

2017-18 FALL/WINTER ISSUE

# RED RAIDER

## *Magazine*

**Thank you, teachers**

BELLEFONTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fine Arts Disney Trip  
BAMS in Space / Teacher Appreciation Night





# RED RAIDER Magazine

2017-18 FALL/WINTER ISSUE

## Bellefonte Area Board of School Directors

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Jeff Steiner  
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Tammie Burnaford, Assistant Superintendent  
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## 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  
Website.....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 Superintendent Michelle Saylor at 355-4814, Ext. 3005.

## A message from Superintendent Michelle Saylor

### A Culture of Learning

In the past two years, our team of teachers, support staff and administrators have been working tirelessly to create and implement a new system of engaged learning for our staff. Together we are developing opportunities for everyone to grow professionally in an authentic and purposeful learning environment, and to encourage a belief in lifelong learning. In the midst of our journey to establish a learning-centered culture, we need to remember that our students are our core.

Each year our seniors walk across the stage and receive a diploma that is the culmination of hard work, 13 years of time invested in the learning process, and a commitment to their future. It is evident, when watching parents, other family members and friends in the audience that this moment is a source of pride – as it should be.

However, that leads me to wondering: Are we truly doing the best we can for our graduates? Are we preparing them for a future that has not yet been defined? Do we even know, as a community, what a Bellefonte Area graduate should be able to know and do, and what common knowledge, skills and attributes he or she should have developed and honed during the previous 13 years? Have we personalized the learning experience enough to motivate and encourage each of them to develop a lifelong sense of curiosity?

Ask any of us and we'll tell you, "We think so." Each of us will be able to tell you what we believe is important. If you look at our vision, mission and value statements, you will find elements of this. But that isn't good enough – and I'm not talking about a snapshot score on a standardized

assessment. I'm talking about preparing our students to be productive adults in a rapidly-changing world. So, we think so, and this brings me to a second thought: I do believe we are preparing our students to thrive and contribute on many fronts, and have worked relentlessly to do so. But until we, as a community, are able to define what success means and to articulate what we believe are the attributes and skills critical to future success, we might not be doing all we can to ensure every student has every opportunity to successfully navigate his or her future.

In an effort to more clearly and collectively define what skills, attributes and knowledge a Bellefonte Area graduate needs, and in an effort to start the conversation about what our graduates look like and what qualities he or she possesses, we've developed a survey. It can be found on this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScI ME3SndRqIGj25tSu2tgq5STyy8356CcDMVhhLYvBBXBjHA/viewform>. You may also access the survey digitally by going to the district's homepage and clicking the "Our District" link and following "Red Raider magazine online" or "Superintendent's Page." Please take a few moments to read the survey, respond to the questions and add your insight to our conversation. Together we can make a great district even better.

All the best to each  
of you-  
Dr. Saylor



## SCHOOL BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



The Bellefonte Area school board welcomed two new members at its meeting Dec. 5. Kristen Bruckner and Jeff Steiner were elected to fill two vacant seats that were once taken by longtime board members Mike Danneker and Keith Hamilton who decided not to run for re-election. Board President Rodney Musser was also re-elected to the position, and Robert Lumley-Sapanski was voted in as board vice president.

Bruckner has been a Bellefonte resident for 18 years. She has two children who attend school in the district. This is her first term on the board.

Steiner has been a Bellefonte Area resident since 1995, and lives with his wife and two daughters in Pleasant Gap. He said he wanted to be a board member because it's a "personal commitment to public service."

# Homecoming



Alumni silks and majorettes before the homecoming parade and current silks before the football game.

Agriculture teacher Myken Poorman took her classes to Foster Joseph Sayers Reservoir to conduct a water quality study. Before they went, students learned how different agricultural practices positively and negatively affect the environment. This field trip was specifically to research water quality. Students tested dissolved oxygen, pH, plankton and nitrogen levels at five depths. The students were able to go on the water in canoes and complete real, hands-on water-testing research. They collected results, graphed them, and then compared their results with data from other groups. After this, students researched and learned about point source and non-point source pollution and how it impacts the environment.

## Water Quality Project







## Spanish Honor Society helps hurricane victims

As former President Ronald Reagan said, "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

In the fall, the costliest tropical cyclone on record devastated the Houston area. According to ABC News, the Category 3 hurricane inflicted nearly \$200 billion in damage due to major flooding. Though members of the Spanish Honor Society knew they would be unable to help everyone affected, they wanted to help someone. Club co-adviser Victoria Butch has family in Houston, and although they were not badly affected, the family knew many people who were. They were able to get students in touch with the Cummings family who lost almost everything including school supplies, appliances, general belongings and more.

In order to raise money, members of the society set up a booth at home football games to collect donations. Additionally, SHS members collected donations at Back-to-School Night while providing snacks and directions to parents in attendance. They also continued their efforts with a weeklong bake sale at school. Any member who wanted to participate brought individually-wrapped baked goods and sold each bag for \$1. About \$900 was raised for the Cummings family. Knowing this money would help the family get back on track was a truly great feeling for the Ciudadela Chapter of the Spanish Honor Society.



## KEY CLUB PROJECTS

By Keeli Pighetti



In the fall, Bellefonte Area High School Key Club members completed service projects in the community. They visited the Oaks and Centre Crest where they participated in games and activities with residents. Residents seemed to enjoy the students who were in attendance and loved to talk to the students. Club members also went to preschools as a part of an Early Childhood Education project promoted by Key Club International. Students read to the kids and did a craft with them. They also handed out books and calendars to each child in order to promote literacy.

Club members also participated in the high school's Day of Caring in October, and National Key Club Week from Nov. 6-10. Throughout this week, they gave teachers "thank you" cards to let them know they were appreciated. During this week, they also participated in in-school service projects where they helped custodians with their work; helped take down the set from the fall play, "The Diary of Anne Frank;" and completed other tasks. Along with doing community service projects, money also was raised for charities. In October students took part in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF to help provide Tetanus vaccinations to people in third world countries. Overall, Key Club had a very successful fall season and is looking forward to a great rest of the year!



## Mini-Thon members hold gift-wrapping event

Members of the Bellefonte Area High School mini-Thon had a plan to help the public during the holidays while raising money for a good cause. On Dec. 17 at the high school library, the organization held a gift-wrapping event for community members to bring in holiday gifts and have committee members wrap presents. The event was free, but guests were asked to make a donation, math teacher and mini-Thon adviser Arianna Gouzouasis said.

All proceeds benefited mini-Thon that supports the Four Diamonds fund, which financial helps families of children affected by cancer.

About 10 students from mini-Thon helped with the event. Many of those students were also involved in student council. But this is just one in a series of fundraising events the club sponsors. The group plans to hold collection drives during winter athletic events, canning initiatives at local business, a dodgeball tournament, and more, said senior Gabbie Pighetti, fundraising committee leader. The school's mini-Thon event will be held March 23, with a goal to raise at least \$7,000. Last year, about \$5,000 was raised.



## STUDENTS PLACE AT CON CON



High school students attended the Constitutional Convention competition Dec. 13 in Williamsport, and according to AP Government teacher and gifted instructor Ed Fitzgerald, they did "very well." Six of seven students received Superior individual awards. They were: Logan Cole, Brian Feldman, Eddie Fitzgerald IV, Alex Hunziker, Cam McKee and Max Theuer. Some students also took two of the highest honors: Feldman was named Best Delegate of the convention; and Feldman, Fitzgerald IV and McKee were Most Accurate portrayal of their state, Texas. The Constitutional Convention, sometimes known as Con Con, is a mock Constitutional Convention for students. It includes oral debates on a number of topics. Students, Fitzgerald said, were assigned to represent states. They then wrote a resolution to change part of the federal government, and debated and voted on the proposed changes.

\*Photo from PC Today, Penn College News

## Election Day assistance

When it comes to helping run polling places in Centre County for Election Day, Bellefonte Area High School social studies teacher Ed Fitzgerald doesn't believe it's a possible task without the work of Bellefonte Area students.

Fitzgerald, gifted instructor and Advanced Placement government and politics teacher, said about 75 Bellefonte Area students worked the precincts on Nov. 7. It started more than 20 years ago, he added.

"I think Centre County is really dependent on Bellefonte (Area) High School students to man the polls. On presidential elections, they pretty much rely on help from the entire (Bellefonte Area) senior class and half of the junior class," Fitzgerald said. "It shows them the nuts and bolts of how elections work and reinforces what we teach in the classroom."







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Bellefonte Area students created and demonstrated alternatives to household cleaners at Bellefonte Family Science Night held in partnership with Penn State.



Students participate in a GPS activity for the World Cultures class.



Director of PAWS Lisa Bahr visited Bellefonte Area High School with her dog Luna.



## Welcome

On behalf of faculty and staff at Bellefonte Area Middle School, Vice Principal Jackie Wynkoop and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students, parents/guardians, and community members who play a pivotal role in our education system. We are very proud of our students, and know they will see success through the combined efforts of everyone involved in their lives. The 2017-18 school year is quickly passing, but we have much to be grateful for.

Our Chain Reaction, Raider Revolution and student council clubs continue to find ways to motivate and encourage students to be the best they can be, and show kindness to others. The middle school years can be some of the toughest, but students are learning to balance social and emotional needs with academic expectations. At BAMS, we work closely with our students to guide them through the winding road of friendship, acceptance and understanding of each other, and the similarities and differences that make us unique.

We want to encourage our parents/guardians and community members to stay connected to BAMS through our district website, [www.basd.net](http://www.basd.net). Also, follow our Twitter account and like our Facebook page. We use these networks to update the community about upcoming events, and share pictures and exciting news about our students.

As we work our way through the 2017-18 school year, our faculty and staff will strive to create competent and competitive learners. We look forward to the exciting possibilities the rest of the school year will bring!

Here's to a wonderful year!  
Sommer Garman, Principal  
Jackie Wynkoop, Vice-Principal



## Science in Motion



David Gregor's sixth-grade science class has been studying density by using models and probes. Science classes demonstrated ocean currents by measuring temperature using sensors and equipment from Science in Motion. Students were able to observe the movement in water based on the temperature within the model. Special thanks to Science in Motion at Juniata College for making this equipment available for students.







## Banking basics



In October, representatives from Fulton Bank in Bellefonte visited Bryan Kresley's eighth-grade personal finance class. Students were introduced to check-writing and other banking basics. Students also assumed the roles of different bank employees in order to learn about services banks offer to customers. These bank employees included tellers, loan officers, online banking managers, branch managers and customer service representatives.



## Here to serve

On Nov 17, students of teachers Jeff Rager and Lauren Barrickman served lunch for about 100 parents, faculty and staff members. Students prepared the meal during the week by making turkey, potatoes, corn, green beans, stuffing balls and desserts. The class had greeters at the door, and servers.



## World Kindness Day

Nov. 13 was World Kindness Day. To bring awareness to the occasion, the Bellefonte Area Middle School Chain Reaction Club made 600 magnets with kindness quotes on them. On Nov. 12, CRC members came to school and put a magnet on each locker, and hung banners on the middle school front door and in the cafeteria so students would have a friendly reminder to be especially kind to others all week. Thanks to CRC members for reminding us that a little kindness can start a chain reaction!

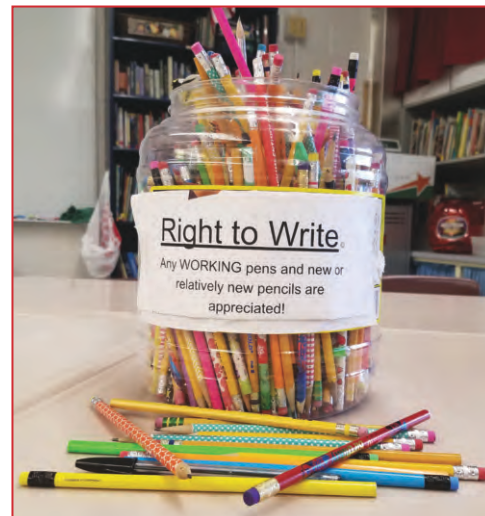




## RIGHT TO WRITE

On Nov. 15, Chain Reaction Club members had a guest speaker. Michelle Spaide came to the morning meeting to describe first-hand experience of the value of an endeavor the club is participating in called Right to Write. It's an organization that takes pencils and pens collected by groups and helps deliver them to schools, hospitals and orphanages in underprivileged countries so children have much-needed school supplies.

Right to Write is an initiative that was suggested to the club by seventh-grade student and CRC member Kate Rarrick. Another member of the club, Natalie Mattern, knew that her neighbor, Spaide, was involved in mission work in the Dominican Republic and frequently carried school supplies and other items needed by orphans. CRC students believed that hearing about Spaide's experiences would make the importance of this project even more real. Spaide told of her experiences with children in the Dominican Republic and the orphanage where she served. She will be carrying supplies to the orphanage on her next trip, and CRC is planning to sponsor at least one child to provide additional supplies with.



## DISC GOLF

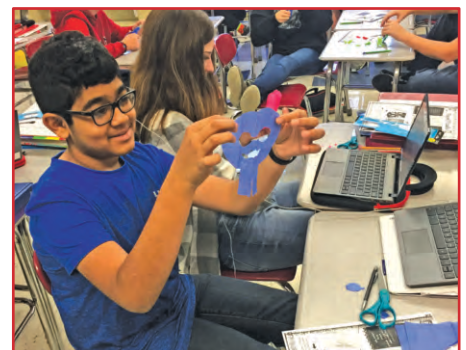
In the fall, Bellefonte Area physical education students in sixth- through eighth-grades got the chance to play Disc golf. The game is played similarly to traditional golf. A flying disc, or Frisbee, is used instead of a ball and clubs. Disc golf is easy to learn and is one of the greatest lifetime fitness sports available. This activity can be found throughout Centre County.







### DIA DE LOS MUERTOS, DAY OF THE DEAD



On Nov. 1-2, students celebrated an important holiday in Spanish class, Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Students first learned about the significance of the holiday, which is a time for people to remember and celebrate loved ones who have died. Teacher Ashley Waite's students witnessed how an ofrenda, or offering, would look in a Hispanic country and how difficult it can be the first time making one, as she lost her grandma at the beginning of the year. Teacher

Kylie Knauff's class got to try their hand at creating papel picado, or cutout paper, to decorate the classroom. Day of the Dead celebrations concluded with a fiesta, or party, where students decorated colorful sugar skull cookies and shared the holiday-themed treats. Students enjoyed looking for authentic recetas, or recipes, and cooking and baking them with their familias, or families.

### THINK OUTSIDE THE BEAKER

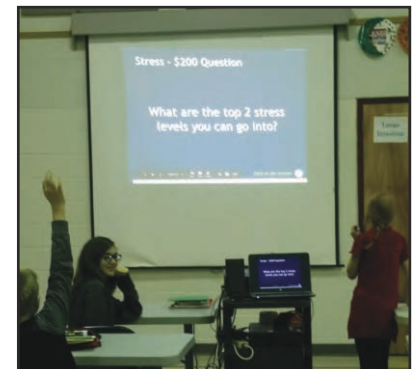
Students enjoyed five sessions with Penn State scientists during the Think Outside the Beaker program, which was offered by Restek and Penn State's College of Science Outreach. During the STEM workshop at Penn State, students explored topics such as polymers, squishy science, acoustics, science communication and brains.



### Mental health awareness



During a lesson about mental health illnesses, sixth-grade health students created a Jeopardy game as part of a class presentation to share with classmates. School is one of the best places for educators and students to increase mental health awareness.





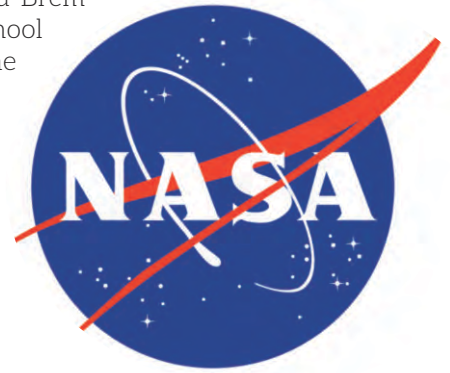
## BAMS in Space

It's not every day you get to connect with an astronaut on the International Space Station – that is unless you're a student at Bellefonte Area Middle School. Through an organization called Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, the school was among 13 others in the country allowed by the program to help students make real-time contact with an astronaut of NASA's choice. The project was approved last year after the district laid out a detailed education plan, and equipment and site survey plan that would allow for successful communication through amateur radio.



With help from local amateur radio operators Ellwood Brem and Jon Guizar, who is also a member of the school board, equipment was developed to help make the communication possible. Staff and students at BAMS also were engaged in various in-class activities from art class students designing T-shirt logos to students in teacher Jordan Eccher's class making sure equipment was installed correctly at the middle school.

We would also like to thank our community members for their support in this initiative.

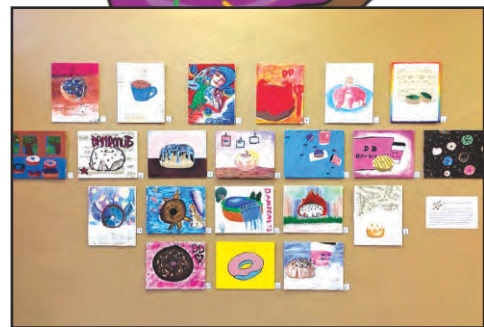


## Doughnuts serve as inspiration for art

Doughnuts can be a delicious snack, and also apparently great inspiration for artwork. That's how Bellefonte Area Middle School art teacher Nicole Tucker got the idea to use doughnuts to help inspire her students to draw them as part of a still-life art project that were entered into a contest through a local business.

"I had an idea in mind about a still-life art project when I drove by Dam Donuts, so I approached Traci Beck, Dam Donuts owner, about purchasing donuts for my students where they would study them, draw them from observation and then finally make a painting," Tucker said. "The doughnut in this form served as their still life before eating their delicious treat."

Not only were the paintings displayed in the Bellefonte shop, but Tucker said Beck liked the idea so much she suggested something better: "let the community vote on their favorite painting and the winner would get a \$10 gift card." Though 22 eighth-grade students participated in the contest, student Ella Underwood received the most votes. An anonymous donor also donated gift cards for student artists who drew the top four voted paintings. They were Sophia Lyons, Megan Nigro and Austeen Waltz.





# Welcome

Dear parents and guardians,

It's been a busy and wonderful year so far at Bellefonte Elementary School. Students are working hard, teachers are trying new strategies, and the rest of the staff is busy with all of the other moving parts of our school. I am proud to say that we have a great team at BES that focuses on student success and positive experiences at school.

This year, we have the unwavering support of our Parent Teacher Organization that helps with a variety of initiatives and programs including Muffins for Mom and Doughnuts for Dad. Thank you, PTO.

Our fine arts department was busy preparing for two concerts before the holidays that were absolutely beautiful! Many thanks to music teachers Dan Bergman, Diane Silvis and Sue Zimmerman.

We also love math at BES! Thanks to teacher Brad Treweek, math intervention specialist Patricia Zimmerman and countless others, we are now offering Reflex math to our students, which assists their growth with automaticity of math facts. We have solved more than one million math problems as a building and celebrated this accomplishment in the fall with an assembly.

The BES weekly newsletters are a great way to keep connected. Please notify the office if you prefer a hardcopy. Dean of Students Pam Vaiana and I are also proud to share the accomplishments of your children and our school via Twitter. Please follow me, Jennifer Brown, at @jbrownprncbes. Please follow Vaiana on Twitter at @BellefonteElm. Please follow our school on Twitter at @BellefonteElem.

Thank you for all the support of our school and student body. Here's to a great rest of the year!

Warmest regards,  
Jennifer Brown, Principal



## Bellefonte Elementary holiday concert. Lots of smiles and joy!



Steven Klein's fourth-grade science classes attended an instructional presentation on electricity from West Penn Power.



## Mapping skills



Michael Mussett's third-grade class wrapped up a unit on maps with a real world approach by competing in an orienteering course. Teams raced around school grounds trying to find eight checkpoints by using map skills they learned in class. Students tried to be the first team to find all checkpoints and correctly mark them off on their maps.

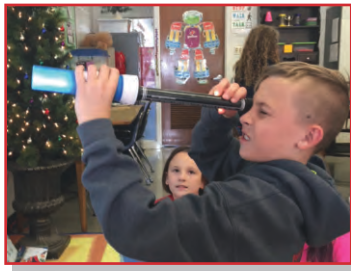


## The water cycle

Science in second-grade with teacher Nicole Harris has been very exciting as students learned about the effects of water on land. Students explored condensation and evaporation as part of the water cycle, and also made it rain on their landforms. Students recorded the differences in land erosion among light rain, sprinkles of rain on land, and heavy concentrated rain. Runoff water will be collected and examined as students explore the various components of soil.

## How a rainbow is made

Students in Lynn Kipp's science class learned about light energy. They were excited to look through spectrosopes and a prism to see how white light bends as it passes through to show the light spectrum's colors. Kids made the connection that this is what happens when the sun shines through raindrops as it acts like tiny prisms to make a rainbow. Students are still searching for the pot of gold!



## "Handmade" flag



## Mr. Vancas makes the paper

Benner Elementary School Principal Kris Vancas couldn't finish eating a 24-inch pizza in less than 30 minutes, but a local restaurant still donated money to school booster programs. Benner Booster Night was held Nov. 14 at Robin Hood Brewing Co. as a way to help benefit school programs. The restaurant agreed to donate 10 percent of all food sales to the school. They also agreed to add an extra \$250 if Vancas could complete the Giant Pizza Challenge. He couldn't, but the restaurant donated an additional \$250 anyway – and Vancas made the front page of the Centre Daily Times!



Staff and students at Benner Elementary School honored veterans by creating a large flag made of cutout handprints from just about every student in the school. Families wrote the names of service members on stars that were used to decorate the building. Veterans were invited to speak in classes, and enjoy lunch with students.

## A visit to Centre Crest

Second-grade students extend their gratitude to veterans by visiting Centre Crest and distributing cards. Some students also brought along their siblings to enjoy this time.







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# Veterans Day tradition continues at Marion-Walker Elementary

On Nov. 9, Marion-Walker Elementary School continued its yearly tradition of celebrating Veterans Day and honoring veterans. This year's celebration featured an all-day program with activities for the students, coordinated by teacher Patty Correll.

The opening ceremony was held in the gym for the entire school, along with faculty and guests. Cub Scouts presented the flag and led the school in a reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Erin Ashe, a fifth-grade student, beautifully sang the National Anthem.

Throughout the day, classes rotated to eight stations for students to learn about various aspects of the military and Veterans Day. Each station was conducted by local veterans, most of who also are the parents or grandparents of students at the school.

At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier station, Honor Guard Gerry Mandell shared a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the tomb and the duties of the sentinels. Marine James Stewart and Navy Chief Tom Gordon demonstrated the proper folding technique of the flag and explained the meaning of the 13 folds at another station.

Bellefonte Area Middle School teachers and Army veterans Keith Guiswite and Matthew Cernuska conducted stations. Guiswite, along with Army veteran Taylor Jones, shared combat field gear, which students had the opportunity to try on. Cernuska shared video clips about the branches of the military and explained the five jobs and duties of each branch.

Army veteran Adam Kuhlman explained how the military reads maps for land navigation. A yearly favorite station is physical training. Marine Beth Ashe led the students in exercises and drills to show how members of the military keep in shape.



The guest speakers' station featured several fathers of students and guests from the Veterans Outreach Office at Penn State. They shared photos, foreign currency, uniforms, memorabilia and experiences from their service. Marines David Emery, Kevin Ermol, Robert Farmer and Forrest Rutledge joined Army veteran Bill Rose in conducting the station.

Students also watched a video of the history of Veterans Day and made patriotic windsocks to take home to remind them of the importance of Veterans Day, and to always thank a veteran for their service.

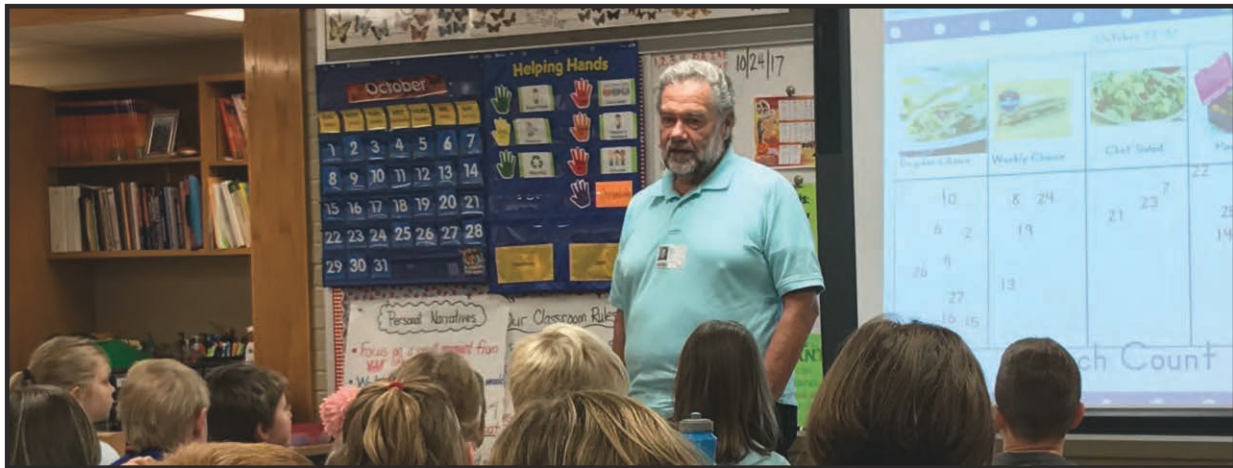
The closing ceremony featured fifth-grade students who read an acrostic description for each letter of the word "veterans." The school thanked all the veteran guests with a standing ovation and finished the day by singing the school's traditional Veterans Day song, "The Great Defenders." Students and staff gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the duties and sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces. Thank you, veterans!





# MARION-WALKER ELEMENTARY

## ALL ABOUT ENGINEERING



Paul Meyers, a retired mechanical engineer, came into Jena Jodon and Jennifer Carroll's third-grade classes at Marion-Walker Elementary School. Meyers was impressed when he saw the science assessments of his granddaughter Sophia Decker! He explained that he was shocked to see third-graders learning about balanced and unbalanced forces and engineering. Meyers conducted demonstrations and talked about the importance of engineers.

## Chicago Boyz



About 65 students were given the VIP treatment in December during a school assembly that featured Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team. It all came because they met a goal for helping raise money for the PTO's general fundraiser that helps support field trips. Principal Karen Krisch said the students were able to hang out after the show with group members and get autographs. Chicago Boyz were semifinalists on Season 8 of America's Got Talent. To help fundraise, students sold items from a general gift catalog. Included in the sale were incentives - the more you sold, the more prizes you could win, Krisch said. About 35 students went to Pizza Hut in a limo as a reward for meeting sales goals. There were also 65 kids who had VIP status for the assembly for reaching a higher selling goal.





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Students at Marion-Walker and Pleasant Gap elementary schools entertained their families by putting on an annual holiday program. This year's show was titled, "Twinkle and Shine." This was music teacher Sue Zimmerman's 36th year directing the holiday show. The play was written by Marion-Walker kindergarten teacher Patty Correll.

Fifth-grade students acted out the play, which took place at the North Pole where everyone was trying to find the perfect tree for Santa. They also played instruments as they sang grade-level songs. Third-grade students sang and played the recorder. Students in all grade levels sang holiday songs for each of the scenes. The finale of the show featured 371 students from Marion-Walker and 236 students from Pleasant Gap. The students enthusiastically sang, "The Light at the Top of the Tree" and "Season of Celebration."





# PLEASANT GAP ELEMENTARY

## Welcome

Pleasant Gap Elementary teachers and staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school. The start of the school year brings excitement like no other. Each year, we begin with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program – otherwise known as the schoolwide positive behavior program. Our goal is to make each school day a positive one for students of Pleasant Gap Elementary. To help them be successful, the PBIS team wants to remind students that they should always remember: Be safe, be kind, be respectful, be here and be ready!



## Jump Rope for Heart

Each year, students at Pleasant Gap Elementary participate in the Jump Rope for Heart program. The event, organized by physical education teachers Eric Cyone and Dan Miller, is a national campaign that promotes heart health, and also helps to raise money for the American Heart Association. This was the school's 10th year participating in the initiative, Cyone said. About \$5,400 was raised at Pleasant Gap, including about \$1,110 just from Pamela Gimminger's fourth-grade class. The student who raised the most was John Servant who collected \$640.

"It's a great program that gets kids excited about being physically active while raising awareness about heart health," Cyone said. "Depending on the amount of money raised, each school gets a gift certificate for the purchase of PE equipment."

Thank you to all the students and contributors to this worthy cause.







## TECHNOLOGY

Kindergarten students use touchscreen Chromebooks to practice letter sounds. The touchscreen makes the Chromebooks easier to use for the younger students.



## Hour of Code



Computer Science Education Week was Dec. 4-10, and business and computer teacher Julie Henry made sure elementary school students got their share of education on the subject. Students participated in an initiative called Hour of Code that allowed them to learn how to program computer software. Henry said the students used [www.code.org](http://www.code.org) to play games, and create logos through programming.

## MECCANOID ROBOT

On Dec. 18, third- and fifth-grade students at Benner Elementary got a special visit – from a robot! It was a Meccanoid robot created and built by local database specialist Scott Haas, and has more than 3,000 preprogrammed phases it can respond with. When Haas told the robot to tell a joke, its response was, “Did you hear about the lumberjack who liked his new computer? He especially enjoyed logging in.” It gave students a laugh. Haas also explained what went in to robot research and how it can function, which includes hooking it up to mobile devices through wireless technology such as Bluetooth.





## ADMINISTRATION

Landscape design and work was completed by Denny Weaver. Thank you for working on this project.



## Polar Bear Plunge

The Bellefonte Area School District was well-represented the morning of Dec. 2 for the 15th annual Polar Bear Plunge at Black Moshannon State Park. Elementary school music teacher Dan Bergman, Marion-Walker Elementary School Principal Karen Krisch and Superintendent Michelle Saylor took the plunge into the creek that was estimated at about 35 degrees. Frozen over with about a half-inch thick layer of ice, volunteers broke it up by about 10 a.m. before the more than 100 people ran into the water.

The event annually benefits the YMCA of Centre County. Its Cool School Challenge gives students, teachers, staff and administrators an opportunity to jump in the creek to help raise money to support campaigns at the YMCA such as the Backpack Weekend Food Program that provides a backpack of food for local students to take home to eat on the weekends.

"Personally, I plunge because I believe in giving back and paying it forward," Saylor said. "Over the course of my life, like so many of us, a lot of people have affected my journey, and many times others have reached out to help me. This is just one small way I can reach out to help others."



## Wild About Reading

On Nov. 16, representatives from elementary reading intervention services held Family Reading Night at the Bellefonte Area High School library. During the Wild About Reading event, students and their families played a variety of reading games, created bookmarks, watched a video about the new reading system being used this year in kindergarten through second-grades, enjoyed snacks and engaged in a storytelling station. Each student also received activities to practice reading skills at home, and selected a book for at-home reading. Several students also won prizes. Parents and guardians had an opportunity to provide feedback about their involvement in schools. More than 100 people attended the event! Thank you to all who made the night possible.







# RED RAIDER

Magazine

Fine Arts

2017-18 FALL/WINTER ISSUE

## Bellefonte Area High School performing arts department trip to Disney World

On Nov. 17, about 160 students and 30 chaperones loaded four buses and headed south to sunny Florida for five days. Their goal was to spend four days at the Walt Disney World Resort performing in the parade and at concerts, and attending workshops with Disney staff members – and, of course, enjoying some time at the amusement park.

The high school marching band performed in the Sunday afternoon parade on Main Street of Magic Kingdom, and the orchestra and choir gave concerts on Monday at Disney Springs Marketplace. A highlight of the trip was that every student got to attend a three-hour long workshop with Disney staff members. The students who chose the vocal workshop spent their time with a trained Broadway vocalist and worked on vocal technique. They also worked on singing with emotion and acting in character when performing. The instrumentalists spent their time learning what it takes to be a professional musician and the level of expertise required to perform the music you hear in Disney movies. There was also a Dance Movement workshop

that allowed interested students to work on routines, technique and skills to be a professional performer. The highlight of the workshop came at the end when Goofy appeared and joined the choreographed routine. The three workshops culminated with Bellefonte Area students performing Disney music, under direction of Disney music professionals, and were recorded in a professional studio.

This trip would not have been possible without the help of the performing arts boosters, school district administration, chaperones and the community that supported all of our fundraising efforts. The instructional staff thanks everyone involved in making this trip an enjoyable experience for our performing arts students. A special thank you goes to Susan Zimmerman who organized every detail of the trip, and added appreciation to all local businesses that donated time, money and items that helped make this trip possible.





## Fine Arts







# RED RAIDER Magazine

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*Here's an important life lesson: no matter how tough you think your life is there's always someone who has to face challenges that are even tougher than yours...*

A vacation the district's driver education and training instructor Mike Wilson was planning to take in September turned into an opportunity to help Florida residents with Hurricane Irma relief.

"My wife is from Cape Coral, and we had planned to go down to visit. Then the hurricane hit," he said. "I kept my plane ticket and went down anyway. It's what volunteer firefighters do."

The longtime district employee has also been in the fire and EMS service for nearly 20 years. His work includes acting as a regional fire instructor, and is a member of the Logan and Milesburg fire companies.

"I have taken a bunch of FEMA courses and training over the years, and I was able to work with and assist (in) FEMA efforts in Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Sanibel Island in southwest Florida," he said.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is a branch of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that aids in the response to disaster efforts across the country.

Wilson described the scene: "When I arrived in Florida, you could clearly see where the roadways were all flooded. Some 20,000 people still without power in part of Cape Coral, Florida – south of Fort Myers, north of Naples. Many (could not) return to their homes, with sewage in their yards and trees on their homes. (There was) no power or clean drinking water."

Calling it the largest site in Florida to distribute food, water and other supplies, Wilson said 29,784 meals were distributed, along with 17 pallets of ice and 1,215 cases of water.

"It was really moving to see everyone come together in this time of need," he said.

Authorities told Wilson it would take about a year for the Cape to rebuild and about six more years until the Florida Keys and Miami will fully recover.





## ATHLETICS

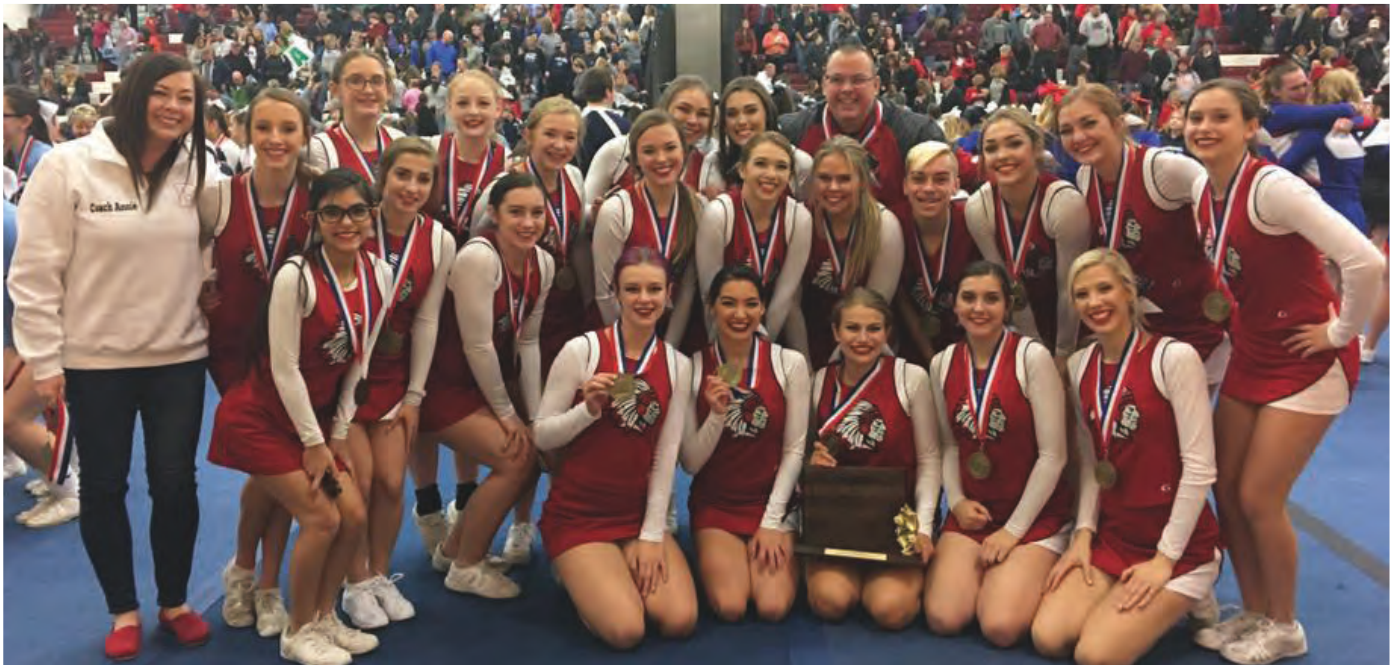
# Coach Miller wins 150<sup>th</sup> game



Coach Stacey Miller was honored Dec. 5 at the school board meeting for winning her 150th game as coach of the girls' varsity soccer team. The feat happened this season.

According to Assistant Athletic Director Deb Moore, Miller started at the Bellefonte Area School District in 2000 as assistant coach. At the time, she was a junior in college. By 2003, she took over the program as head coach. Miller, also an elementary school teacher in the district, guided her team to a 157-112-16 record, and had numerous Mountain League All-Star players and three All-State candidates.

"Over four years of having Coach Miller, she has always been willing to help and better our team," said senior Gabbie Pighetti. "She has put her heart and soul into the team more than I have ever seen. There are no words to thank her (enough) for everything she has done."



## Cheer Champs

The Bellefonte Area competitive spirit squad is District 6 champions in the co-ed division.





# Letters of Intent Signing



Four Bellefonte Area seniors signed their letters of intent committing to play athletics at a designated university. The ceremony was held Nov. 13 for those student athletes at the high school cafeteria. Three students are Bellefonte Area High School students, and one, Brett Pope, is a cyber-education student at Connections Commonwealth Charter Academy, but who lives within the Bellefonte Area School District boundaries and represents the Red Raiders. Student athletes honored were Pope, who will run cross country at Lock Haven University; Gabbie Pighetti who will play soccer at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.; Rianna Trexler who will play softball at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg; and Alexis Wetzler, who will play softball at Bloomsburg University.











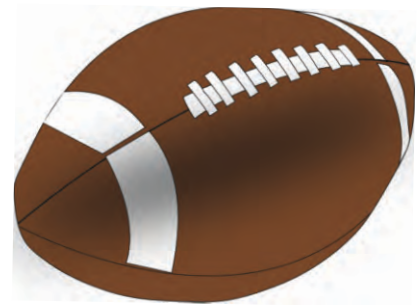
# RED RAIDER Magazine

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## FOOTBALL RECOGNITION

Football players Dylan Deitrich and Caleb Rockey were named to the Class 4A Pennsylvania Football Writers All-State team.



## Bringing down the house

As described by Assistant Athletic Director Deb Moore, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Bellefonte Area football is Division 6 champs for the first time since 1999.



## Teacher Appreciation Night



The girls' varsity basketball team did something on Dec. 15 they haven't done before. They made it Teachers Appreciation Night as a way to honor teachers who've had a positive influence on them. The junior varsity team played at 6 p.m., followed by the varsity game against Penns Valley Area.

Coach Adam Gearhart said the team invited all teachers to come out to watch the games. Each player also selected a teacher to be honored during a ceremony between the JV and varsity games. All other teachers in attendance were also recognized.

"It's special because we all have that one teacher (who) we remember, and I often hear the girls talking about specific teachers," Gearhart said. "The booster club and coaching staff thought it would be nice to have a game where we honor specific teachers and recognize all that are in attendance."







# Bellefonte

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