



WINTER-SPRING 2009
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Eagle Pride



PSSA Elementary Recognition

The Official Newsletter of the Bald Eagle Area School District

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We Teach for Success

On the Cover...

Elementary PSSA Recognition

Elementary students (left to right), kneeling – Karissa Bittinger, Port Matilda; Regan Dyke, Howard; Joshua Emel, Port Matilda; standing – Moreta Dyke, Wingate; Tia Barndt, Wingate; Hannah Hemphill, Mountaintop; and Justin Bickel, Mountaintop, proudly display trophies received in recognition for obtaining the highest math or reading score in their elementary school on the 2008 PSSA tests. These seven students are only a few of the many elementary students who were recognized by the Board of Education for their achievements. For a complete listing of all of the elementary students honored, please see Page 16 of Eagle Pride.



BEA administrators help serve pizza to the honored students at the Elementary PSSA recognition ceremony.

Superintendent's Message

Dan Fisher

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By the time this issue of Eagle Pride gets to your mailbox we should be very near the end of the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year. I will try to describe some of the initiatives we have been developing and give you a summary as to what will be happening at Bald Eagle Area over the next few years.

I am often asked what the folks who work at the school offices do in the summer. One of our most important tasks is finding quality teachers and support staff members to fill the vacancies for the following year. As I often say, "one does not find eagles in a flock, but rather, eagles are found one at a time." So it is also with the new staff members in our Bald Eagle family – we took particular care to find the right match for each open spot, and these newest "eagles" truly are an outstanding group. They are featured in this issue and I ask that you please welcome them into our school community.

We had planned this year to move to *Everyday Mathematics* in grades 3 and 4. The positive results we saw from the program last year caused us to move ahead and change to the program in most elementary grades this year. Mrs. Robin Shaw, one of our experienced and dedicated elementary teachers, is on leave from her classroom duties this year to assist with the transition and to try to reduce some of the expected anxiety of students, teachers, and parents, too. Also in the Math area of our curriculum, we have been fortunate to obtain the services of Mrs. Tracy Boone, who is presently serving as a District Math Coach, and provides both support and instructional assistance to all of our teachers in the Math areas. We are thankful for the parent support we have received in this endeavor and the hard work and dedication our staff members have demonstrated while we are making this curricular change. It is always difficult, particularly when their children are completing homework, for parents to experience a new way of looking at educational programs. *Everyday Mathematics* has been no exception in causing temporary parental confusion!

Bald Eagle Area will continue to emphasize its bedrock belief that all students must learn to read to be successful in both school and life. We are fortunate to have three more elementary teachers attending Reading Recovery training this year, and are fortunate to have had Mrs. Betsy Dickey accept the Director of Reading assignment that was vacated by our long-time-reading-everything-professional, Mrs. Linda Donmoyer. Our elementary students have really gotten into reading for both fun and competition, as we are nearing the end of BEA Reading Superbowl III. It is truly amazing to see how much reading our students are doing, particularly during their free time on weekends and even voluntarily during recesses. If you have young readers in your house, I can assure you they would enjoy reading a few passages to you and would even enjoy it more if you would read to them. I recently saw a student walking down the hall with a book to her face, reading, and not particularly looking where she was going. We have truly developed some reading machines!

We continue to move ahead with our renovation projects for the Bald Eagle Middle-High School and the Wingate Elementary School. We just recently received approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to begin the project as soon as we can come to agreement as to what the organization of the school will be when the project is completed. We are considering moving all District sixth graders to the Middle School, but that decision has not been finalized as of yet. There are still options to be decided concerning the roof, the heating and air conditioning systems, and the sizes of the rooms and gymnasium that will be added. The traffic pattern in front of the building is still an area that we want to improve upon, but have not decided on the best option.

Another one of the questions I often hear is why we would be building on to our facility when our enrollment is decreasing. The answer is that while our overall enrollment will continue to decline for at least 5 more years, it should then begin to increase. As we evaluate the present project, we have to not only provide for the students and activities we presently have but need to fast forward to 2030, as PDE will only financially support a building project every 20 years. I suspect pre-kindergarten classes will be added in all of our elementary schools in the next few years, and we do not have enough gymnasium space to accommodate all of our programs now. If there is any way we can financially work the planned project into our present budgetary limitations, I think we would be short-sighted to not stretch ourselves to make that happen. Obviously, we will not know what will fit into our financial limitations until the actual bids are received, and we are still hoping that will happen by May 2009.

We have a lot to complete in our classrooms before the upcoming PSSA testing dates, and then even more to cover before graduation in June. Let's hope that Phil sees his shadow and that we can work together for the futures of all of our students over the next five months. It is an honor for me to be able to work with all of you.

"Be Port Proud"

The Port Matilda Elementary School has a new theme for this school year, "Be Port Proud!" Students and staff are planning to do community service projects throughout the school year to show our pride in our Community, School, and Each Other. Our goal is to make everyone aware what a great place Port Matilda is and how proud we are to belong to this community.

Port Matilda School has made a great start in our year-long "Be Port Proud" commitment, as you will see from the following four initiatives.

Mr. Robert's 6th grade class spent a day repainting our United States map on the playground. The students also added hopscotch and a 4-square to our playground. They did a FANTASTIC job! The playground looks great; the students enjoy the new games and have a new interest in the map. The entire school (students and staff) got in the act by adding their own painted handprint to the "Be Port Proud" that now adorns our playground.



Port Matilda students enjoy exploring the Port Matilda Fire Company trucks.

The Port Matilda Fire Company visited us and we all had a great time exploring the fire trucks and equipment. Students also were able to go through a smoke room to simulate what to do in case of a fire in their own home. Firefighters spoke to all the students about fire safety and prevention. Thanks, Port Matilda Fire Department!

Students at Port Matilda made a commitment to be drug free, and during the annual Red Ribbon week, all Port Matilda Students planted a red tulip bulb, along with a paper stating a personal pledge to be drug free. Bulbs were planted at the school and throughout the community. Students are not only making their pledge now, but in the spring when they see the red tulips bloom, it will remind them of their drug free commitment. Thank you to the following local businesses who permitted the students to plant bulbs around their properties: Subway, Lykens Market, First National Bank, and Brother's Pizza. Be sure to look for those red tulips!

Port Matilda Elementary School and the Port Matilda Fire Department teamed up to hold a benefit spaghetti dinner for Derrick Reese. Derrick is a Junior Firefighter and local high school student who is battling cancer. Our dinner and silent auction raised over \$3,800.00 to help his family during this time. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this evening a success!



Students and staff repaint the United States map on the Port Matilda Elementary playground.

BEA hopes influenza immunizations will make for healthier students

This year, the Bald Eagle Area School District was pleased to offer students free influenza vaccines, provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Our District was the only one in the area that participated in this free opportunity, which BEA hopes will lessen the absences and misery caused by contracting the flu.

Students were able to receive their vaccine during the school day and many parents were appreciative of the convenience of having it provided by the school nurses. There were 342 vaccines given at the elementary level and 70 at the high school level. Forms were sent home with the students, and immunizations were originally given on a first come, first serve basis, but eventually there were enough vaccines to fill every request.

Thanks to the help of the district health aide Ruth Rhodes, the program went very smoothly. Hopefully, the students at BEA will be healthier and school absences decreased thanks to this State Sponsored Program.



Fourth grade Wingate Elementary student, Taylor Noecker, looks a bit apprehensive as she waits for Elementary School Nurse Ali Snyder to administer her flu shot. After it was over, Taylor agreed that the shot really didn't hurt too much at all!

Elementary Science Night was a BLAST!

Taking a closer look at the Enrichment Project, hatching chicks.

On November 6, the Bald Eagle Area Elementary Schools hosted their first Family Science Night at Wingate Elementary School. It was a huge success! Over 750 students and their families attended the event. Parents and students had the opportunity to participate in many science activities and to see a multitude of displays reflecting what our students and teachers are doing in science. The inflatable planetarium, 3-D Astronomy activity, Hoverboard Ride and the Space Photos were among some of the more popular spots to visit that evening.

The event was sponsored by the BEA Elementary Science Committee, the Academic Space Alliance (Bellefonte, Bald Eagle and Penns Valley School Districts), Penn State University Outreach Program, PSU Astronomy Program, Juniata College, Kish Bank, and with help from a grant from NASA.

Students and parents said that it was a great event because it was fun for all ages, it was free, and there were some terrific prizes! Teachers shared that it created a team-building atmosphere as ideas, materials and help were shared among the staff; it involved the community with our science program; and it got a lot of people excited about science.

One teacher stated, "I was blown away by the community participation. Our Bald Eagle Families Rock!"

Astronaut Caitlyn Close, from Mountaintop Area Elementary School, poses for a photograph prior to her trip to Mars.



Jaidyn Letterman, from Port Matilda Elementary School, tries a new way of washing his hands with GlitterBug Potion.



Port Matilda Elementary student Luke Bloom (center) and his family enjoy Penn State's 3-D Astronomy Activity.





Monica Bittinger

Commended Students

Seniors Monica Bittinger and Noret Flood were named Commended Students in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship program. Although Monica and Noret will not continue in the 2009 competition for National Merit Scholarships, they did place

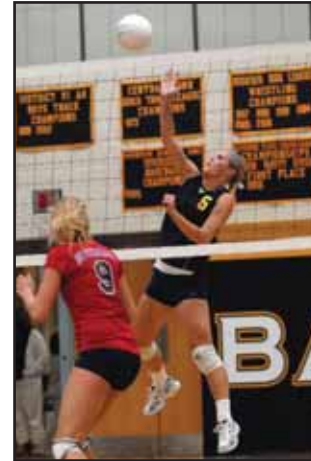
among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

This is a tremendous achievement for both of these students, as well as for their parents and BEA staff members. Monica and Noret have exhibited the academic qualities that make our school community proud.



Noret Flood

ALL-STATE TEAM



BEA Senior Danielle Reese has been named to the 2008 Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association Class AA All-State Volleyball Team. Danielle was also selected for the PVCA All-State Team as a junior in 2007.

Congratulations!

Howard Month in Review featured on school website

Look for exciting Howard news monthly on our Howard Elementary website. This monthly production is prepared by Howard Elementary students and includes pictures and video from Howard happenings. We hope that you enjoy these clips, which are filmed at "Howard Studios."



Howard Elementary students Cole Robinson (left) and Dallis Dillon (right) interview a Penn State pre-student teacher for the October Month in Review video segment.

Classrooms for the Future



Pictured – sophomore Alec Charnick.

Students continue to expand their knowledge via the Internet and through other technological programs using Classrooms for the Future computers. Fifty-one more student

computers, two interactive whiteboards, printers, and lab carts were received as part of the \$45,000 Classrooms for

the Future grant monies this year. This new equipment is being used in two science classrooms in grades 9-12, and brings the total number to 300 laptops for student use.

MEMORIAL BENCHES DONATED

Have you noticed the three new 8-foot steel benches located in the Middle-High School lobby and in the hallway near the main gym entrance? Students use them almost constantly in the mornings before school and when they are waiting for their buses to arrive after school. Parents who are waiting to pick up their children from athletic or activities practices find them particularly convenient.

THANK YOU to the Pennsylvania State University Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program and to the family of Douglass E. Crater for donating these beautiful, sturdy benches, which add so much to the atmosphere of the school setting. The Bald Eagle Area School District, and all those weary educational travelers who use them for a short rest, appreciate your generosity.



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE BE "A" TEAM



Lindsey Allison

Instrumental Music Instructor / Wingate Elementary

I am a 2004 graduate of Bald Eagle Area, and I currently reside in State College with my adorable Yorkshire terrier, Chloe. I'm very happy to be back at BEA! I earned a

Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Clarion University in 2008. I was a piano major, and I played the clarinet in the University Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and the Golden Eagle Marching Band, and was Drum Major of the GEMB for the 2006 season. In addition to teaching band at Wingate, I am also co-advising the Drama Club at the high school, in which I was highly active during my years at BEA. I'm looking forward to carrying on the fine traditions I was a part of here at BEA and passing them on to the next generation!



Valerie Bailey

Learning Support Assistant / Wingate Elementary

Hello! I'm a BEA graduate and live in Port Matilda with my husband Mike and 3 of our children – Jeremy, a junior here at Bald Eagle, Michael, in 3rd grade and Madelyn

in 1st grade at Port Matilda Elementary. My oldest daughter Kristin lives in Johnstown with my 2 (!) grandchildren, Apryle 3, and Hayden 7 months. I also have 2 step-daughters, Carissa who is a sophomore at Penn State, and Courtney who is a senior at State College High School. In my spare time, I like spending time with my family, reading, and quiet time. Working here at Bald Eagle has been great. I've been working with several wonderful seventh and eighth graders, and I'm looking forward to many successful years with everyone here at Bald Eagle.



Stephanie Baker

Elementary Music Instructor / Mountaintop Area and Port Matilda Elementary

I am a recent graduate from Slippery Rock University where I completed my Bachelors degree in Music Education. While at Slippery Rock, I also studied the

trumpet under the guidance of Stephen Hawk. My love for music and teaching music to children has always been very strong. I am very excited to have the opportunity to give the gift of music to children at Bald Eagle. I am looking forward to starting my teaching career here and to an exciting school year as part of the Bald Eagle staff!



Diana Bloom

Personal Care Assistant / Wingate Elementary

Hello. My name is Diana Bloom. I am a graduate of The American School in Switzerland. I also attended Penn State University for Infant and Early Childcare, and have my Cosmetology license. I have lived in Julian for 14 years with my husband Dave and three children. My daughter is at the middle school, and my sons are attending Port Matilda Elementary. In my spare time we enjoy camping, fishing, and whatever activity my kids are part of during the year. I enjoy working at Wingate Elementary and being part of the BEA family.



Tracy Boone

District Math Coach / Bald Eagle Area School District

Hello everyone! I am a 1988 BEA graduate and am delighted to once again be a part of the Bald Eagle Area Community. I received my BS in secondary mathematics education from Lock Haven University in 1992 and my MS in curriculum and instruction in mathematics education from Penn State University in 2000. I was previously employed by the Bedford Area School District as a high school mathematics teacher. I also spent some time as an instructor in the mathematics department at the Penn State, Altoona Campus and as a mathematics methods instructor for Penn State, University Park Campus. I am enjoying my work with BEA teachers and staff and am looking forward to a great year and future with the district. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with friends and family (husband David and son Carter), reading, and exercising (cycling is a favorite of mine).

**Eric Brinser***Choir Instructor / Middle and High School*

I am originally from Annville, PA. I received a Bachelors degree in Music Education from Penn State in 1998, and then taught for six years in the State College School District. I returned to Penn State in 2005 to pursue a Masters of Music degree in Choral Conducting, completing it in 2007. The highlight of my residency program was serving as assistant conductor of the Penn State Concert Choir on their concert tour of England in June 2007! I spent the past year teaching theatre and private voice and piano at the Arts Conservatory of Central Pennsylvania. I still teach a theatre class there one night a week, and serve as Director of Choirs at Park Forest Village United Methodist Church in State College. I'm looking forward to continuing the excellent music and drama tradition here at BEA!

**Mollie Brown***Special Education / Middle and High School*

I am originally from Harmony, PA and now live in State College. As a Learning Support Teacher, I previously co-taught math and Chemistry to 9th and 10th grade students in the Seneca Valley School District. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Education degree in Special Education from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA. I am also certified to teach Middle School Math in Pennsylvania. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, watching sports, and playing with my boxer puppy. I am looking forward to a great year at BEA!

**Tracie Campbell***Personal Care Assistant / Wingate Elementary*

Hi, my name is Tracie Campbell. I am a BEA graduate and live in Milesburg. I have been married to my husband Barry for 19 years, and we have three children, Tierney (21), Aubrey (17), and Hailey (12). I am a personal care assistant at Wingate Elementary and am looking forward to another great year.

**Michael Chiston***Grade Level Assistant / Wingate Elementary*

I am a 2002 graduate of Bald Eagle Area, and I then went on to earn a degree in Elementary Education with minors in Special Education and Reading. In my

free time, I enjoy being a coach with both the wrestling and track and field teams. I am very happy and excited to begin my teaching career here at BEA!

**Rose Cox***Art Instructor / Middle and High School*

Hello! I completed my degree in Art Education for Schools from Penn State University in 2007 and am so excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the Bald Eagle Area School District! I live in Milesburg with my husband, Scott, our two children: Amanda and Donald, and our two mini dachshunds: Miss Maggie Mae and Milesburg Jake. I absolutely love the Bald Eagle landscape, the hardworking, kind and caring people that live in the surrounding communities, and the energy and enthusiasm of the students at BEA. In addition to teaching, I also enjoy creating pottery, photography, painting, playing the guitar, reading, hiking, bicycling, fishing, and cooking for family and friends.

**Betsy Gettig***Data Management & Production Assistant / Bald Eagle Area School District*

Hello to all! My name is Betsy Gettig. I am married to a BEA graduate, Scott Gettig, and have 4 amazing children attending BEA schools: Evan, Abby, Brandon and Jared. This is my fifth year in the district; however, recent changes in my position have brought me to the Administrative Annex building. Being married to a teacher AND being a parent, I see first-hand the time, energy and teamwork it takes to make a positive difference in the lives of our children. The challenge is great, but so is the reward. It is my goal to do all I can to support the BEA staff in preparing our students for a successful future. It takes a village to raise a child!

**Michael Hall***Principal / Howard and Mountaintop Area Elementary*

Hello Bald Eagle Area. I am happy to be returning to Bald Eagle Area for the first time since I graduated from here in 1986. I received my BS in Elementary Education from Lock Haven University in 2000, and my MS in Educational Administration from California University of Pennsylvania in 2005. I completed the requirements for my principal certification in 2006. I previously worked for Keystone Central School District before beginning my duties as principal at Howard and Mountaintop Area elementary schools in August. Many of you may also remember me from my time at Claster's Building

Materials and 84 Lumber Company. I am having a wonderful time working with the outstanding faculty in each building, and it has been a joy to meet the students and their families. When I am not working, I can be found outdoors or cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers. I currently reside in Blanchard with Dawn, my wife of 15 years, and our four children, Megan 14, Jordan, 11, Ryan 6, and Ethan 4.



Patricia Letterman

Personal Care Assistant / Wingate Elementary

Hello, my name is Patty Letterman. I am a 1993 Graduate from Bellefonte Area. I reside in Julian with my wonderful husband, Scott and our two amazing children. Our daughter, Kaileigh is a junior at Bald Eagle. Our son, Jaidyn is in second grade at Port Matilda Elementary. My favorite thing in the world to do is spend time with my family. When I decided to go back to work last year, I knew that it had to be working with children. What a great reward it is to help children and see their smiling faces every day.



Becky Maurer

Instructional Materials Center / Middle and High School

I graduated from Bald Eagle many years ago (1958). I took an early retirement from Penn State after 30 years of service and moved back to Snow Shoe in 2002. I applied at Bald Eagle to work part-time as a substitute in 2003; became a full-time substitute in the Technology Department in 2005; and was hired permanently for this position in November 2007. I very much enjoy the interaction with the teachers, faculty, and students that this position allows. I am very fortunate to have my children and grandchildren living nearby. In my spare time, I read, eat, sleep and walk on the treadmill.



Rose Meyers

Predictable Term Substitute / Wingate Elementary

I am a 1988 graduate of Bald Eagle Area High School and a 1993 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. I live in Moshannon with my husband, Brett, and two children, Chase and Lindy. In my spare time, I enjoy going for walks, fishing, camping and attending BEA sporting events with my family. I am excited to be working with the students and staff of the Bald Eagle Area School District.



Cheryl Miller

Predictable Term Substitute / Wingate Elementary

I am a graduate of Huntingdon Area High School and Penn State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, and an Elementary Education K-6 Certification. This is my third year teaching at the elementary level, and I am delighted to be part of the Bald Eagle Area learning community. My interests include spending time with family and friends, hiking, camping, and traveling. I also enjoy reading, listening to music, and watching classic movies. Teaching is one of my greatest passions, and I am very happy to have the opportunity to work with the students, staff and families of the Bald Eagle Area School District.



John Peters

School Safety/Prevention Coordinator – Bald Eagle Area School District

I am a 1982 graduate of Bald Eagle Area and I earned a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education at Lock Haven University. Prior to joining the staff at BEA, I was employed by the Centre County Government for approximately 17 years as a Deputy Sheriff and most recently as a School Based Probation Officer. I live in Milesburg with my wife Kim and three children, Radley, Emilie, and Elliot. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, fly-fishing, hunting, and woodworking. I am excited to be back at my alma mater and I look forward to working with the students and staff at BEA.



Lindsey Robey

Predictable Term Substitute / Wingate Elementary

Hello! I am a 1999 graduate from West Branch Area School District. I graduated in May 2008 from the University of North Carolina-Pembroke with my Bachelors of Science degree in Birth-Kindergarten Education and received my PA Early Childhood (N-3) teaching certification. I moved to Fayetteville, NC in 2001 after marrying my husband who was stationed at Fort Bragg at that time. We moved back to the area in January 2007 and currently reside in Clearfield with our three-year old little boy. In my spare time, I spend every minute possible with my family. I look forward to and feel very blessed to be working in such a wonderful school district!

**Jason Roberts***Predictable Term Substitute / Port Matilda Elementary*

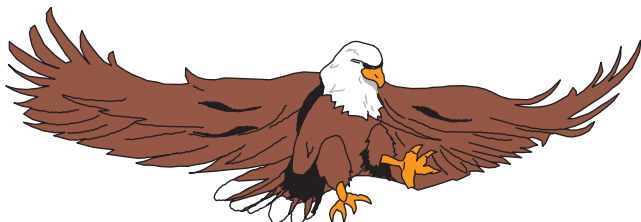
I grew up in Centre County and graduated from State College Area High School in 1996. I have a degree in Elementary Education from Millersville University. I spent the last 4 years teaching in South Carolina, until my wife and I decided we wanted to settle down in Pennsylvania. I am an avid Penn State football fan and my wife Lisa and I love to travel. I enjoy reading and playing with our young golden retriever "Griffey." I am so happy to be a part of the BEA family!

**Melissa Robinson***Secretary-Building Assistant / Howard Elementary*

Hello! I am the Secretary/Building Assistant at Howard Elementary School. Bald Eagle Area is my alma mater, so I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be employed with this district. I am excited to give back to the establishment which gave me so many opportunities. I am married to Paul and have three children, Ashley, Chelsea and Cole. My passion for education and supporting services is long withstanding. Prior to my employment at BEA, I operated an Early Childhood Program in my home for 12 years; so, I feel as though I have continued doing what I love but instead of caring for 6 children, I now do it for 110. I love my job and hope to make a difference in the lives of young children everyday. Smiles, Melissa

**Eric Skutch***Technology Education Instructor / Middle and High School*

I am a 2004 graduate from Portage Area High School. After high school, I attended and graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a teaching degree in Technology Education in May of 2008. During my spare time, I enjoy being in the outdoors doing various activities. I also help coach football with Bald Eagle Area's Junior High Football Program. I have enjoyed my time here at Bald Eagle and am looking forward to many years in the district.

**Danielle Sowers***Guidance Counselor / Mountaintop Area Elementary*

Hello! My name is Danielle Sowers and I am the new school counselor at Mountaintop Area Elementary. I am so excited over this opportunity to be a part of the wonderful staff and students at Bald Eagle Area School District. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I live in Bellefonte with my husband and two daughters, ages 2 and 5. My husband is an avid hunter/woodsman, so naturally my girls and I have come to love spending time in nature. I also spend much of my time reading books and my latest hobby is scrapbooking. I have to say my favorite way to spend my time is taking delight in watching my girls learn and grow. I am a 2001 graduate from Penn State where I completed my Masters in Education with certification in Elementary School Counseling. Prior to coming to Mountaintop Area, I was employed with Williamsport Area School District as an elementary school counselor for two and half years and at NHS Human services as a Behavior Therapist for almost five years. Once again, I am proud to be a part of this district and I look forward to a great 2008-09 school year.

**Nicole Spear***Grade 2 Instructor / Mountaintop Area Elementary*

Greetings! I am a 2001 graduate of Bald Eagle Area High School and a 2007 graduate of Penn State University where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. I recently married my high school sweetheart David and am thrilled to be teaching at the Mountaintop Area Elementary School! In my spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking and spending time with loved ones.

**Jodi Steinfeld***Mathematics Instructor / Middle and High School*

Hello, my name is Jodi Steinfeld and I am excited to be part of the wonderful faculty at BEA! In 2004, I graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science. I worked at Prudential Financial in NJ and then decided to pursue my calling as an educator. In 2005, I began the New York City Teaching Fellows Program where I taught for 2 years at an inner-city school and earned my Master of Science in Education. I began teaching at BEA in the beginning of January 2008, and continue to enjoy working as a Mathematics teacher in both the middle and high school.



Melissa Surovec

*Reading Recovery and Title I Reading /
Wingate Elementary*

I graduated from Bald Eagle Area in 2002 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Kindergarten Education in 2006 from Penn State University. I enjoy reading, crafts, and spending time with my friends and family. Last year, I was a Title I Instructional Assistant at Wingate Elementary. I am excited to be beginning my teaching career at my alma mater and am looking forward to a great year.



Deanna Thomas

*Personal Care Assistant / Wingate
Elementary*

Hello, my name is Deanna Thomas and I am employed as a PCA at Wingate Elementary School. I am a 1988 Bellefonte Graduate. I am married to Blake Thomas and we have been married for 16 years. I have 2 children. Morgan is in 8th grade and Tyson is in 5th grade. We live in the Milesburg area. I am really enjoying being part of the BEA Staff!



Michael Turner

*Special Education Instructor / Middle and
High School*

I am a 1990 graduate of Bald Eagle High School. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from Mansfield University in 1997. Prior to joining the Bald Eagle Area staff, I taught two years in the Juniata Valley School District and nine years in the Bellefonte Area School District. This past June my wife, Nicole, and I welcomed our first child, a daughter Michaela, into our family. In my spare time, I enjoy weight lifting, coaching football, Saturday Penn State Games, Sunday Steelers Games and spending time with family and friends. I am excited to be teaching at my alma mater and am looking forward to working with the students, staff, and families of the Bald Eagle Area School District.



Ann VanCise

*Predictable Term Substitute / Wingate
Elementary*

Hello to all the families in the Bald Eagle Area School District! My name is Ann VanCise and I am a native of central Pennsylvania. I met my husband while attending Penn State, and we traveled for 20 years with his career

in the US Air Force. During those years I taught in varied assignments—English classes at a Japanese school, Kindergarten in California, Special Ed early intervention in Alaska (to name a few). I have also been busy raising six children of my own. I am pleased to be back in the Pennsylvania hills, and to have chosen this community as a place to finally settle down. I am truly looking forward to teaching here at BEA.



Douglas Yocum

Physics Instructor / Middle and High School

I graduated from Penn State University in 2004 with Bachelor's degrees in Nuclear and Mechanical Engineering. After working for Los Alamos National Laboratory and NASA on short-term contracts, I returned to graduate school at Penn State to pursue teaching certification in physics and a Master's degree in curriculum and instruction. Some of my favorite pastimes include tennis, racquetball, golf, biking, bowling, and astronomy. I am very excited to be teaching here at Bald Eagle and am looking forward to an amazing year!

Board of Education Notes

The Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting in December. Keith Reese was reelected president, Jeff Turner was reelected vice president, Tom Letterman was reelected Pennsylvania School Boards Association legislative liaison, and Scott Etter, Esq., of Miller, Kistler, Campbell was reappointed solicitor.

The Board set the following 2009 meeting dates: The School Board shall conduct its regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, except for the December meeting, which will be held the first Thursday in the month for reorganization purposes. A work session and/or executive session (as needed) will be held beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, except for the December meeting, when it will be held the first Thursday in the month. A Board Retreat is scheduled for March 28, 2009.



Student representative to the Board of Education, Brandi Weaver-Gates, gives a report of student activities at each board meeting.

QUITE AN HONOR

For many years, BEA has honored the students who are in the upper ten percent of their class or have scored at the top of their class on the PSSA tests. During a dinner hosted by BEA for the students and their families, the students are privileged to listen to successful Bald Eagle alumni guest speakers, who talk about the endless possibilities a student's life might take to a successful career.

In recent years, BEA alumni guest speakers have included Donald Spackman '62, Engineer and former Facilities Manager at the Mount Nittany Medical Center; Donna Fisher, '74, Partner Attorney for Pepper Hamilton, L. L. P; James Fenush, '88, Assistant Director of Nursing at the Hershey Medical Center; Kelley Gillette Walker '93, attorney for the Mazza Law Group in State College, and Ron Bracken '61, former Sports Editor at the Centre Daily Times.

This year's guest alumni speaker was Melody Miller, who is Senior Vice President, Global Commerce Development, at MasterCard Worldwide. Melody graduated from Bald Eagle High School in 1981, and currently lives in New York. From traveling the halls of Bald Eagle High School, she has now traveled to many countries, as MasterCard Worldwide serves consumers and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories.

But the beginning of her road to success was not easy, and she credits the very first part of those steps to success – a college education – to the Vallimont family from the Mountaintop. Miller says, "They believed in me." The Vallimont family helped her to secure grants and scholarships to attend Penn State University, where she eventually earned a Bachelor of Science degree and graduated cum laude.

In honor of the memory of that kindness, in 2008 Miller started the Bob and Donna Vallimont Scholarship at BEA, a self-funding \$500 scholarship that will be presented each year to a Mountaintop senior to help enable him/her to start on their path to success. The first Bob and Donna Vallimont Scholarship recipient from the 2008 graduating class was Justin Koleno.



Melody Miller speaks of her experiences and challenges since her graduation from BEA in 1981.

The Bald Eagle Area School District honored the following students for their 2007-08 academic achievement at the 2008 Scholastic Honors Banquet.

Grade 12

Alisha Barton **H**
Nikkita Bechdel **H**
Monica Bittinger **HR**
Lauren Catherman **W**
Trevor Cohen-Dodge **M**
Drake Cooper **R**
Clinton Corman **M**
Rebecca Crust **RW**
Megan Ebeling **R**
Noret Flood **HW**
Brittany Greenaway **H**
Cody Hook **H**
Nathan Inglesby **R**
Dominic Lacivita **HMRW**
Wesley Milliron **H**
Abigail Parmely **HR**
Janelle Poorman **H**
Holly Preslovich **HW**
Jenna Raymond **H**
Danielle Reese **HMRW**
Chelsea Robinson **HW**
Shane Robinson **HMR**
Sarah Rogus **H**
Jeff Rote **M**
Cody Salvanish **M**
George Schall **MRW**
Laura Sengle **HRW**
Megan Shaw **HMW**
Kayla Sipes **H**
Ashley Spicer **W**
Kurtis Viehdorfer **M**
Samantha Watson **HW**

Grade 11

Jeremy Beck **H**

Lucas Bracken **H**
Melanie Bytheway **H**
Emily Catherman **H**
Lauryn Davidson **H**
Zachary Deering **H**
TeAnna Dorey **H**
James Gardner **H**
Sasha Hutchings **H**
Brittany Masullo **H**
Tasha Moore **H**
Paul Pirosko **H**
Brandon Reese **H**
Nicole Reese **H**
Sarah Reese **H**
Jessica Scrudgers **H**
Shannon Singer **H**
Emily Strunk **H**
Carrina Trawinski **H**
Danielle Turner **H**
Alysha Waite **H**

Grade 10

Mackenzie Bagley **H**
Wyatt Barnyak **H**
Shane Besong **H**
Krista Biggans **H**
Sara Bowling **H**
Kelly Chambers **H**
Kayla Confer **H**
Ashley Cooper **H**
Shane Eckenrode **H**
Ashley Gates **H**
Justin Giedroc **H**
Shaina Hahn **H**
Andrea Hewitt **H**
Rebecca Martin **H**

Amber McClure **H**
Heather Salvanish **H**
Kelsey Shaw **H**
Emily Sutton **H**

Grade 9

Toby Allen **HR**
Michael Blaylock **HMR**
Jessica Brobeck **RW**
Steven Christensen **M**
Dustin Coakley **M**
Ariel Comly **HR**
Skylar Cramer **W**
Brittany Decker **W**
Matthew Dillon **M**
Nathan Eisenhuth **M**
Ashlee Flory **W**
Kyle Frost **HM**
Clayton Gardner **M**
Steven Gawryla **HMRW**
Abby Gettig **HW**
Timothy Gleason **HMR**
Kelley Hamer **HW**
Randall Haynes **H**
Bryce Hockenberry **MW**
Kyle Johnson **HR**
Garren Kunes **HR**
Sheri McCloskey **HM**
Edwin McMillin **R**
Maggie Mehalko **HRW**
Nathan Neely **MW**
Raechel Passarelli **R**
Emilie Rogers **HR**
Douglas Turner **M**
Kodie Vermillion **HR**
Eric Vonada **M**

Alaina Warner **H**
Shelby Wellar **HW**

Grade 8

Emily Chambers **HR**
Hunter Clark **M**
Dennis Fisher **MR**
Lawrence Flood **HMR**
Billie-Jo Friedline **HR**
Olivia Hardy **HMR**
Eric Henderson **MR**
Alexis Holderman **H**
Brittany Keith **R**
Brandy Kelley **HM**
Evan Kim **HM**
Kaitlyn Laird **HM**
Benjamin Leskovansky **HM**
Katy Livezey **HM**
Amanda Nardoizzi **H**
Douglas Rogers **HMR**
Joseph Solis **MR**
Richard Spicer **HMR**
Brianna Storms **R**
Zachary Strunk **M**
Jacob Taylor **HMR**
Aaron Varner **MR**
Marissa Ward **H**

KEY

H – Top 10% of Class Honor
M – PSSA Math Honor
R – PSSA Reading Honor
W – PSSA Writing Honor

BEA News in Photos



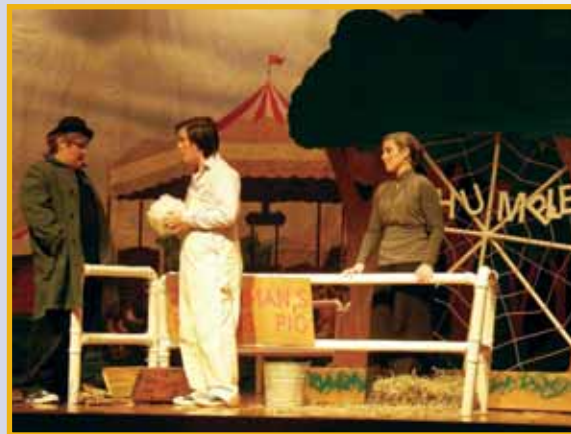
The Bald Eagle Area band marches in the parade held in honor of the PA National Guard deployment to Iraq.



The BEA football team and cheerleaders celebrate their 13-9 victory and Curtin Bowl win over Bellefonte. The football team also reclaimed the Iron Bell in a victory over Penns Valley and played in the District 6 championships. The boys soccer team and girls volleyball squad also participated in District 6 championship playoff games. Go Eagles!



Seventh grade students Bailey Bloom (left) and Rebecca Bowling help clean the Milesburg Museum as part of Day of Caring activities.



Wilbur the Pig, Kenny Dupler (center), thanks Templeton the Rat, Cody Mandell (left), for retrieving Charlotte's egg sac. Charlotte the Spider (right) was portrayed by Samantha Watson in the BEA Drama Club's production of Charlotte's Web.



BEA 2008 Homecoming Queen Heather Walk (right) is crowned by former queen Kasey Corl.



Three BEA students, (from left) Myranda Brower, Brooke Fisher, and Abbey Boyer, qualified to compete in the State 4-H Horse Show competition. Abbey competed in the Pole Bending event, Myranda competed in the Miniature Horse Driving event, and Brooke (who took 5th place) competed in the Obstacle Trail Minimum Assistance class.



Ethan R. Lucas of Boy Scout Troop 45 of Milesburg has earned the Eagle Scout award. As his Eagle project, Ethan inventoried and replaced damaged veteran's flag holders at the Advent and Trzciulny cemeteries. He is the son of Larry and Amy Lucas.



ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES – Winter/Spring 2009

The Bald Eagle Area School District will offer an Adult Education Program for the Winter/Spring Session. Class descriptions, course cost, and beginning dates are listed below. District policy requires that at least 10 people register for a class before it will be held. In some cases, class size is limited, and registrations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Registration will remain open until Wednesday, February 11, 2009. Interested persons should complete the registration form and mail it, along with a check payable to Bald Eagle Area School District for the amount of the class cost. Registrations can be made over the phone, and we will hold your place in class until a check for the class fee is received. Please do not send cash. In the event that we do not receive the required 10 people for a class, your check will be returned. Any questions regarding the Adult Education Program can be directed to the Superintendent's Office in the Administration Building at 355-4860 or 355-3737, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please ask to speak with Nancy Fisher.

REGISTRATION FO

A large, professional studio spotlight is positioned on the left side of the page, casting a warm glow. The title "Spotlight on BEA FAMILY" is written in a large, blue, cursive script font, with "BEA FAMILY" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.

Spotlight on BEA FAMILY

Social Studies Department at the BEA Middle/High School

"If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday." ~Pearl Buck

The goal of Bald Eagle Area's seven social studies teachers is to not only have their students gain a love for history, government, and economics, but to also enable all of their students to become active participants in our democratic government. Our capable social studies staff, featured in this issue's Spotlight on BEA Family, constantly strives to provide engaging activities while meeting state standards.

One of the areas of interest is always on "what is happening now," in terms of local, state, and national government and, in many cases, how similar challenges have happened in the past and what possible solutions may be. A comparison of our present economic downturn gives our staff an excellent crucible to teach about the Great Depression, as well as economics and government. Our social studies staff continues to develop and adapt their presentations to make history come alive, not as an isolated event that happened a century ago, but to show engaging comparisons and possible causes of what we see happening today.

Our seventh graders begin their secondary social studies tour with the Lions Club International sponsored Quest program, which assists their transition to the Middle/High School and emphasizes student worth and, above all, tolerance. Next, they move back 2,500 years for a brief tour of ancient history and some required study of Pennsylvania history and government. Eighth grade social studies classes focus on United States History, with a study of world cultures usually following in ninth grade.

Beyond eighth grade, our students can choose from many electives, but must complete an additional three credits of social studies classes prior to graduation. Many of our students develop an interest in History, and take more classes than what are required.

Our social studies teachers lead their students in participation in Lock Haven University's Model United Nations, Mock Trial, Law Day and other available learning activities as they become available throughout the year. The Bald Eagle Area history teachers strive to make their classes both a learning experience where students can express themselves freely, and where they feel secure in sharing their ideas with both cooperative classmates and loving, nurturing teachers.

BEA is proud of its social studies family.



Tim Kasper teaches Grade 9 World Geography & Cultural History and Grade 10 United States History. He is pictured here at a web training class for BEA teachers.



Dave Jones is shown here teaching his American Government & Economics class. Mr. Jones also teaches Grade 8 American History.



Kristen McCarty teaches Social Studies 7 (Skills for Adolescence, Civics, & Ancient History) and Grade 9 World Geography & Cultural History. She is shown here assigning polling place duties to her students at the Pennsylvania Student Mock Election held at the Middle-High School.



Larry Martz teaches Grade 8 American History and American Government & Economics. He is shown here at the BEA College and Career Fair.



Mary Beth Crago (right) is the area coordinator for the Humanities Area, which includes Social Studies and World Languages. She teaches Social Studies 7 (Skills for Adolescence, Civics, & Ancient History) and Grade 9 World Geography & Cultural History. Mrs. Crago is also the advisor for the Mock Trial team, and is shown here talking to BEA alum Kelley Gillette-Walker, an attorney with the Mazza Law Group, who helps out with the BEA Legal Eagles.



John Coltabaugh, who teaches Grade 10 United States History & American Government & Economics, is a Classrooms for the Future teacher. His students are currently using computers to complete World War I VoiceThreads, slide shows with audio captions that are posted on the Internet. He is pictured attending a Stock Market Game training at PSU.



Dr. El Hasen Ould Ahmed (center), the head of the English and African Literature Department at the University of Nouakchott in Mauritania, visits Diane Lucas's class. He talked to the students about life in Mauritania, and was very impressed with the technology in the classroom. Mrs. Lucas (right - circled) is a Classrooms for the Future teacher, and uses computers extensively in her American Government and Economics, Psychology, and Sociology classes. She is also the advisor for the Model UN team.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

The Board of Education recognized these elementary students for having the highest scores in their schools on the 2007-08 PSSA Math and Reading Assessments.

Howard Elementary

Regan Dyke	Grade 3	2008 Math and Reading Assessment
Stone Woodring	Grade 4	2008 Math Assessment
Morgan Nyman	Grade 4	2008 Reading Assessment
Mikala Smith	Grade 4	2008 Reading Assessment
Brandon Gettig	Grade 5	2008 Math Assessment
Mitchell McCurdy	Grade 5	2008 Reading Assessment
Tylor Yarrison	Grade 5	2008 Reading Assessment
Luke Miller	Grade 6	2008 Math Assessment
Daniel Watters	Grade 6	2008 Math Assessment
Makennah Dyke	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment

Mountaintop Area Elementary

Caleigh Guenot	Grade 3	2008 Math Assessment
Hannah Hemphill	Grade 3	2008 Math Assessment
Justin Bickel	Grade 3	2008 Math and Reading Assessment
Caleb Bell	Grade 4	2008 Math Assessment
Matthew Blaylock	Grade 4	2008 Math and Reading Assessment
Matthew Fye	Grade 5	2008 Reading Assessment
Clarissa Woomer	Grade 5	2008 Math and Reading Assessment
Luke Besong	Grade 6	2008 Math Assessment
Rebecca Bowling	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment
Johnna Casher	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment
Calvin Karnes	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment
Cheyenne Smolko	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment

Port Matilda Elementary

Joshua Emel	Grade 3	2008 Math Assessment
Karissa Bittinger	Grade 3	2008 Math and Reading Assessment
Dallis Dillon	Grade 4	2008 Math Assessment
Karina Bloom	Grade 4	2008 Reading Assessment
Taylor Minarchick	Grade 4	2008 Reading Assessment
Jessica Bressler	Grade 5	2008 Math Assessment
Chelsea Eisenhuth	Grade 5	2008 Math Assessment
Nicole Bonsell	Grade 5	2008 Reading Assessment
David Gawryla	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment
Kurtis Miles	Grade 6	2008 Math & Reading Assessment

Wingate Elementary

Moreta Dyke	Grade 3	2008 Math Assessment
Alyssa Askey	Grade 3	2008 Reading Assessment
Tia Barndt	Grade 3	2008 Reading Assessment
Sarah Van Cise	Grade 4	2008 Math Assessment
Cobey Bainy	Grade 4	2008 Reading Assessment
Zachary Ishler	Grade 5	2008 Math Assessment
Nicholas Carlson	Grade 5	2008 Reading Assessment
Samuel Van Cise	Grade 6	2008 Math Assessment
Marilee Leupold	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment
Emily Quick	Grade 6	2008 Reading Assessment

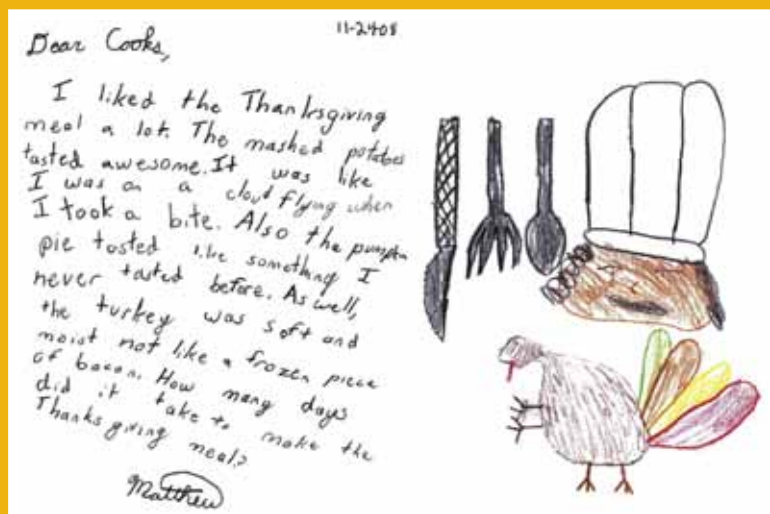
BEA ACHIEVES AYP STATUS – AGAIN!



Board President Keith Reese and Superintendent Dan Fisher present an award from the State of Pennsylvania to High School Principal David Reichelderfer, signifying that the Bald Eagle Middle-High School has achieved AYP status for two years in a row. Awards were also presented to the principals from Howard, Mountaintop, Port Matilda, and Wingate elementary schools. Look on the walls for these awards when you visit YOUR local school!

All of our schools again made Adequate Yearly Progress for the 2007-08 school year. Under No Child Left Behind, each state has developed and implemented measurements for determining whether its schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) are making adequate yearly progress (AYP). AYP is an individual state's measure of progress toward the goal of 100 percent of students achieving the state academic standards in at least reading/language arts and math. It sets the minimum level of proficiency that the state, its school districts, and schools must achieve each year on annual tests and related academic indicators.

The hard work of our students, staff, parents, and community members most certainly contributed to this achievement and honor. We should all be BEA PROUD!



An elementary student expresses his written and pictorial appreciation after enjoying a wonderful Thanksgiving meal at BEA.

FIRST CAREER/COLLEGE FAIR HELD AT BEA

The lobby was buzzing all day long on November 12, when Bald Eagle Area held its first Middle/Senior High School Career/College Fair. This career/college fair was designed to allow local employers and postsecondary training providers (colleges, universities, and the military) to provide information regarding staffing patterns, job demand, employer recruitments, postsecondary program availability and military opportunities to BEA students in grades 7-12

All students had a chance to attend the fair through their social studies classes, or during study halls or lunch periods. Some of the students had the class assignment to interview three presenters of their choice and fill out a questionnaire pertaining to that career.

This fair allowed students to speak with and participate in hands-on activities with faculty members and industry professionals. Employers from each of the following Career Path programs were represented: Arts and Humanities, Business and Computer Technology, Construction Technology, Engineering Technology, Family and Consumer Science, and Manufacturing Technology. Participants included Restek, the Pennsylvania State Police, Mount Nittany Medical Center, Centre County Coroner's Office, Raytheon, Penn State University, Lycoming College, and South Hills School of Business and Technology.

Marilee Close, Career Counseling Coordinator, organized the fair. Mrs. Close said that in her position of Career Counselor, in addition to helping students plan their futures, she would be heavily involved with dual enrollment, the program where BEA juniors and seniors can earn college credits for classes taken at BEA. Please contact Mrs. Close at 355-4868 or email her at mclose@beasd.org for more information on dual enrollment.



Tim Nilson, Executive Director at Seven Mountains Emergency Medical Services Council (and BEA board member) points to a mannequin's lungs while explaining rescue breathing using a bag-valve mask.

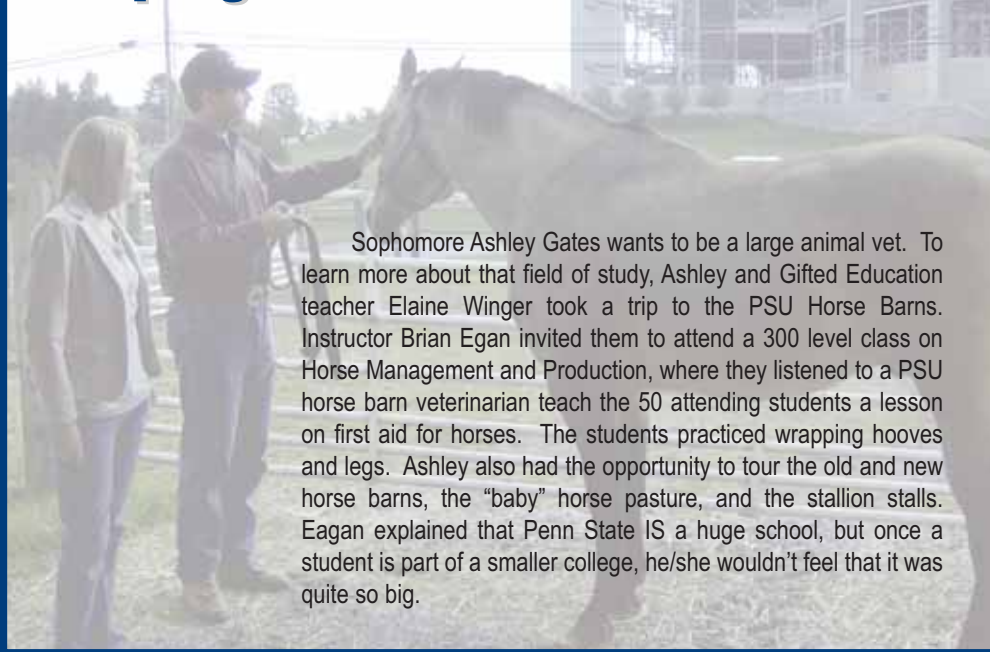


Students obtain information from a St. Francis College representative. (From left) Brittanie Lewis, Kelley Benninghoff, and Taylor DeArment.



BEA alumnus and PSU student, Natalie Cleaver (left), talks to BEA Guidance Counselor Karen Morse at the career fair.

Helping with career choices...



Sophomore Ashley Gates wants to be a large animal vet. To learn more about that field of study, Ashley and Gifted Education teacher Elaine Winger took a trip to the PSU Horse Barns. Instructor Brian Egan invited them to attend a 300 level class on Horse Management and Production, where they listened to a PSU horse barn veterinarian teach the 50 attending students a lesson on first aid for horses. The students practiced wrapping hooves and legs. Ashley also had the opportunity to tour the old and new horse barns, the "baby" horse pasture, and the stallion stalls. Eagan explained that Penn State IS a huge school, but once a student is part of a smaller college, he/she wouldn't feel that it was quite so big.

MOUNTAINTOP AREA FALL FUNDRAISER CAUSES A RUMBLE

All classes that had 60 percent or more participation for the fall fundraiser earned a hamster (fake!) in a ball to race during the Hamster Rumble at the Mountaintop Area Elementary School. In addition to competing for the title of fastest hamster, classrooms were encouraged to decorate their hamsters to compete in other categories. The following classes were declared winners during the Hamster Rumble:

- Funniest Hamster – Mrs. Gugliociello's fourth grade class.**
- Hamster with the Most School Spirit – Ms. Thompson's fifth grade class.**
- Best-Dressed Hamster – Ms. McDowell's second grade class.**
- Fastest Hamster – Ms. Maynard's sixth grade class.**
- Second Fastest Hamster – Ms. Baughman's fourth grade class.**
- Third Fastest Hamster – Ms. Pratt's third grade class.**
- Fourth Fastest Hamster – Mrs. Houck's first grade class.**

All winning classrooms chose from one of the following incentives: extra recess, a game of Capture the Flag, a basketball game or lunch with Mr. Hall, or an in-class movie. Mr. Hall drew two winning tickets during the Hamster Rumble assembly. Haley Hoover of Mrs. Houck's first grade class and Dakota Meeker of Ms. Thompson's fifth grade class won the "Family Night" prizes for the Pizza Hut and Premiere Theater tickets. Thanks to everyone who participated in this fall's fundraiser. The Mountaintop Elementary School raised approximately \$4,400, which will allow the PTO to support student activities throughout the school year.



Third grade teacher, Sue Pratt (left), Erin McKean, Trilby Mayes, and a crowd of excited Mountaintop Area elementary students cheer on a hamster favorite.

"What color are you?"

The "Big Idea" unifying Mrs. Cox's 8th grade art making projects this semester is "Art connects our individual selves to larger social, demographic, and historical communities." After creating Participation Posters which were intended to attract interest in student group "communities," and pinwheels to convey personal interpretations of peace and participation in the global peace-building process, students created monochromatic self-portraits for their third art making project this school year.

Students explored the significance of the individual as part of a social community and explored symbolic use of color: first through a warm-up activity which required students to define themselves in terms of color (NOT as in literal skin color, but in terms of symbolic color...) and to explain their selection. They explored many art concepts as well as geography concepts in their art making. Student used digital photography, Photoshop technology, and basic drawing and mapping skills in the art making process.

Mrs. Cox said, "This project was very rewarding for both me as a teacher and for my students. At the beginning of the year, I overheard a few students comment about how they "weren't good at Art," and I sensed their apprehension about their abilities. As the project developed, I became a privileged witness to their satisfaction and pleasure when they started to see their artwork evolve into something they proudly claimed as their own. I loved being surrounded by their smiling faces and thoughtful gazes even when they weren't physically in the room!" (Pictured Mikayla Robison)



LIBRARY ADDS READING ALCOVE

Take a little-used room in a middle-high school library, remove the wall, add some comfortable seats and a table and lamp, include some bean bag chairs, and what do you have? You have a quiet place with a comfortable atmosphere for students to read. Librarian Jessica Yost says that the students are really enjoying the space, and it is not uncommon to find 8-10 students taking advantage of the reading alcove during the school day. Yost says that the only rule is that students must be reading when they are in the room – a rule that has been easy to enforce. Plans are to add some student art work to the reading alcove in the future.



Vote for Howard Elementary

Howard Elementary held a mock election where the students voted for presidential candidates and their favorite Spirit Day type of activity. Wearing pajamas was the big winner, with “Hat Day” coming in second.

Principal Mike Hall said, “The students learned that voting is a very important right for U.S. citizens, and they enjoyed exercising their right to choose a motivational school activity. Pajama Day was great, and even the principal enjoying showing off his black and gold Steeler pajamas!”

A special thank you to Blake Bergey, Director of Technology from Keystone Central School District, for creating the election program used on the computer and sharing it with Howard Elementary.



The Howard Elementary First Grade students wear their pajamas on Spirit Day.



Howard Elementary students (from left) Coty Newman, Coy Lutz, and Justin Dunkleberger vote in the mock election.

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Mobile Ag-Ed Science Lab visits Wingate Elementary

Where does our food come from? It may sound like a simple question, but some children may answer the grocery store or a fast-food restaurant. Students don't always make the connection with agriculture – Pennsylvania's number one industry.

Agriculture impacts many aspects of our lives every day and the Centre County Commissioners, Jon Eich, Steve Dershem and Rich Rogers, recognized the value of educating students by aiding in the financial support (along with funds raised by the Centre County Farm Bureau) to bring the Mobile Ag-Ed Science Lab to the Wingate Elementary School for a week. A thirty-two foot long trailer complete with heating and air conditioning, the mobile lab contains 12 work stations, and each station provides space for 2-3 students to complete hands-on experiments. The students work cooperatively to solve a problem as they form a hypothesis, collect data and draw conclusions.

According to Elementary School Principal James Orichosky, over 450 students had the opportunity to participate in the lab, investigating and doing hands-on projects. Mr. Orichosky said that he was very impressed with how smoothly everything went and how the credited teachers with the lab presented the students an informative and educational class. The science curriculum taught meets Pennsylvania Department of Education Science & Technology and Environment & Ecology Standards, and is endorsed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Orichosky said, "The lab was an outstanding opportunity for Wingate students to get hands-on experience learning about farming and all of the things that go into agriculture. Pennsylvania's number one industry is farming and the students now have a broader understanding of certain aspects of it. We are so thankful to the Centre County Farm Bureau, as well as to the Centre County Commissioners for providing the funding for the lab."

Third grade students, Tony Talarigo (left) and Gabe Basalla (TOP PICTURE) and Kendall Hanley (left) Alexis Bucha (BOTTOM PICTURE) are engrossed in conducting an experiment of making glue from milk, vinegar, and baking soda, and then testing the strength of their milk glue against Elmer's glue using a peel test, tensile strength test, and sheer strength test. (Editor's Note: Perhaps the students also learned a lesson about how their great-great-grandparents made homemade glue...back in the good ole' days!)