a great alternative for those students with peanut or tree nut allergies. In addition, since it is made in a peanut free, nut free facility, it is safe for all students with allergies.

Students have been very accepting of SunButter.

Prior to offering it as a menu choice, taste tests were held in each elementary school. SunButter and jelly sandwiches are also offered at the Middle School and High School as an alternative to Smuckers PBJ sandwiches that are offered for lunch.

For additional information, please visit www.sunbutter.com. ■

Photo Credit: Nabil K. Mark/Centre Daily Times



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

Aaron Barto

At the beginning of the new year (2013), all two-way radios must operate on 12.5 hertz as opposed to 25 hertz, which they operate on now.

All two-way radios in the district will either be reprogrammed to 12.5 hertz, or, if they cannot be reprogrammed, they will be disposed of. We ordered some replacement radios (40) and they were programmed and ready to be delivered so that each building had a few radios to use starting January 2, 2013.

All current radios should be labeled as to where they belong (i.e., Custodial, Nurse, Principal, etc.) and turned into each building's main office at the end of the school day (3:15 pm) on December

21, 2012. These radios should be placed in a box with a label as to what school they are from and then the Physical Plant Department will be around to each building to collect all radios and deliver them to Centre Communications. Centre Communications will reprogram them during the holiday break.

On January 2, 2013, the Physical Plant Department picked all the radios from Centre Communications and returned them to each building from where they came. We are not sure of the exact number of units that will be returned, but the count was somewhere about 45 +/- ■



A Message from the **FBI**

Threat Assessment

Threat assessment in the campus setting involves law enforcement and school officials working collaboratively to determine risk. It consists of evaluating a threat, reaching a conclusion regarding threat level, and determining an effective response. One aspect of this process is having prevention programs in place, which starts with a school district having a resource officer.

Prevention Programs

School resource officer (SRO) programs serve an integral role in threat assessment. In times of crisis, having an SRO based in the school decreases response time and increases student and staff perceptions of safety.

The SRO also can educate students about the consequences of their behavior and identify

peer conflicts. The value of SROs further can be enhanced by their heightened awareness of warning signs and cues relevant in accurate threat assessment.

Over the past several years, police agencies have established a positive working relationship with school districts and students through SRO and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programs. Law enforcement officers can contribute to violence prevention in several ways.

First, they must have an ongoing collaboration with teachers and administrators. Second, they must be capable of conducting their own assessments of bullying and related problems in their schools. Third, law enforcement personnel in schools should become well acquainted with students and staff and make themselves accessible for reporting of information;

an anonymous reporting system is advisable to encourage students to come forward with important tips.

The National School Safety Center has offered suggestions for decreasing campus violence and strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and school districts. For example, an understanding and written agreement should exist about how the school and police agency will work together to promote violence prevention and respond to crises.

An Officer Friendly program can be established whereby SROs provide instruction on a variety of topics, such as drug abuse, juvenile justice, and child safety. Students can be encouraged to go on ride-alongs with officers, and a Big Brother/Big Sister program also can be implemented, pairing students with law enforcement personnel. ■

A Message from the **School Resource Officer,**

Jason Brower

Hello,

My name is Jason Brower and I am the School Resource Officer in your Bellefonte Area Schools. I am in my 19th year as a police officer, 12 of those with the Bellefonte Borough Police Department and the last five in my current position.

There are many aspects to a police officer working in a school. You will see some of those I have listed below but these are only just a few.

- To formulate and conduct educational crime prevention programs to reduce the number of crimes against others in the school setting.
- To participate in campus activities, student organizations and athletic events when feasible.

- To participate in the planning of school safety and sit on related committees.

- To investigate criminal activity on school properties and file criminal charges when appropriate.

- To protect lives and property for the students and citizens.

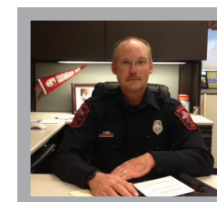
As your SRO I conduct many class room presentations mostly in the Elementary and Middle School. Classes will also be expanded this year to Benner and Marion Walker Elementary Schools. This is the most important part of this position in my opinion as it gives the opportunity to establish a relationship between police and students that is positive while being educational at the same time.

Some of these classes include Internet safety issues, harassment, the legal consequences, and traffic related safety issues for younger elementary students.

As our society continues to deal with recent school related tragedies please know that the Police Departments in your area are working closely with our school district to tighten security issues and educate staff.

Please feel free to contact me with concerns or questions you may have in regards to Police related issues.

Thank you, Officer Jason Brower



Resources Available on a County Level Provided by the Centre County Emergency Management Agency

Any incident at a school can be tragic. While we hope no such violence will ever happen in Centre County, we still work on school related preparedness, response, and recovery plans. There is a collaborative effort between law enforcement (LE) departments, emergency medical services (EMS), fire companies, and county agencies such as emergency management and 9-1-1 to at least annually review and exercise school plans.

If an incident should happen, local LE, EMS, and fire would respond to the scene. The local residents could also expect to see a rapid influx of media to their community. The county would

stand ready to coordinate whatever support and resources are needed by the on-scene Incident Commander, school officials, or the local municipality. The support and resources could range from sending a single emergency management liaison to the scene to activating an entire Emergency Operations Center (EOC). If activated, the mission of the county EOC staff would be to request, organize, and coordinate help and resources from across the entire county, the neighboring counties, and even the state and federal agencies. From the EOC, staff could also coordinate volunteers and Crisis Outreach members to help in grief counseling and the

community recovery efforts.

The last thing anybody needs is for good intentioned residents and volunteers becoming a part of problem rather than the solution. Should a tragic event occur, parents and residents are advised to follow the instructions of emergency responders and local officials. People from the public and private industry wishing to volunteer their services, support, or resources should NOT go directly to the scene. They are encouraged to first call the county Emergency Management Agency at 814-355-6745 to be added to the resource list. ■

Attention Parents of Students in Grades 3 through 12.

Did you know you can have direct access, via the internet, to your student's grades, attendance, and lunch balance? How, you ask? You can do so via the Parent Portal.

What is the Parent Portal?

The Parent Portal is a web based program, available from anywhere via the Internet, which provides parents with access to their student's grades, attendance, and lunch balance information. Additionally, the middle school and high school post their daily bulletins via the Parent/Student Portal.

The Parent Portal provides parents with real time and up to date grading and attendance information. As soon as a teacher enters a grade the information is immediately available.

A nice feature of the program is the "Email Notification." You can setup email notifications for daily, weekly, or monthly updates of the following: Summary of current grades and attendance, Detail report showing assignment scores for each class, Detail report of attendance, School announcements, and Balance Alert.

How can you get access?

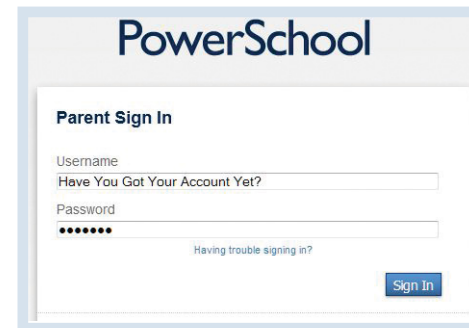
The first step is to download the "Parent Portal User Guidelines and System Requirement" form that is available on the Bellefonte Area School District website. You'll find it under the "Parents/Community" link on the District Home web page.

Once you are there, look for the link "PowerSchool Parent Portal," and then click on the link "Click here to open and print the form."

The second step is to complete the form and then send it to the Bellefonte Area Middle School Guidance Office for grades 3 – 8. For grades 9 – 12, send it to the Bellefonte Area High School Guidance office. The guidance office will perform a verification process to ensure proper guardianship. Once approved, the form will be returned to you via mail with your username and password.

What if you already have access to the Parent Portal but you have a student in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade?

If this is the case, please complete the form for your elementary student and send it to the Middle



School Guidance Office for verification. Once you are approved you can use your current username and password to view all of your students via one account.

Please remember that grading information takes time. We ask that you allow the teachers a reasonable amount of time to post the grades, especially for larger projects.

There is one important caveat: Access to the Parent Portal is a privilege and not a right. Abuse of the program can result in a loss of this privilege. ■

Employee Recognition System

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

The Bellefonte Area School District appreciates each employee for contributing to the success of our students. An Employee Recognition System was created to provide an opportunity to recognize employees. The Board of School Directors congratulated the following recipients of the Employee Recognition System award at the November 13, 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:

Edward Fitzgerald Bellefonte Area High School
Mary Miltenberger Bellefonte Area Middle School
Terry Markle Bellefonte Elementary School
Adam Huggins Benner Elementary School
Amy Sclight Marion-Walker Elementary School
Pamela Grimminger Pleasant Gap Elementary School

Support Staff Recipients:

Carol Olson Bellefonte Area High School
Roger Hockenberry Bellefonte Area Middle School
Kimberly Dombek Bellefonte Elementary School
Joanne Bumbarger Benner Elementary School
Thomas Arndt Marion-Walker Elementary School
Laurie Shirey Pleasant Gap Elementary School



District employees recognized at the November 13, 2012 board meeting

Front row (left to right): Joanne Bumbarger, Roger Hockenberry, Terry Markle, Kimberly Dombek, Mary Miltenberger, Edward Fitzgerald, Pamela Grimminger

Back row (left to right): Laurie Shirey, Thomas Arndt, Amy Sclight, Adam Huggins, Carol Olsen

An Inspiring Teacher

The new year has come and gone and many teachers took a moment to set some new goals for themselves as educators.

Maintaining new goals can be challenging but thankfully the Bellefonte Area School District has some truly inspiring teachers that are making an impact beyond the four walls of their classroom and that are encouraging others to strive for excellence.

One of many inspiring BASD teacher is Renee Besecker, a 7th Grade Middle School Math Teacher. Renee is reflective, data-driven, and actively participates in committee work, including the School Safety Team.

This year, Renee was awarded the Walter J. DeLacy Award for Excellence in Instruction by the Pennsylvania School Study Council that awards teachers for outstanding service to public education. It was thrilling to see a Bellefonte Area School District teacher being formally awarded

such a prestigious award at Penn State amongst professors, administrators, and teachers from all over the state. To receive recognition from the Pennsylvania School Study Council is a true testament to the time and effort that Renee puts into her teaching.

Renee sets a great example for her students, student teachers, and colleagues. She is a reflective educator who consistently updates and adapts her teaching methods and activities to fit the needs of her students. Renee analyzes data to identify student skills that need support and plans rigorous lessons to keep her students challenged and motivated. Renee also plays an integral role in the Middle School Safety Team and helps lead monthly meetings on how to keep our school safe.

It is remarkable to see how one person's passion for education can make such an impact and inspire others to reach for excellence. ■



Bellefonte Area Education Association Presents: The Student Success Fund

The students of Bellefonte Area Schools participate in numerous school activities, clubs, competitions and athletics and have succeeded in making the entire school and community very proud. But, as a result of straining economic times, state budget cuts for schools and other student and family organizations, and the increasing costs of travel and materials, some students and families are having difficulty being an active part of student extra-curricular activities. The Bellefonte Area Schools have responded as best as they can, but unfortunately this is not always enough.

Many teachers and group coordinators find

themselves wondering, "what can I do?"

In response to these needs, Bellefonte Area Education Association has approved the Student Success Fund, an initiative to provide financial support for any student work or activities that fall outside of the school district's budget. BAEA is willing to provide funding student materials, travel costs, admissions, or any fees related to student work, competitions or club/group activities.

BAEA takes pride in the achievement of Bellefonte students and encourages interested Bellefonte Area school students, parents or club/organization advisors to contact a BAEA

representative at any of our buildings to inquire about the Student Success Fund and to complete a Fund Request form. All applications will be considered and reviewed by the BAEA Representative Council.

If your child or student group is not able to afford the type of enriching experiences they deserve because of the cost of travel, materials, admission or other fees, ask about the Student Success Fund.

With the help from BAEA, you can succeed too. ■

K-6 Math Night Scheduled

BASD Held 3rd Annual K-6

Family Fun Math Night

Who: Families of BASD Kindergarten – Sixth Grade Students

When: Thursday, March 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Middle School Gymnasium

In addition to all the fun with math games, math activities and a light pizza snack, we had lots of free giveaways from local businesses. If you have any questions, please contact Shari Reed, our K - 12 Mathematics Coordinator, at sreed@basd.net or (814)355-4814 ext. 3028. Please be on the lookout for a feature article covering the event in the Spring newsletter.



Robert Lumley-Sapanski

BASD Board Member and PSBA President



From the Top:
PSBA President Lumley-Sapanski shares insight at PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference; Board President Becky Rock recipient of the PA School Study Council Award for Support of the Public Schools; BASD Board Members and Administrators

The Bellefonte Area School District is pleased to recognize Robert Lumley-Sapanski as the 2012 President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. Mr. Lumley-Sapanski is the Immediate Past President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. Mr. Lumley-Sapanski was first elected in 2009 as Second Vice President, served as First Vice President in 2010, President-Elect in 2011, and President in 2012. Mr. Lumley-Sapanski was honored for his service to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association during the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference in October 2012. The leadership conference is one of the gatherings most beneficial for school leaders and offers an impressive collection of professional development opportunities for school board members and other educational leaders.

Mr. Lumley-Sapanski is in his 14th year on the Bellefonte Area School District School Board, serving six years as Board President. During this time, Mr. Lumley-Sapanski has been very active in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. In 2008, Mr. Lumley-Sapanski received Master School Board Member Accreditation having demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in attaining the goals of effective governance and meeting the needs of students for the 21st century through educational excellence and equality of all students. He has also served as Region 4 director, Centre County Legislative Coordinator and Chair of the Rural Schools Forum. Mr. Lumley-Sapanski currently serves on the NSBA Pre-K Committee, is a member of the Federal Relations Network, and involved with rural schools issues at NSBA. In addition, he has served on, as well as chaired, many PSBA committees.

Mr. Lumley-Sapanski's involvement in PSBA has helped our board in many ways. Training and ongoing professional development for board members is a must. Guiding and leading change in a school district requires board members to be aware of legislative developments, educational innovations, best practices and developments being made in other districts. Mr. Lumley-Sapanski has always encouraged our local board members to be active members of our association. He has encouraged members to attend training and professional development opportunities made available to us through PSBA, often times attending the training with us. Mr. Lumley-Sapanski was the key promoter and advocate for the PSBA Code of Ethics and Standards for Effective School Governance for our local board. Each current member of the Bellefonte Area School District Board of Directors has annually adopted the PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance, Code of Conduct for Members of Pennsylvania School Boards. He has also been in direct contact with legislators advocating for public education providing them with PSBA's positions on various legislative proposals.

We are very proud of Bob's accomplishments and thankful to have such a dedicated member on our local board.

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association is a nonprofit statewide association of public school boards, representing more than 4,500 School Directors across the state in 501 school districts. Their mission is to promote excellence in school board governance through leadership, service and advocacy for public education. ■



Students perform

at the School board state conference in Hershey



Back in April, Bob Lumley-Sapanski asked if the high school music department could get a group to perform for the state school board conference in October. Since Bellefonte was hosting, we were allowed to bring a musical group to perform during the opening ceremonies. So after some deliberation over the summer months, Jay Zimmerman chose to do a mini musical entitled "Made in the USA" by Mac Huff. It is a 25 minute medley consisting of music indigenous of our country. It consists of 6 separate sections that pay tribute to Dixieland Jazz, Rock-n-Roll, Country, Patriotic, and Broadway.

The main reason Mr. Zimmerman chose this piece of music was so all of the ensembles that our music department offers here at the high school could be involved. This special ensemble consisted of 13 singers from the choir. 10 musicians from the band and orchestra and rock classes formed a pit orchestra with a full rhythm section. Then some visuals were added with 2 girls from the band front twirling to the music and the members of the choir added some choreography with help from the dance team students. All totaled 25 students traveled to Hershey from the concert band, marching band, choir, orchestra, and rock studio ensembles.

The students learned a lot of music and movement in a short time. There were only 6 weeks from the beginning of school until they had to perform.

And to complicate matters, the only time all of the students could get together was on Sunday afternoons for two hours. So as a group they only had 8 hours of rehearsal with everyone. Imagine if a sports team tried to play a game with only 8 hours of practice. And to add to the director's stress level, the music was late coming in. Some of the instrumental parts didn't even get here until the end of September. The product that went to Hershey really was a tribute to the students' musical ability and work ethic. They worked hard and put in a lot of time on their own to learn the parts.

The trip itself was an event.

We left Bellefonte at 5:00 AM because we had to perform in Hershey at 8:30 AM. When we arrived, the equipment and riser set up that Mr. Zimmerman had requested in previous conversations with the event director was not even close to what they had ready for us. So there was some very frantic last minute moving of risers and discussions with the sound technicians to get equipment set the way we needed. Once the students performed, the reception from the audience was amazing. They stood and applauded twice during the performance. Several people in attendance took the time to come up and tell the students how wonderful they were. One of our own school board members who attended the conference the next day told me

that people were still talking about how well our kids performed. Following the performance, as a reward for all of their hard work, the students got to tour Hershey's Chocolate World and then go out to lunch in Harrisburg. We managed to return to Bellefonte in time to go to 9th period class. To complicate matters even more, one of our vocalists, Mike Lewis, was scheduled to run in the cross country league championship meet that afternoon. His parents made arrangements to pick him up at Hershey and get him back in time to run where he helped the team win the league championship.

Now that is dedication by the student and parent.

Students who performed were vocalists: Annie Shumway, Jessica Brown, Sarah Horner, Malinda Rossi, Cat Rokavec, Jenna McDevitt, Lydia Munnell, Madelyn Falcone, Shannon Rose, Kevin Quay, Sean Connelly, Mike Lewis, and Daniel Zimmerman. Musicians were: Will Landon and Brandon Houtz on trumpet, Ian Charney - tenor sax, Chip Rupert - trombone, Lily McCullough - clarinet, Katie Pletcher-flute, Jane Li - violin and keyboards, Hunter Davidson -guitar, Ethan Stewart -drums, and Jeremy Bauman -bass. Twirlers were Alisha Tyler-Lohr and Maddie Falcone. Directors were Lou Ann Shafer - vocals and Jay Zimmerman - instrumentalists and overall event coordinator. ■

PSSA Testing at a Glance

Each school year, all public schools in Pennsylvania are required to measure the academic abilities of students with specific content-area standardized tests called the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). All students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are included in this testing.

Beginning with the current school year, 11th grade students no longer take the PSSA.

Students, over the course of their middle school and high school career, will take a Keystone Exam in each of the following content areas: Literature, Biology, and Algebra I. These exams are taken at the completion of their respective classes and are aligned to the Pennsylvania Common Core standards.

The Literature and Algebra exams will count for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), as the 11th

grade PSSA did in the past. The PSSA will phase in alignment to the Common Core beginning in the spring of 2014.

Below is a table that displays the specific testing windows for the various content-area assessments, the grade levels that must take the assessments and the approximate amount of time each assessment will take students to complete.

Assessment	Testing Dates	Grade Levels Assessed	Length of Assessment
PSSA Reading & Math	April 8 – 19, 2013	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8	6 – 7 hours
PSSA Writing	March 11 – 15, 2013	Grades 5, & 8	4 – 6 hours
PSSA Science	April 22 – 26, 2013	Grades 4, & 8	2 – 4 hours
PSSA Make-ups	April 29 – May 3, 2013 (Reading, Math, & Science) March 18-22, 2013 (writing)	As Applicable	
Keystone Exams	May 13-24, 2013	2-3 hours each content area exam (each exam is broken into two modules that should take 1- 1.5 hours each)	

The PSSA assessments are made up of different types of questions, including:

- Multiple Choice Items – The student selects a correct answer out of four possible choices.
- Open-Ended Items – Students write-out short answers to provide a written explanation or to demonstrate how to solve a problem.
- Revising and Editing Questions (Writing PSSA only) – Students identify and correct editing and revision errors found in writing passages.
- Writing prompts (Writing PSSA only) – Students demonstrate their ability to develop, organize and express their ideas on a given topic in a written composition.
- Scenario Items (Grade 8 Science PSSA only) – Students describe or answer questions after analyzing graphs, charts or tables.

The Keystone Exams will include multiple choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended, questions. For each Keystone Exam, approximately 60% to 75% of the total score will be from multiple-choice questions and 25% to 40% of the total score will be from constructed-response questions.

Student performance on the assessments is taken very seriously by the district. The assessments are important for many reasons:

- One of Pennsylvania's graduation requirements requires that all students demonstrate proficiency in the academic standards. Students must score at proficient levels (or above) on the Keystone exams in Literature, Algebra I, and Biology (or on alternate district assessments) in order to graduate from Bellefonte Area High

School. The State will also require proficiency on these three Keystone Exams for high school graduation beginning with the graduating class of 2017 (this year's 8th grade class).

- Student performance on the grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 tests have an impact on course selection for some middle school and high school courses.
- Keystone Exam scores may be included on student transcripts sent to colleges.
- Individual student scores are used to assist teachers in identifying student strengths and weaknesses in the various curricular areas.
- Students failing to demonstrate proficiency on any of the assessments may be scheduled for additional instructional support to improve their likelihood of future success.
- Grade-level, building-level, and district-level assessment results are used for planning purposes.

Parents are a very important part of student success and should continue to encourage and support their children's learning. Please continue to:

- Recognize and reinforce the importance of student effort during the school day.
- Review/discuss homework and tests. Ask your child to explain the work that he/she is doing.
- Remind your child of the importance of good attendance.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep, has a nutritious breakfast, and arrives on time to school every day.
- Stay in contact with your child's teacher(s). Ask what you can do to help. Ask for help when

needed.

Parents of students currently enrolled in BASD who will be participating in the 2013 PSSA and Keystone assessments will receive more information on specific assessment schedules affecting their children closer to scheduled administration dates. Parents can help their children demonstrate success on the assessments by:

- Discussing the importance of trying their best on the assessments with their child prior to and during the test administration window.
- Making sure that their children are present each day that the tests are administered.
- Refraining from scheduling outside appointments during the testing window.

The PSSA and Keystone Exams are important to the entire Bellefonte community. It takes a collaborative effort of school personnel, parents, and, most importantly, our students to achieve success.

For more information go to: www.education.state.pa.us/ (Click on the Program tab, click on Programs O-R, click on Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA), and then click on Resource Materials) or contact any building or district administrator. For information regarding the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) or the Keystone exit exams go to: <http://www.pdesas.org/> (for the keystones, click on the Assessment tab, click on Keystone Exams. For the CCSS, click on the Standards tab, click on Common Core). ■

More Than One Influence

By Mike Maggs, BAHS Senior

Texting. Alcohol. Drugs. Passengers. All of these things are just some of the distractions and temptations teenagers have to face when driving.

To give a better understanding of these distractions, driver's education teacher, Mr. Michael Wilson had some authoritative visitors from the Bellefonte Police Force come to his classes.

Officer Andy Berry of the Bellefonte Borough Police was the first guest speaker to address Mr. Wilson's classes. Officer Berry told the students all of the new DUI policies that have recently come into effect. He discussed how police can now pull over a vehicle for any reasonable suspicion, instead of directly violating a traffic law. Also, the legal blood alcohol content has been moved from 0.1 to .08.

To get the students to see how drugs and alcohol can impair a driver, Officer Berry brought in different stage levels of "drunk goggles." The students participated in a variety of tests that were designed to give them the experience of completing menial tasks under the influence of alcohol. Among these tests, most students had problems with walking in a straight line.

"It was so hard to walk with the goggles. It just made everything look so different than it really was," said sophomore Sarah Menna.

Walking in a straight line wasn't the only the

only test students endured. Each student was able to get behind the wheel of a golf cart while wearing the vision impairing drunk goggles. They even took out their cellphones and attempted to send a lengthy text message while maneuvering through various sized traffic cones.

"It showed how important it really is to not drive while distracted, and that you definitely shouldn't drive drunk. Everyone's driving was so horrible," said sophomore Tyler Rudloff.

Mr. Wilson has specific goals for inviting speakers to his classes.

"My goal is to raise awareness regarding DUI and texting while driving, and to form a partnership with the community agencies as experts in their field and the community as a whole to highlight public education," said Mr. Wilson.

From 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. on the night of November 16-17, Mr. Wilson went on a night patrol with County DUI Task Force Coordinator in Ferguson Township, Sergeant Ryan Henrick, to see the hazardous driving habits of those who were coming to see the Penn State versus Indiana football game the following day.

Fortunately, Mr. Wilson did not witness any DUI activity that night.

"There were many speeders, people making illegal turns, driving illegal vehicles, one domestic



disturbance, and one medical assistance, but it turned out to be uneventful for DUI patrols," said Mr. Wilson.

Although there weren't any DUI related incidents during Mr. Wilson's night patrol, he will be able to share many of the traffic violations he witnessed as a lesson for his driver's education classes.

"I want my students to see just how many people driving under the influence can affect, and its consequences. I believe in my 12 years at BAHS, we have lost half a dozen students to DUI related crashes, and many more have been involved in accidents while driving under the influence," said Mr. Wilson. ■

FBLA Ignites Innovation

The Bellefonte chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, once again, has shown what you can accomplish when you put forth hard work and determination and allow the FBLA organization to "Ignite Innovation" with your dedication and passion.

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

To begin the year, FBLA held their 2nd annual 5k in order to raise money for the local chapter of the AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention). Due to the efforts of our students, FBLA continues to be a major donor for the organization, being recognized at each walk by having their logo placed on the banner and every shirt given out in the community. Beyond their efforts with the 5k, FBLA also held a "Pie in the Face" contest for the students and staff of BAHS. A number of teachers put their faces on the line for this worthy cause. Students were able to purchase raffle tickets and enter themselves in a drawing in order to be the lucky one to pie the teacher of their choosing. Both students and teachers had a great

time raising money for such a worthy cause.

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

Lastly, our students have represented us well through our local and state competitions. Our group of 49 members chose events that best represent who they are and the abilities they have developed throughout the years. Due to their hard work, 16 students qualified for state level competition. Of those, 13 are able to attend the state competition in Hershey, PA this April. From there, if students qualify, they will be given the opportunity to compete at the national level in Anaheim, California in June!

Please congratulate the following students for their excellent efforts and qualification for the

state conference:

Business Communications: Chamberlyn Corman, 1st place

Business Law: Victoria Shivery, 1st place and Alyssa Sinclair, 2nd place

E-Business: Forrest Gribble, Chandler Ross, Tom Urban, state qualifier

Entrepreneurship: Kellie Giles, Kylie Krout, Erin Thal, first place

Introduction to Business: Kurtis Brungard, 2nd place

Introduction to Business Communications: Sadie Woodring, 2nd place and Courtney Crable, 3rd place

Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures: Ashley Morris, 2nd place

Job Interview: Taylor Lucas, 1st place

Co-Secretaries for Region 14: Alexis Franks and Charles Ross

As always, we continue to be proud of our students and how they represent Bellefonte at all levels. ■

Bellefonte Softball Comes Together to Support Buddy Walk 2012



On Saturday, October 20, the Bellefonte Softball team headed off to Medlar Field at Lubrano Park on the Penn State Campus to take to the baseball field. However, this event did not involve screaming line drives and diving catches on the diamond, this was about a different type of heart and soul. Bellefonte Softball players from the high school joined the 5th Annual Buddy Walk to support individuals with Down Syndrome and their families.

Varsity Coach Nicole Naugle, already a member of the Buddy Walk's Pleasant Gap Elementary School team, brought the idea to the softball upperclassmen after a fall open field session at O'Leary Fields. "We have a great group of players that realize the world is bigger than a softball field. They really embraced the idea of making a difference in this fight," said Naugle.

Down Syndrome affects more than 400,000 people in the United States. The Buddy Walk is sponsored by the Centre County Down Syndrome Society. The goal of the event is to let families, friends, and community members know that individuals with Down Syndrome are unique, energetic, capable, loving people.

The Bellefonte Softball team arrived early to volunteer, helping to run games for children and serving food to Buddy Walk participants on the concourse of the State College Spikes stadium. After volunteering and cheering on the Down Syndrome Performance Troupe's three songs, the team took to the field for the Buddy Walk.

After lapping the field a couple times, the Buddy Walkers returned to the concourse so that the Penn State baseball team could take in an afternoon practice. On the concourse, the

Bellefonte Softball players were able to spend time and take pictures with Kaleb Brownson, a fourth grade student with Down Syndrome at Pleasant Gap Elementary.

Members of the Bellefonte Softball Buddy Walk team are seniors Erica DeVinney, Abby Irwin, Jessica McClenahan; juniors Alicia Allen, Carly Chambers, Olivia Ripka; sophomores Stevi Confer, Jess Fishburn, Liz Linn, and freshman Rachael Bernier and Jordan Rockey. Junior Vanessa Cooper and freshman Taylore Maurer contributed to the Buddy Walk but were unable to participate on Saturday.

"It was a really good time," said DeVinney. "It was nice to meet new people and help raise awareness of Down Syndrome in Centre County. It really means something special to get together with my teammates and help other people." ■

"South Pacific" to be performed at BAHS

The Bellefonte Area High School Theater and Fine Arts Department will present the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, South Pacific, from April 11 to April 13 at the BAHS Theater. Performances will be at 7:00PM each evening, with an additional 2PM matinee on Saturday.

Over 40 high school students will participate in the production, either in cast or technical roles. Auditions took place in early January, and rehearsals are ongoing leading up to the production in mid-April.

The music is under the direction of staff members including: Mr. Luke Skerpon (Co-Director – Music/Technical), Mr. Shaun McMurtrie (Co-Director – Artistic), Mr. Jay Zimmerman (Orchestra Director) and Mrs. Erin Harclerode (Choreographer). The student leadership includes Jadie Perdue, senior production stage manager;

Justina Blood, junior assistant stage manager; and Keri Ford, junior assistant stage manager.

South Pacific, with music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, and adapted from the Pulitzer Prize winning novel "Tales of the South Pacific" by James A. Michener, is set in an island paradise during World War II. Two parallel love stories are threatened by the dangers of prejudice and war. Nellie, portrayed by junior Jessica Brown, is a spunky nurse from Arkansas, who falls in love with a mature French planter, Emile, portrayed by senior Sean Gipson. Nellie learns that the mother of his children was an island native and, unable to turn her back on the prejudices with which she was raised, refuses Emile's proposal of marriage. Meanwhile, the strapping Lt. Joe Cable, portrayed by senior Sean Connelly, denies himself the fulfillment of a future

with an innocent Tonkinese girl, Liat, portrayed by junior Cat Rokavec, daughter of Bloody Mary, portrayed by senior Emily Martell, with whom he's fallen in love out of the same fears that haunt Nellie. (R&H Theatricals Show Synopsis)

Pre-sale tickets will go on sale in early March, and can be purchased from any high school student involved in the production. Tickets will also be available at the door at the time of performance. Adult tickets are \$9, student tickets are \$7, and tickets for children under 12 years of age are \$5. \$1 will be taken off all pre-sale tickets.

Any businesses or patrons who wish to sponsor the show or an advertisement in the program should contact Mr. Skerpon at lskerpon@basd.net for more information. ■

Bellefonte Athletes Honored

The Mountain League Summit Award was presented to BAHS at the annual Fall Mountain League Banquet in November. The Summit Award is presented to the school with the highest winning percentage during the fall season. Every fall team contributed to our capturing the award. Four of our fall teams were crowned League Champions. The coaches and student athletes who dedicated themselves to the sport started working the very next day at the end of last season with team workouts and off season club play. Then, the real work began in August as the pre-season officially started.

Six football players were honored at the Football Mountain League Banquet held on November 18th. Named to the first team were Nick Leiter (WR) and Luke Purnell (Lineman). The Second Team honorees were Kashim Buey (RB), Dan Roan (Guard), Jordan Fye (Secondary), and Evan Young (Linebacker).

The Boys' Cross-Country team captured the dual meet league title and conference championship with a record of 6 and 0. Senior Mitchell Smith earned the honor as Mountain League MVP and ran his way to District 6 AA Champion before finishing 6th at the PIAA XC AA Championship. His teammate, Andrew O'Donnell, was named to the Mountain League All-Star team. On the girls' side, Alexis Franks and Anya Hoaglund were also named League All-stars.

Girls' Golf had a tee-rific season, going

undefeated and capturing the Championship. Alyssa Sinclair won all her matches making her the League's MVP while both Kaitlyn Vogel and Emily Sinclair were voted as All-Stars. Boys' Golf also had a great year driving and putting their way to a 6-1 record within the league.

Both the girls and boys soccer teams were named Co-Champions of the League. Kristin Buchanan received the honor of being named the ALL-State Representative for the league and will be honored in Hershey a bit later this year. Making 1st team were Emily Jabco, Brooke Redfern, and 2nd team honorees were Devin Kos and Emily Martell. Boys' Soccer continued their season by making it to the District 6 Championship game. Paul Harrison and Tyler Rhoads were named to the 1st team, and Mike Maggs, Shane Kashchalk, and Dakota Nixdorf were named to the 2nd team. Boys' Coach, Scott Martz, was named "Coach of the Year" within the Mountain League.

The BAHS Cheerleading squad was crowned "Camp Champion" at the PSU Cheerleading camp. Named as "All-Americans" were Amy Weaver, Chamberlyn Corman, and Olivia Williams. Squad members Amy Weaver and Chamberlyn Corman were also named to the Big 33 Squad.

While the League Championships are based on the season records, the individual honors are voted on by the coaches within the league at a season ending meeting. ■



BAHS Theater Department Students Recognized

The Bellefonte Area High School Theater Department/Thespian Troupe 4773 recently attended the Pennsylvania State Thespians Conference at Central York High School in York, PA, where three BAHS students were recognized for their accomplishments in the theater program.

Seniors Jadie Perdue and Elizabeth Catchmark were each recognized as PA State Thespian Hall of Fame recipients. Perdue was given the honor for her technical theater work at BAHS where she has served as the Production Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, and club/troupe president over the course of her four years at BHS. Catchmark was awarded for her performance/acting accomplishments on the BAHS stage, most recently as Frenchy in Grease

and as Gwendolen Fairfax in The Importance of Being Earnest.

Senior Chelsea McGhee was awarded one of the state's top technical theater scholarships in the amount of \$500 for her work with technical stage lighting at BAHS, serving previously as a lighting board operator and most recently as the lighting designer for BAHS productions. The technical scholarships are given to senior students in the state who will be pursuing theater during their college careers, either in a major or minor program. McGhee plans to minor in theater.

Perdue will be entering into the Marine Corps after graduation. Catchmark and McGhee will both be pursuing post-secondary degrees at Penn State University this coming fall. ■



One of our Own

The Bellefonte Area School District would like to thank all the service men and women in our community. We are especially honored to be supporting one of our Middle School teachers: Captain Keith Guiswite.

Keith has been with the district since 2007 and holds the position as a seventh grade Language Arts teacher. He has served in the Army Reserves for thirteen years and plans to stay in for at least seven more until his retirement. As a Transportation Officer, he is trained in the planning of utilizing Army transportation assets (trains, trucks, planes, boats).

Keith was activated from his reserve status in September 2012 and will be serving in Kuwait until August 2013. During his deployment, he is assigned as the Watercraft Operations Officer in the 436th Movement Control Battalion which manages four Army Watercraft Units. This involves planning missions, de-conflicting timelines for vessels, and coordinating with others to handle any maintenance issues and diplomatic clearances needed for the cargo.

A message that Keith is passionate about passing along to his students is that becoming a lifelong learner and gaining the skills needed to strive in the real world is just as important as learning the actual curriculum. He believes that these skills are essential for individuals to set themselves apart from others and make them more successful in life outside of middle school. Serving in the military can be a very life-changing experience. It is a demanding job that can cause you to make many sacrifices. However, it allows you to build an unbelievably close bond with fellow soldiers, understand different cultures, and travel to parts of the world that you would otherwise

never get to see.

This is Keith's second deployment during his military career, the first being to Iraq in 2006. When asked to compare his two experiences in the Middle East, he replied, "The biggest difference for this deployment is the location. In Kuwait, it is much safer than my first deployment. I can walk around with no body armor or weapon and don't have to be afraid of being shot at every day. Also, it is much larger and nicer here. There are numerous activities available, fast food restaurants, and small shops. It is almost like a small town in the middle of the desert."

It is pretty clear that Keith is good at putting things into perspective and seeing the bright side of situations, but his year away from Bellefonte is clearly not without sacrifice. Keith admits that while serving overseas is a unique and interesting experience, the most difficult aspect is missing time with his family.

He and his wife, Tiffany, have three young children who are counting down the months, weeks, and days until they get to hug their dad. Although deployments rarely come along with perfect timing, it was particularly rough for Keith's family this time around.

After receiving notification last year about a deployment with a different unit, they started preparing family and friends, and then got word that Keith would not be activated. The following month, they found out they were expecting their third child. About halfway through the pregnancy, Keith learned of his current deployment which would begin the same month the baby was due.

With heavy hearts, they again made preparations for managing a family with Keith far

away. Baby Archer was able to see his dad for his first ten days and is now a healthy three month old. He and his five year old brother, Hunter, and three year old sister, Amani, enjoy having "face time" and talking with dad as often as they can. ■



BAMS teacher Keith Guiswite is serving a year-long tour of duty in Kuwait. Keith says, "Having this experience has made me appreciate what I have at home and realize how truly lucky we are to live in America."



Keith and his family received many generous gifts from people in the BASD community. In response this generosity, Keith stated, "I wanted to say thank you to the employees of both the Middle School and the District Office for their contributions towards an iPad and iTunes gift cards for our family. The gifts were greatly appreciated. The iPad will help keep our family connected to Keith and the iTunes gift cards will help time pass during the next eight months. This overwhelming support is just one of the many reasons that make Bellefonte Area School District a great place to work!"

(Left) Keith with 5 year old Hunter, 3 year old Amani, and newborn son Archer (now 3 months).

Penn State Athletics Reaches Out

The Lion's List, a new Penn State Athletics education program sponsored by PA 529 College Savings program, is giving Pennsylvania K-8 graders the opportunity to shine in the classroom and on the court. The first-year program coordinates with the Penn State men's and women's basketball seasons and is geared to motivate students to do well in the classroom based on specifications set by the schools and teachers.

"We hope the Lion's List motivates students to be the best they can be, and we hope more children have the opportunity to earn an affordable college degree with the help of the PA 529 College Savings Program," Pennsylvania Treasurer Rob McCord said. As the official Lion's List sponsor, the PA 529 program helps thousands of families make college more affordable for their loved ones.

Students who made The Lion's List for the 1st marking period received one complimentary ticket to the designated Nittany Lion basketball game and one complimentary ticket to the Lady Lion game with additional reduced priced tickets for all Lion's List friends, family and faculty. Upon arrival, the students proudly picked up their Certificate of Achievement, a Penn State photo frame to take home and had the chance to enter to win a \$529 PA 529 plan. Students were honored throughout the games and then invited to come down to the court for a group photo with the Nittany Lion. To add to the excitement, the Penn State basketball players showed their

support and hung around to mingle and sign autographs! With flashing smiles and cameras throughout the Bryce Jordan Center, The Lion's List proved to be a slam dunk of a day for these students and families.

The program was developed to help schools target areas of improvement while giving students an incentive to stay on track, academically and/or behaviorally. It is unique in the way that teachers have the flexibility to choose criteria based on their specific classroom development and needs. It is also used by schools to focus on school-wide initiatives and programs. Within the 65+ participating schools, each student has the opportunity to make The Lion's List throughout the 1st marking period, and then again during the 2nd marking period. The first set of Lion's List games took place in December and hosted nearly 2,000 Lion's List students and families at the Bryce Jordan Center. Bellefonte Area School District was well represented and had one of the highest percentages of Lion's List students and families in attendance.

Bellefonte Area Middle School student, Austin Stock, made the Lion's List for good grades.

"I got to stand up and be recognized in front of everybody and go to the game for free," Austin said. "I'd love to go to another game. I am going to turn in all of my work on time so I can come again."

Colleen Stock, Austin's mother, came out to support her Lion's List student and said it was something "the whole family could attend and sit together to watch Austin be recognized for his achievements throughout the evening."

The next round of Lion's List games is set for February 20th and March 10th. So, parents, be on the lookout for a Lion's List form brought home from your student towards the beginning of February. Good luck and stay positive.

"The Lion's List is a great incentive for students and fits nicely within our School-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support programs," Benner Elementary School Principal Kris Vancas said. "As a district we enjoy the partnership with Penn State and look forward to other ways to work together to benefit our students." ■



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Lady Lions Visit the Red Raiders

The Penn State Lady Lions relish opportunities to engage with local students and were thrilled to be invited to put on an assembly at Bellefonte Middle School on Friday, December 21st. As if the students weren't fired up enough on the last day of school before holiday break—they got even more excited to get up close and personal with the No. 11 team in the nation.

Junior forward Talia East emceed the event, creating a spirit of fun and enthusiasm. After Talia introduced her teammates (complete with Chicago Bulls introductory music), head coach Coquese Washington spoke with the students about the importance of treating one another with respect.

The first competition of the afternoon had 10 students going up against the Lady Lions in the ever-popular shooting game: knockout.

Talia then interviewed sophomore forward, Tori Waldner, who shared about the challenges of growing up tall (6'2" in the 8th grade). Developing

as a basketball player helped Tori deal with being one of the tallest kids in her school and she encouraged the students to use their uniqueness to their advantage like she did.

Next, two lucky Red Raiders got to test their 3-point shooting skills against junior sharpshooter, Maggie Lucas, one of the top shooting guards in the country. Each competitor got 15 shots behind the arc, and although the Red Raiders put up a good fight, Maggie won out.

Finally, Talia interviewed senior guard Gizelle Studevent about her experience being bullied from the 8th-10th grades. Her message was clear: for bullies to stop, for those being bullied to take courage and talk with a trusted adult about it, and for teachers to take action when they see bully behavior happen.

The Lady Lions loved meeting the Red Raiders and look forward to seeing them in the Bryce Jordan Center this season. ■



Bellefonte Students Discover Space

Discovery Space of Central PA is a hands-on children's science museum committed to providing science experiences which spark creativity, curiosity and imagination in kids and families. This school year, Discovery Space is bringing new science programs to students in the Bellefonte area.

In November and December, Discovery Space staff brought the Milk Carton Car Challenge to Bellefonte. Lunch milk cartons were recycled into cars and then raced down a track. Bellefonte Middle School girls became the trained experts and then taught the program to two groups of elementary school students: one at Bellefonte Elementary School and one at Benner Elementary School.

Future visits are in the works.

This summer, Discovery Space is offering 8 weeks of summer science camps. Most of the camps are for kids entering first, second and third grades. Each week is a different science theme

that is integrated with math and art activities. Two of the camps will be held in Bellefonte. The museum staff is working with local donors and businesses to make scholarships available for some Bellefonte area kids to attend a camp for free.

Watch for Discovery Space at the next community event.

Discovery Space of Central PA is located in downtown State College, near Schlow Library, on 112 W. Foster Ave. You can call 814.234.0200 or visit their website www.MyDiscoverySpace.org for more information. ■



PAESTA Honors BAMS teacher Mrs. Heather Spotts

Reprinted with permission from the Pennsylvania Earth Science Teaching Association

Congratulations to Heather Spotts - Our First Award Winner for Teaching Excellence!

At our conference, we recognized a dedicated Pennsylvania K-12 teacher who has made exemplary contributions to the field of Earth and Space Science education. Congratulations to Heather Spotts, a 6th grade general science teacher from Bellefonte School District, as our first winner of the PAESTA Award for Teacher Excellence!

Heather is in her 8th year teaching 6th grade general science in this rural school district in Centre County. Several years ago, three of

the rural districts in central PA partnered together with higher ed faculty from Penn State and Lock Haven to form the "Rural Multidistrict Academic Space Alliance", which has since been renamed the "Academic STEM Alliance" (or ASA). Heather has been a major partner in the ASA since the beginning, because she is always seeking out opportunities for her students and for herself to enrich their understanding of science.

Heather has also been extremely active in Penn State's Earth and Space Science Partnership and has been serving in the role of a teacher leader during this academic year. Heather has worked to build strong partnerships with her colleagues, and has built the foundation of a professional learning community in her district. She is currently

working on a master's degree and feels that her experiences in the partnership, which has included a networking and sharing of ideas with teachers from other districts throughout the state, have strongly influenced her decision to look at how teachers can be agents of change in their districts and how they can be active partners in their own professional development.

For her dedication to the profession of teaching, her leadership in her district, and her efforts to document her work and disseminate it to her fellow professionals throughout PA, we are proud to honor Heather as the first honoree of the PAESTA Award for Teaching Excellence.

All Pro Dads Dine at BAMS

Fathers of Bellefonte Area Middle School began meeting once a month for the All Pro Dads breakfast program (www.allprodads.com).

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. ■



Winter Fun in PE

Too many people don't go outside in the winter because, "it's too cold." The BAMS Physical Education department thinks otherwise. P.E. classes took advantage of the snowy weather and went outside to sled-ride, make snowmen, and just to play in the snow. Yes, it's cold, but if you bundle up and hike up a hill a couple times, you'll stay warm and have fun. ■



Bellefonte Elementary Drives for Pennies

For the past fifteen years, Bellefonte Elementary has participated in the Million Penny Drive for the Easter Seals of Central PA.

In three and a half weeks the students and staff raised over \$4,800.

Students worked hard each week raising money and earning "boomerang slips". With each weekly goal met, students had a celebration that the whole school was able to enjoy.

The students had different challenges each week:

Week 1 – Dress Your Teacher Day

Week 2 – Mr. Besch Penny Pull, and the Final – Teacher Obstacle Course.

Along with the challenges, the students participated in other activities that aided in raising funds for the Million Penny Drive: Holiday Cards, Classroom Wreath Auction, and Classroom Door Decoration.

Bellefonte Elementary would like to say thank you to the students, parents, and staff of Bellefonte Elementary, and everyone looks forward to next year's challenge to set a new record mark. ■



Elementary Instrumental Music

It has been a fabulous year so far for the BASD Elementary Instrumental Program. Orchestra Director Mrs. Diane Silvis and Band Director Mrs. Christine Gossett have been thrilled with the progress of over 250 band and orchestra students during the first semester of the school year and look forward to watching their skill and confidence grow as the year progresses. All of the students have had the opportunity to perform in a concert and are working hard to prepare new songs for upcoming events. The BASD Fine Arts department is very active in Bellefonte. Check out the Fine Arts Calendar on the District Web Site to see the concert dates for all of our Elementary, Middle School and High School performance groups.

On Friday, January 18th, 2013, the Nittany Valley Symphony (NVS) came to Bellefonte

Elementary School to perform for the 4th and 5th Grade Elementary Band and Orchestra in the district. This was a free program offered by the NVS to the elementary band and orchestra students. The musicians introduced their instruments to the students by discussing the different instrument sizes and how they produce sound. The NVS then performed several songs so students could hear how the instruments sounded together. The students really enjoyed hearing the NVS musicians play a variety of music using the string and brass instruments in the orchestra. Students were able to share their knowledge about their instruments with the musicians and relate to professional musicians from their community.

The Elementary Band and Orchestra Programs are open to any 4th or 5th grade students in the Bellefonte Area School District.

Third grade parents should be on the lookout for a letter with your child's final report card introducing our program. We plan to get around to all of the 3rd grade classes in the spring to introduce them to many of the instruments we offer. This will give them a chance to start thinking about what instrument they may want to play in the fall. At the beginning of the 2013 – 2014 school year, students will have the opportunity to try out many of the orchestra and band instruments. During this time, they will receive further information about joining orchestra or band.

Hope to see many of you at our future concerts. ■

Fire Truck Ride in Pleasant Gap

Pleasant Gap Elementary teacher Mrs. Hazel's Kindergarten Class took a fire truck ride that was provided by The Pleasant Gap Volunteer Fire Department as part of Fire Safety Week. Students and adults alike had a great time. The PGVFD is one of many community organizations that enthusiastically supports Bellefonte Area School District.



BENNER benefits PAWS

Each year, Benner Elementary's fifth grade students are in charge of a service project for the holidays. In the past, they typically have collected items for a local food bank. However, this year there were so many animal lovers in Mrs. Zahuranec's and Mrs. Covone's classes that they chose to help out our local PAWS chapter.

So many animals are abandoned or neglected during the holiday season that the students felt they had to help in some way. During the month of December, fifth grade students were in charge of collecting and counting items that were donated by Benner students. They collected over 100 items for PAWS and have helped many animals in need. ■



The Beehive is Buzzing

Marion-Walker kicked off this school year by implementing the highly acclaimed School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Program throughout the building.

On the first day of school, students were introduced to the school wide rules of: Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Here & Be Ready, as well as the school theme of the Marion-Walker Bees.

Students spent the first two days of school learning how the "Bee Rules" apply to all areas throughout the school building.

Students have also begun earning Hive Five Slips for their efforts towards following these rules. Hundreds of Hive Five Slips are adorning the walls all the way to the cafeteria already. As of November

9th, Marion-Walker students have earned 1825 total slips across the grade levels.

Hive Fives are also drawn randomly for extra special recognition drawings. So far students picked at random have received: classroom posters chosen weekly for the "Wall of Fame" (for excellent cafeteria behavior), extra recess, Queen or King Bee for a week, Grand Marshalls of the Halloween parade, and VIP All Access Cafeteria Badges.

Parents can also get involved with the SWPBS program. A copy of the Hive Five(s) your child receives comes home too. If your child shows you a Hive Five Slip be sure to give your child extra praise for a job well done.



Also any parent that has any suggestions/connections/donations for Hive Five special rewards please contact Amy Sclicht, School Counselor. ■

Second Graders in the Spirit

In December, Benner Second Graders learned about different holidays that are celebrated around the world. Mrs. Anantheswaran's class decorated their wall with Holiday Informative Writing about Diwali, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Las Posadas, Hanukkah and Christmas. ■





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