

BELLEFONTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Red Raider m a g a z i n e

2017 WINTER ISSUE



Community Service • Honor Veterans • Technology



Bellefonte Board of School Directors

Mr. Rodney Musser, President
Mr. Michael Danneker, Vice-President
Mrs. Hope Boylston
Mr. Jon Guizar
Mr. Keith Hamilton
Ms. Kimberly Hearn
Mr. Robert Lumley-Sapanski
Mr. Daniel Miltenberger
Mr. Robert Pacella

Dr. Michelle Saylor
Superintendent
Mrs. Tammie Burnaford
Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Scott C. Etter, Solicitor

Discrimination Policy

The Bellefonte Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. Information relative to special accommodations, grievance procedure, and designated responsible official for compliance with Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be obtained by contacting Dr. Michelle Saylor, at 355-4814, Ext 3005.

Cover Photo: Brenna Bixler

How to Reach Us

Administration Building
All Numbers.....355-4814
Superintendent's Office.....Ext 3005
Director of Fiscal Affairs.....Ext 3015
Assistant Superintendent.....Ext 3004
Director of Human Resources.....Ext 3002
Director of Special Education.....Ext 3021
Business Office.....Ext 3001
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
BeLA.....Ext. 3053
Web Site.....www.basd.net

A Message from

Dr. Michelle Saylor

Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent



Social Media: In today's world, this means of communication can be both a valuable tool and, sadly, a forum for hurt and hate. Social Media can be a way to easily share important information, yet it can also be a means to quickly spread false information and offensive or hurtful comments. As a parent, I understand the concern and frustration we experience when our child is the target of harmful words and accusations; as a district leader, I know firsthand the confusion that ensues when people share misinformation and assumptions. However, I also understand the power of social media to help us brand our district, to unite people, and to provide a public forum for collaboration and shared information when it is used appropriately, facts are checked, and we are respectful of each other as human beings rather than 'something on the other end' that we can neither see nor touch. As a district, and as individuals, it is incumbent upon us to make sure our use of social media is used appropriately and we never lose site of the fact that through it our voices, our feelings, perceptions, and interpretation of information are

all interconnected. What we say or promote through social media either empowers or disenfranchises others. It is our responsibility, as a community, to make sure our children understand the power of their words, the power of social media, and the risks posed by others. With that said, I ask everyone to do two things. Work with your children to ensure their safety and the safety of their peers when using social media. Here, within our district, we are working hard to do the same. Please take time to talk with your children about what is and isn't appropriate to share through social media. Also, take time to visit our webpages: Social Media and Online Safety <http://www.basd.net/Page/11030> where you will find valuable resources and safety tips. I also ask that when you see confusing or false information floating around social media, you reach out to us so we may have the opportunity to clarify the information and to work to correct the information through our own social media outlets. Feel free to contact your building principal or our district office. Together we can ensure the safety of our children as well as the posting of accurate information. Alone, we will continue to struggle.

Michelle Saylor, Ed.D.

High School

After winter break, the pace at Bellefonte Area High School speeds up....hard to imagine, but true. There are so many amazing events occurring at our school that I could go on and on, but I would like to highlight a few of these "stand out" events and opportunities.

Mr. Park has been organizing and offering our students' "Red Talks." These presentations are rooted in student interest and provided by community members, even former graduates. An astronaut, a member of President Bush's Administration, and an entrepreneur are a few of the presentation topics to date.

Please support Student Council as they organize a Mini-Thon to benefit the Four-Diamonds fund. Student Council members are raising funds now through March 25, 2017.

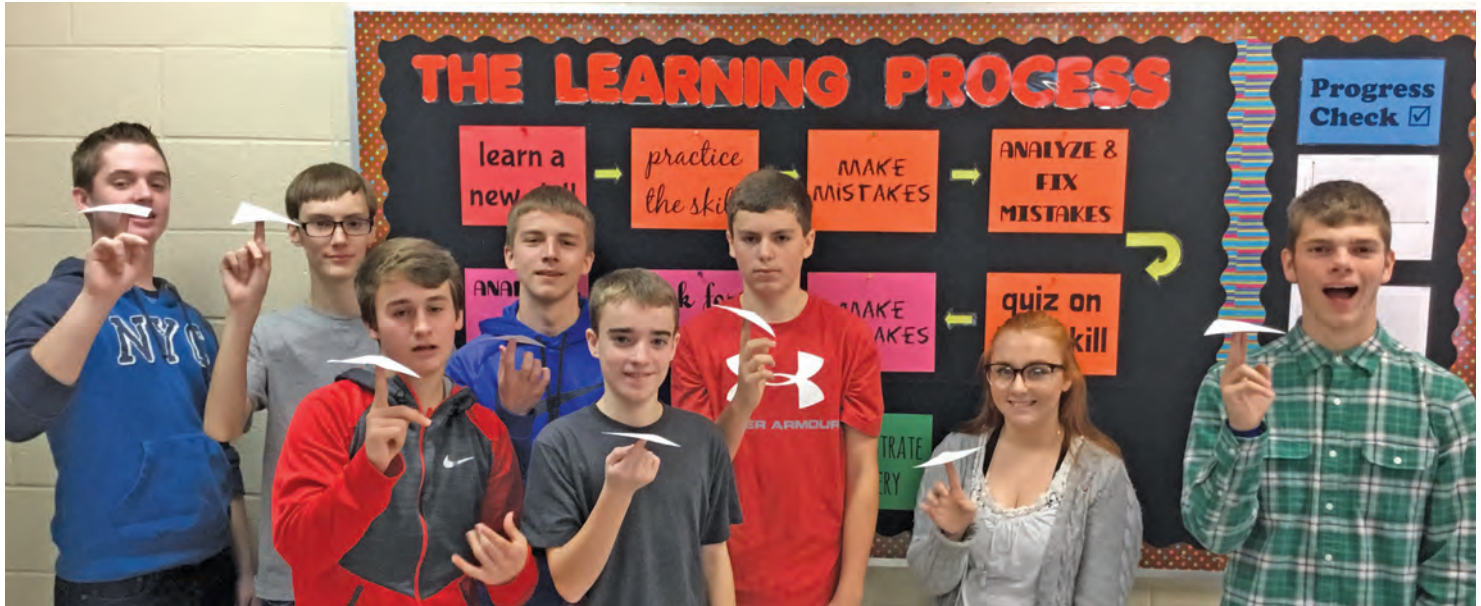
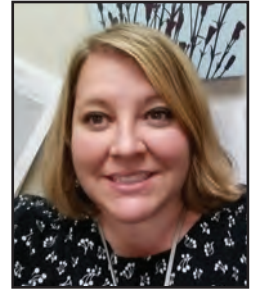
We are completing year one of our University of Pittsburgh College in the High School (CHS) partnership as well as our Saint Francis collaboration with our World Language Department. New to us next year will be another CHS opportunity through Seton Hill and our Business Department. As students plan courses for next year, talk to their guidance counselor if you or your student is interested in hearing more about this great opportunity to earn college credits at a reduced cost while taking high school courses.

A reminder that we continue to offer tutoring sessions after school where any student can come and get help from content area teachers from 3:20-4:20 p.m. Monday is English, Tuesday is Social Studies, Wednesday is Math, and Thursday is Science. There is no need to sign-up prior.

Our Guidance Department is completing the 339 process which will create a comprehensive career preparation program across all grade levels K-12. This program will begin career conversations earlier in our students' lives and help them find their interests and potential career and postsecondary paths as they move through their school years.

A sincere THANK YOU to our faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians, and community for the unwavering support of our school and it's many wonderful opportunities.

In Raider Pride,
Mrs. Jennifer Brown
Principal, BAHS



BAHS Geometry students - using only a compass and straightedge, found the center of gravity of a triangle and tested it out.

Those pictured in photo (left to right): Zach Matsko, Jonathan Albright, Mason Grey, Cooper Lachat, Owen Christopher, Jakob Matis, Cierra Groff, and Bryce Fisher

BAHS Senior Institute

As a long honored tradition of more than twenty years, the BAHS Senior Institute (SI) class continues to give back to its community.

In its earliest years, members of the class created children's books and shared them with the elementary students in the district. Since then, the class mission has evolved to hold a community charity event that spans the entire school year. Each winter, the students focus their attention toward helping a community member with financial need due to health issues.

This year, the Senior Institute Class is raising money for Bellefonte community member Kathy Drysdale, who is currently in her second battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma cancer. Senior Tyler Kreger introduced the idea of raising money for Kathy to his classmates. Mrs. Lloyd mentioned that we were looking for someone in the community, so I asked my mom, and she heard through the youth football that Kathy had cancer again," Tyler said.

So far, the class organized a bake sale and Mario Kart tournament, bringing in just over \$1,200 so far. The GoFundMe page they recently created already brought in just under \$1,000 - but the students have no plans to stop raising money for Kathy until they hit their \$13,000 goal, which would set a record for the most money raised. SI member Mitchell Pensak hopes the 5K the class has planned for March 18 will draw a large crowd. "We came to having an event such as this because it is something that everyone would enjoy; plus, a 5K is something new for Senior Institute and has a lot of potential for raising money for the charity," he said.

The SI class met Kathy and her son, Derek Lively II, a Bellefonte Middle School student, for the first time in January. "She is very vibrant and outgoing and full of life. When she walked in the room, she was very kind and made us feel comfortable to talk to her and ask her questions," senior Emma Holderman said.

To become a part of the class, which is co-taught by English teacher Mrs. Jessica Lloyd and art teacher Miss Heather Fry, students must complete an application and essay. All students who apply for the class are invited for a formal interview with the teachers of SI. The staff of BAHS is then invited to provide character accounts of applicants to ensure that all members of the class will be the best representatives of the course's mission and purpose.

This is art teacher Miss Heather Fry's first year as a co-advisor for the class. Not only is she looking forward to "developing a strong relationship between the art and English curriculums," but she also finds inspiration in the students. "They are individually and collectively creative, community-driven, and readily willing to challenge themselves artistically, academically, and personally," she said.

For the past ten year, the Senior Institute has held a dinner at the Faith United Methodist Church with the help of the kitchen staff as a culminating

event for their year-long efforts. This year, the dinner will take place on May 12 from 5-8 p.m. and feature a sports-themed menu, with American favorites such as hamburgers, hotdogs, and a variety of sides.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the 5k or charity dinner, email jlloyd@basd.net. To make a contribution to the class GoFundMe page, visit gofundme.com/kathydrysdale.



High School

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BAHS Key Club sponsored a food drive to benefit Faith Centre Food Bank. We collected over 250 items and donated them on Friday, November 18., in time for Thanksgiving meals. The club members made it a competition between homerooms promising a cookie party for the homeroom that collected the most items. Mrs. Zimdahl-McManus won; her Freshman homeroom donated 39 items. This is an annual service project that Key Club does for our local food bank



KEY “KIWANIS EDUCATES YOUTH” CLUB

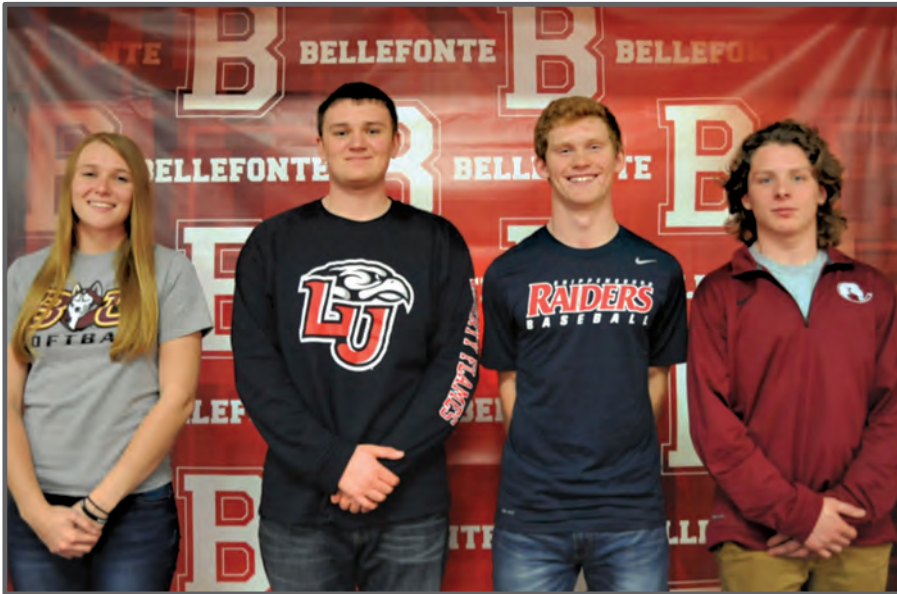
This year the Bellefonte Key Club has done so many things for the school, the community, and other large charities. One of the charities we had raised money for was Yudabands, an organization that provides financial support for young people to go to school.

The Bellefonte Key Club also sold Yudabands which are bracelets that are handmade by Guatemalans raising over \$600 for a boy named Henry who wants to become a doctor. We have also raised money for UNICEF which provides tetanus shots to mothers and their children in third world countries. This fundraiser asked our students to carry around a box during halloween and go trick-or-treating for spare change instead of asking for candy. We raised nearly \$200 for UNICEF. During the Kiwanis Veterans Day Ceremony downtown, a small group of students attended and gave out warm apple cider for donations. We collected over \$150 for Alex's Lemonade Stand Fundraiser. Our online fundraiser also made \$1400. Another project we led was a food drive throughout the high school.

After two weeks of collecting food in homerooms, we give three carts full of food to the Faith Centre Food Bank. Over Christmas, we visited the Bellefonte and Marion Walker Elementary schools to help with their holiday store. We did all sorts of things like wrapping and helping the younger ones shop. Also at Christmas time, we led a Toys for Tots campaign at the high school; students and staffuly came together to fill four large boxes with toys for needy children in Bellefonte.

We are very excited to have had such a successful Fall Semester and look forward to our Spring projects like selling flowers for the American Heart Association, attending the District Convention, collecting money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, visiting local daycares to provide free books for the children, and supporting Kiwanis Pancake Day.

Plans for the Future!



Four Bellefonte Area High School Students recently signed their letters of intent to continue both their academic and athletic endeavors on the college level.

Tara Baney will head to Bloomsburg University to play softball and study Exercise Physiology; Logan Mathieu swings his way down to Virginia to play baseball and study Psychology; Tanner Helms continues to roll as a Raider at Shippensburg University playing baseball with an undeclared major; and Brock Port will maneuver his way to Lock Haven University studying Criminal Justice and Psychology as he wrestles for the Bald Eagles.

Congratulations to these student-athletes for their success both in the classroom and athletics. **ROLL ON!**

FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY

COOKIES AND CARDS FOR CENTRE CREST

The newly formed **BAHS French Honor Society** hosted its first annual Cookie Drive for Centre Crest this past December. FHS students made holiday cards for the residents of Centre Crest and either baked or purchased cookies and treats for the nursing staff to enjoy during their holiday shifts.

FHS met at Centre Crest to hand-deliver some holiday cheer with a smile, and some members even stayed to visit with residents. FHS was delighted to receive a most lovely "thank you" letter from the staff at Centre Crest after the holidays. We will be sure to make this the highlight of the FHS holiday season for years to come!



High School

CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY



On November 3rd, the BAHS Spanish Honor Society sponsored a trip to see the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet in Pittsburgh at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum. There were two performances that showed demonstrations of Hispanic dances. A Latin American Fiesta included dances from Latin countries in the Caribbean, as well as Central and South America. Some dances included the Cumbia, Tango, and Merengue. The other performance included dances and traditional music from Spain. The dances highlighted were variations on the Tablao Flamenco. Both of these performances gave visual representations of the Spanish and Latin cultures, enhancing the understanding of Hispanic culture. In both performances, there were songs and dialogue in Spanish so students could use their language knowledge to understand what was going on. After the performances, students took a tour of the facility.

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum allowed students a good opportunity to pay respect to their veterans and see various war memorabilia dating back to the Civil War. On the way home from Pittsburgh, students stopped at an authentic Mexican restaurant, Casa Valadez, to experience some authentic cuisine. Students got to try new foods that they may have learned about in class but never were able to try. The Pittsburgh trip was a very enlightening experience about the Hispanic culture, and the students had a fun time learning about it.



On November 18th, Mr. Rager's and Ms. Randazzo's classes served a meal for over 100 parents, faculty, and staff members. The students prepared a meal during the week making turkey, potatoes, corn, green beans, stuffing balls, and desserts. The class had greeters at the door, waiters, and waitresses. The students also worked the drink table and dessert table.

The BAMS LSS/CLM students: Chase and Zyane Bailey, Kevin Wright, Eden Guizar, Alexa Steiner, Rheyta Lott, Jesse Conklin, Quinton Reed, Zoey Nichols, Devin Heckman, Sam McElhinny, Hunter Henney, and Kenny Russo.



Learning On-Line

During the week of January 23, 2017, the National Institute on Drug Abuse hosted the 10th Anniversary of the National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. As part of the event, BAMS students in 6th grade health class participated in the Drugs & Alcohol Chat Day on Thursday, January 26th. This event is a Live Web Chat where students from around the country ask expert scientists the questions they most want the answers to about drugs and drug abuse, including drug effects, how to help friends or family who are abusing drugs, and what causes addiction. Nearly 10,000 questions were submitted from 52 participating schools.



Sumdog Competition Heats Up at BAMS

In Mrs. Sharp's math classes, students participate in Sumdog math competitions every six weeks. The last competition that ended on November 18th was fierce! The top seven competitors correctly answered over 30,000 math questions to finish with the highest scores that the school has ever seen! Students only have an opportunity to play during class for 20 minutes per cycle so most of this was done on their own time outside of school.

"I have been hosting Sumdog competitions for about 5-6 years and have never seen a more competitive group. I am so proud of them!" said Mrs. Sharp. Each winner received a pack of Raider Revolution Cards and prizes they selected from Mrs. Sharp's classroom prize cabinet. The goal is to make math more enjoyable and boost student confidence. The next competition ends on January 6th.



1st place: Araelia Summers
2nd place: Avah Colm
3rd place: Garrett Woods
4th place: Kira Weaver

5th place: Chelsea Snook
6th place: Sabrina Corman
7th place: Camryn Shoffner

Bellefonte Elementary

VETERAN'S DAY AT BELLEFONTE ELEMENTARY

For Veteran's Day we had all students participate in a special activity. They listened to several veterans describe their current or past work in the military. Many brought uniforms, artifacts, and pictures to share with the students. Thank you to Officer (SSg) Luse, Captain Laskowski, Spc Miller, and Lt. Luibil for sharing. Students then all chose a red, white, or blue square to write a message to veterans. These squares were then assembled into the shape of a flag and put on display in the school.



YMCA Polar Bear Plunge



The annual YMCA Polar Bear Plunge raises money to support several programs at the YMCA, including the Weekend Food Backpack Program which benefits 150 students across the Bellefonte School District, 100 of which are distributed at Bellefonte Elementary each Friday. Bellefonte Elementary sponsored a week-long Coin Drive to donate to the program. Mrs. Krisch and Dr. Saylor participated at the Plunge in the very chilly Black Moshannon State Park. Our school raised over \$1500 for the cause and won the Cool School Challenge. The Polar Bear Trophy was presented by Liz Toukenen from the YMCA to Mrs. Krisch. Mrs. Wilson's class raised the most money within the school and earned a pizza lunch and three hours of playtime at the YMCA.



Fifth grade students participated in a food and clothing drive for homeless students and families in our district and community.

Mathematical Candy Houses

Students in Mrs. Kipp's 4th grade classes demonstrated what they knew about geometry in a fun and festive way. After creating miniature gingerbread houses with candy patterns, the kids listed all of the geometry angles, lines, and shapes they could find. Their sweet smelling creations were then displayed in the hallway for all Benner Bears to enjoy.



Marion - Walker Elementary

MARION-WALKER CELEBRATES AND HONORS OUR VETERANS



The students and staff at Marion-Walker Elementary annually commemorate Veteran's Day by honoring and thanking local veterans in the community. This year, the festivities were held on November 10th with activities all day long. The students spent the entire day rotating through eight stations that highlighted various patriotic and military activities.

At the Airborne Operation station, Matt Cernuska, a member of the US Army and teacher at the Bellefonte Middle School, shared videos of his experiences parachuting out of planes with his unit. He identified various types of military aircrafts and demonstrated the proper jumping technique. After the students practiced a simulated parachute jump, they were able to practice safe landing rolls on mats.

Teaching how the military stays fit and healthy, Marine Beth Ashe put the kids through a workout of drills in the PT station. At another station, students learned about the bald eagle and why it was chosen to represent the USA as our national symbol. Joe Horvath from the Boalsburg Military Museum kept the students mesmerized with stories and combat gear from the Vietnam War.

Army Veteran Adam Kuhlman shared reveille, taps and patriotic music at another station. He explained the history and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance and Star Spangled Banner making sure to emphasize the proper way to respect the flag while reciting both.

A favorite station of many students was led by a 4-legged guest. Tom, a friendly Belgian Malinois from the State Police K-9 squad, along with his handler, Trooper Tiracorda demonstrated how dogs are trained and used to help the police and military.

Several dads, grandpas, and members of the US Army Reserves in Pleasant Gap shared experiences and memorabilia at the Military Guest station. Back in their classrooms, students colored pictures and wrote notes to veterans. These were given out to veterans who ate at the Texas Roadhouse in State College, on Veterans Day.

Students learned about the branches of the military and how each one helps to protect our country. Through all of these activities, students gained new understanding and a greater appreciation of our country and the military. Most importantly, they learned to remember, honor, and thank the veterans who make it possible for us to have freedom.





Miss Mrsa's class (pictured) as well as Mrs. Kowalczyk's and Mrs. Haagen's second grade classes at Marion Walker Elementary worked together to show compassion for others while decorating and packing Jared Boxes before the holiday break. Jared Boxes are small plastic boxes that are filled with small toys, gifts, and activities that help bring hope and comfort to children in the hospital. The Jared Box Project was started in 2001 by the children at Our Lady of Victory School in State College, Pennsylvania, to honor their classmate and friend, Jared. He was a brave little boy who battled cancer with courage and hope that continues to inspire us all. This was such a powerful and enriching experience as we talked about the importance of the project and how giving to others should be central in our lives. We cannot wait to do it again!



Holiday Shows Entertain Families

The Marion-Walker and Pleasant Gap Schools each put on their annual Holiday Musical on two evenings at the beginning of December. Our Elementary Music teacher, Mrs. Susan Zimmerman has been directing the holiday shows for over 30 years. This year's show was called "TOYS" and was written by Patty Correll, first grade teacher at Marion-Walker Elementary. Mrs. Zimmerman and Miss Correll have been teaming up to write and direct the holiday shows for the past 10 years. Both schools performed the same show and all the students at both schools participated in the productions. Fifth grade students worked hard to memorize the lines of the play, as well as learn songs and dances. Some also learned to play instruments to accompany the songs, under the direction of Ms. Jayme Zimmerman, the elementary band teacher. Students in third grade learned songs and played the recorder, as well. All students in grades K-5 learned songs, movements, and performance skills as they entertained their families and put everyone in the holiday spirit. What a great way to kick off the Christmas season!



Pleasant Gap Elementary



The 2016-2017 school year has been fun and enriching for our students. Throughout the year, we have had a number of visitors to Pleasant Gap Elementary. We had a visit from the states Woodmobile. This taught the students about the importance of the forest industry and sustainable woods in Pennsylvania. PGE also had a visit from the Energize Guys. The students received information on ways that they can help their families reduce energy consumption in their homes. Veterans Day was special at PGE due to being able to welcome several military members to our school. They provided the students with some insight into being part of the military and the commitment to the country and service. We can not thank them enough for their service to our country.

During the holiday season, Pleasant Gap participated in a food drive to benefit the Faith Church's food bank. The fifth grade class delivered food to the church and helped to restock their pantry in preparation of the holiday season. We were also

able to make donate many needed items to the YMCA for their Weekend Backpack program. The students showed great community service by giving back to those who help support our community. We are looking forward to what the rest of the school year holds.

Finally, PGE would like to congratulate Brenda St. Clair for her winning poster for the "How My Buddies and I Recycle" Contest. This contest was sponsored by the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority. Her poster is being displayed in a 2017 calendar from the county recycling program. Brenda also won a Buddy Bench for PGE. Congratulations, Brenda!!!!

The staff of Pleasant Gap Elementary want to say THANK YOU to the families of our students for your continued support of the school. To help them be successful, the PBIS Team wants to remind students that they should always remember to:

BE SAFE, BE KIND, BE RESPECTFUL, BE HERE & BE READY!!

At the beginning of November, we had approximately 150 youth basketball players in grades 1 - 6 registered to participate in the boys elementary program. Greg Wertz and Coach Glunt have done an excellent job organizing the program this year. The youth basketball program is a fun, competitive introduction to the game of basketball. The philosophy of the program is to introduce players to the skills and strategies of the game of basketball and for kids to have fun in a team environment.

We also had many businesses in our local community that supported our program. Thanks to the Team Sponsors! Allegheny Utility Solution-Bellefonte Family Dentistry-- Capperella Furniture-- Happy Valley Catering-- Happy Valley Custom T-- Hofbrau Pizza --Hot Dog House-- Moose Lodge --Pizza Mia--Poole Anderson --Red Horse Tavern-- Remax Linda & Ryan Lowe --Weis Markets



TECHNOLOGY

BASD Students Participate in Hour of Code

Once again this year, elementary students participated in the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is a global initiative designed to provide students with an introduction to computer coding. The goal is to show students that anyone can learn the basics of coding and to encourage students to consider careers in computer science. Through coding, students learn problem-solving skills, logical thinking, and creativity. Coding also introduces students to skills that offer many promising employment opportunities. The global movement has reached over 300 million students in over 180 countries. Coding activities include games with themes from Star Wars, Minecraft, and Frozen. Give it a try! Go to code.org and select LEARN.



PROBLEM SOLVING USING MAKERSPACE



This year, the BASD Librarians collaborated with our district administrators to begin introducing students to the concept of STEAM in the form of Makerspaces in preparation for future hobbies and careers. Through the implementation of Makerspaces, students will build problem-solving and computer programming skills. A Makerspace is both a physical place and a set of activities where students are encouraged to explore, create, collaborate, invent, ask questions, and grow within Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM)!

Each elementary Makerspace consists of Bluebots, Ozobots, Lego Kits, Snap circuits, LittleBits, and Makey Makey kits. The secondary buildings have more intricate versions of those activities, as well as, 3-D printers. Your Librarians are working hard to introduce these kits to all BASD students and hope to make their Makerspaces an everyday part of their academic success. Several activities were available for use by students and community members during the recent BASD Science Family night.

For more information about your school's Makerspace, please visit the library websites to see what has been happening.

District Helps Students to Communicate and Be Heard

Students in Jeff Rager's (BAMS) and Rachael Davis' (BAHS) Life Skills Support classes have much to celebrate this year. Students who are non-verbal or who have challenging communication issues have been given an innovative way to communicate, thanks to the ICAN TALK Clinic out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The ICAN TALK Clinic not only provided comprehensive testing to determine what type of electronic communication device would be appropriate for four students at the middle and high school levels but also has provided intensive professional learning with teachers, para educators, and parents. Dr. Gina MacFalls, Director of Special Education, indicated that communication for non-verbal students involves so much more than providing a "quick solution" such as an iPad. She added that there really needs to be a comprehensive assessment in place to determine that the device will meet the student's needs--especially if the student is blind or has physical issues like cerebral palsy.

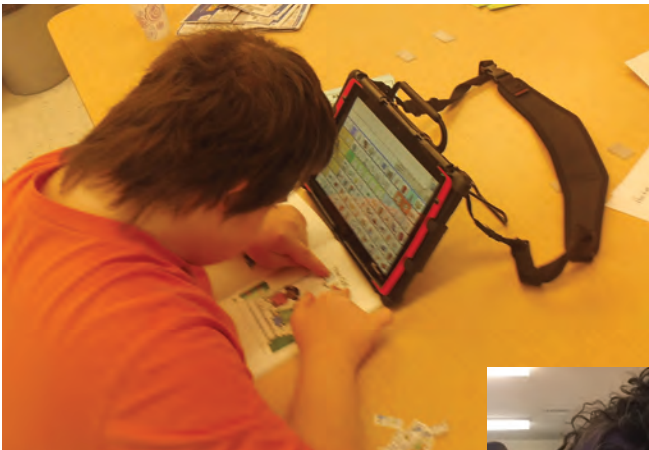
The District currently has two students at BAMS and two students at BAHS who are using their "talkers" or communication devices. Each student is at a different level and has different needs. Overall, both teachers concur that students are either using or beginning to use their devices across social, academic, and leisurely environments--not only at home, but in the community and during extra-curricular activities as well. Rachael Davis, high school Life



Skills Support teacher, adds that devices have promoted social interactions and introductions to new peers that the students would not have had otherwise because they had no way to communicate or would need to rely on an adult to communicate their needs for them. Perhaps the greatest benefit is that the students now can make choices and can communicate areas of interest to their audience.

Suzanne Heckathorne is very happy that her son, Micah's entire team has been diligent at implementing the use of his device across his entire school day. "We are so thankful for that! We see this as something that could be life changing for Micah in his future as he learns to become as independent as possible. We can't help but be proud of Micah's hard work, and to see his excitement as he learns how to use his device makes me so happy for him!"

Ruth Fleck, whose daughter Miranda is in the high school Life Skills Support class, said it best, "We are so thankful to be a part of this program. The team has done an excellent job figuring out the best device and how to help Miranda communicate independently. It will be a long process, but well worth it. We all need a voice."



Fine Arts

Elementary Instrumental Music

It has been a fabulous year so far for the BASD Elementary Instrumental Program. Orchestra Director Mrs. Diane Silvis and Band Director Miss Jayme Zimmerman have been thrilled with the progress of the band and orchestra students during the first semester of the school year and look forward to watching their skill and confidence grow as the year progresses. The 5th grade 2nd year students performed really well at the holiday concert and now the 4th and 5th grade students are working hard to prepare songs for our spring concerts. Pleasant Gap and Marion-Walker Elementary Band and Orchestra will have their spring concert on Tuesday, May 23rd, and Benner and Bellefonte Elementary Band and Orchestra will have their spring concert on Thursday, May, 25th. Both concerts are at the Bellefonte Area High School Theatre at 7:00 P.M.

Each elementary school will also have a student recital at their own school where band and orchestra students can

choose to perform a solo, duet, trio, etc. in front of a small audience. The dates for the recitals are Bellefonte Elementary - Monday, March 27th; Marion-Walker Elementary - Tuesday, March 28th; Benner Elementary - Wednesday, March 29th, and Pleasant Gap Elementary - Thursday, March 30th. All recitals start at 7:00 P.M.

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 third grade classes in the spring to introduce them to many of the instruments we offer. At the beginning of the 2017 - 2018 school year, students will have the opportunity to listen to and try out many of the orchestra and band instruments and will receive information about learning to play an instrument.

Summer Band and Orchestra

Each summer, the Bellefonte Instrumental Department offers a Summer Orchestra and Band Camp at Bellefonte Middle School. This camp provides a relaxed and positive musical experience for students from beginner level through the 12th grade. It is totally free of charge and open to all current band and orchestra members in the district. Even if a student can only attend a few rehearsals, it is worth it!

This year's camp is tentatively scheduled each week day July 10th through July 21st from 10:00 A.M. - Noon each day. The students will give a performance to celebrate their achievements in the Middle School Auditorium on July 21st at 7:00 P.M.



Bellefonte Musicians Hard at Work

The Bellefonte Area Music Department is amidst a successful season of PMEA performance festivals. The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association is a statewide nonprofit organization of over 4,500 members, dedicated to promoting the musical development of all Pennsylvanians. At each PMEA festival, the top students from each school are selected to audition and perform at a multi-day event. Many of our Bellefonte musicians ranked at the top of their sections, and we congratulate them on their musical achievements!

At Penns Valley High School, Mr. Eric Brinser led his District Chorus students to a new school record: All ten choral students placed in the top ten of their respective sections and are moving on to Region Chorus in February. Among these students are Sopranos: Megan Irwin (1st chair), Jenna Catalano, and Emma Holderman; Altos: Hailey Seibel and Halle Mitchell; Tenors: Jonathan Meyer, Johnny Purnell, and Josh Gaus; and Basses: Jordan Emely and Noah Gaus. Students were conducted by Dr. Christopher Jackson from Lycoming College.

The District Orchestra Musicians, led by Ms. Emma Ripp, had a rewarding experience at Somerset Area High School under the baton of Dr. Jeff Tedford of Grove City College. After a lengthy audition process, three musicians will move on to regionals in March: Ryan Lidgett, concertmaster; Emily Harris, principal 2nd violin; and Abbey Martin, 5th chair 1st violin. The following musicians who participated in District Orchestra are Violinists: Emily Harris, Ryan Lidgett, Abbey Martin, Katie Mitchell, Sierra Pletcher, Kayleigh Rine; Violist: Kayla Fleming; Cellist: Jack Badger; and Bassist: Joshua Zeigler.

A week prior, younger orchestra musicians attended Keystone Orchestra in Central Mountain School District. These musicians included Violinists: Natalie Book, Maya Fulton, Katie Mussett, Karlie Pletcher, Jessica Eckard, Lyssa Simson, Daryel Stickles, and Lily Wichert; Violists: Elizabeth Bryan, Megan Hamaty and Jacob Henry, Cellists: Jonathan Decker and Katie Uchneat (2nd chair); and Bassist: Shannon Anderson.

The band, led by Mr. Jay Zimmerman, is busy preparing for district band and district jazz festivals. The following musicians will participate in District Band: Zoe Cole, Lizzie Giacobbe, Alison Spratt, Kayleigh Rine, Anna Kate Scott, Seth Jonson, Josh Gaus, Noah Gaus, Josh Zeigler, and Jonathan Buchanan. Mr. Zimmerman will then lead another group of musicians to district jazz: Dante Nelson, Seth Johnson, Nathan Smith, Noah Gaus, Caroline Helms, Halle Mitchell, and Brandon Snook.

The district band and jazz festivals were held after this article was submitted, so we regret we are unable to post the results of which students qualified to move on to regionals. These festivals provide invaluable educational and musical experiences to the participating Bellefonte musicians. Students had the opportunity to learn different perspectives from another conductor while performing challenging music alongside other diligent musicians. The Bellefonte Music Department is very proud of their accomplishments!



FAMILY READING NIGHT

On November 17th, the elementary reading specialists held their annual Family Reading Night. This year's theme was Camp Read S'more and was held in the High School Library. Reading intervention students and their families had fun playing games that focused on a variety of reading skills. Students also got to take home games, resources, and a new book. The reading specialists were excited to give away four Kindle Fires as door prizes, and hope this excitement about reading carries on through the rest of the school year!



Bellefonte READS Book Distribution





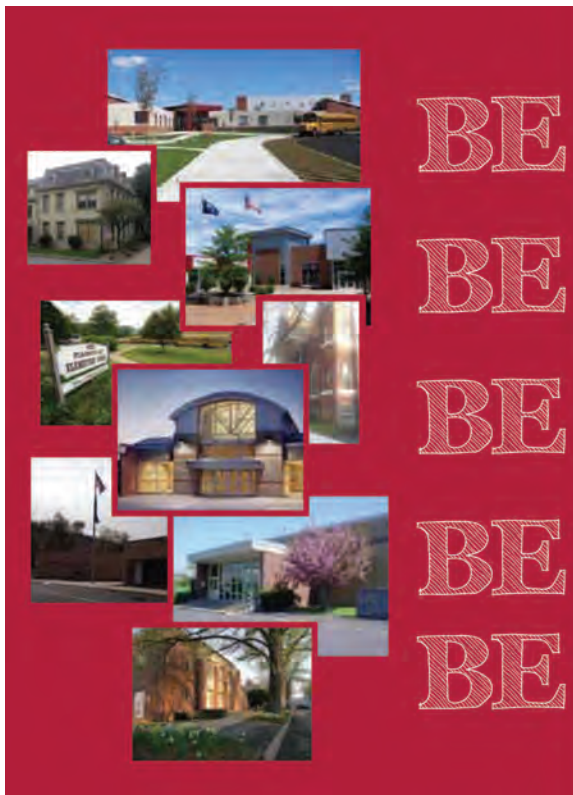
Bellefonte

Area School District

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Permit No. 181

318 North Allegheny St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-4814

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Bellefonte, PA 16823



BE Informed
BE Involved
BE Connected
BE long in
BE llefonte

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

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