



SPRING 2007
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Eagle Pride



The Official Newsletter of the Bald Eagle Area School District

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Superintendent's Message

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It is a wonderful time of the year in the school business. We finally have the winter transportation woes and the PSSA testing behind us. The spring activities, as well as the spring flowers, are in bloom and we look forward to completing another very successful school year. Our students and staff have been working really hard to propel academic and extra curricular achievement to the high levels we have come to expect at Bald Eagle Area. I am looking forward to working with everybody to keep the ball rolling until the last day of school and the Class of 2007's graduation on June 12.

Hopefully, you will have had a chance to review all the pages of our *Eagle Pride* by the time you are reading this message. The last page, in particular, includes a basic explanation of what the referendum on shifting some of the property tax to an earned income tax will mean to you. Speaking on behalf of the Bald Eagle Area Board of Education, we want everybody to have enough information to cast an informed vote. The choice is truly yours.

Eagle Pride itself will continue to evolve into a publication that reflects the pride we take in what our students and school community members are doing. Each issue will be posted on our website at www.beasd.org. We will continue to add features such as answers to frequent questions and an article in each issue recognizing members of our Bald Eagle family of students, staff, and our wonderful supporters. The name of our publication was a topic of our last issue. The votes we received were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the "Eagle Pride" name as you saw it in the last issue. If you have suggestions for improving future issues, please call or email me to share them.

I am most appreciative of the dedication, hard work, and commitment of resources the residents of our district make to support our educational programs, our students and staff. Collectively, we will continue to try to serve the educational needs of all the students who reside in the Bald Eagle Area School District. Our recent establishment of the Bald Eagle Cyber Academy reflects an expanded attempt to provide for students whose needs are best addressed in an online environment. If you would like to discuss our cyber initiative, please email or call me. We want to be the education provider for all of the students who live in our district.

Thanks to all of you for everything you do for all of us here at BEA. I look forward to working with our awesome students and staff and with all of you to keep improving what we are doing and to keep the educational dream alive in the Bald Eagle Area School District.

GRADUATION

June 12, 2007 • 7:00 P.M.
Alumni Stadium



In case of inclement weather, Graduation will be held in the gymnasium with admission by ticket only - overflow seating will be available in the auditorium (close circuit broadcast).

GRADUATION

ATTENTION
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & PARENTS



Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology

DISCOVER A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

is offering a new program...

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

content will include the following

- Construction • Welding • Diesel Repair
- Horticulture • Soils • Small Engine

Students can receive the PA Pesticide Applicator Category 6 and 7 certification.

Call CPI at (814) 359-2793 for more information

BOTball

– a whole new ballgame at BEA



BEA team members work on their robot.

BOTball is a hands-on learning experience in robotics designed to engage students in learning the practical applications of science, technology, engineering and math. This is the first year that Bald Eagle Area sponsored a team. Team members were Gage Cooper, Noret Flood IV, Nathan Inglesby, David Long, Kasey Murchison, Alex Nilson, Jake Rosso, Jeff Rote, Jackson Tate, and Lisa Veneziano. Vaughn Donmoyer and Sharon Nilson were the advisors for the group.

The District's foray into the BOTball® Program began with the advisors attending a 2-day professional development workshop where they learned about current robotics technology. Following the workshop, students had about seven weeks to design, build and program a team of mobile, autonomous robots, as well as document their process on a web log.

The BEA students were very busy designing their robot for the competition, first drawing up a concept model and then deciding which one they wanted to build. Students constructed the robot from Legos and used hobby motors to make the parts move. Interactive C is a "C" programming language that the students used to program a "Game Boy" controller. This was downloaded to the controller and then used to make the robot move and interact with

its surroundings. A camera attached to the "Game Boy" controller was the eyes of the robot. Students trained the camera vision program to distinguish between orange, green, blue, and yellow balls. This enabled the robot to seek out those colors on the game board and proceed with moving those colored items according to the game rules.

At the regional tournament, participants competed against each other on a 4' x 8' playing field in a fast paced, non-destructive environment. The robots were student-built and programmed to maneuver on the game board without the need for remote control. This year's game was based on an island with a volcanic eruption. The robot had to pick up the plants with the pineapple on top and place them in either the Pineapple Bin or the Plant Bin. After completing that task, it could place umbrellas in PVC Pipe, which represented homes (the umbrellas protected the homes.) If the robot was so programmed, it could move the homes back into the start area. There were blue foam balls, which represented the ocean, which needed to be placed in the bins. Also at the end, the volcano erupted and the robot had to move the lava (orange balls) off the



This is an example of a BOTball playing field.

playing field. Sounds complicated, doesn't it? And remember, this was all done without remote control!

Vaughn Donmoyer, one of the BOTball advisors, said that the students seemed very intrigued about the competition. He said once they had an idea of the tasks the robot needed to do, that started to get them thinking about how the robot would operate and look. "Since they had to agree on a robotic design, it also involved a lot of teamwork," he said.

And it wasn't all just about the game. Students also documented all their time spent working on the robot, took pictures, and updated information to a web page that the judges checked weekly prior to the competition. The BEA Tech/BOTball team participated in the BOTball competition in Pittsburgh on April 21, 2007 at the University of Pittsburgh's Forbes Tower.

If you would like to learn more about BOTball, please log on to www.botball.org.

Jim Jordan encourages BEA students to stop "fueling the bullying" together

Last month, Jim Jordan, one of Canada's top entertainers, kept a group of Jr. High students on the edge of their seats...literally. Throughout his presentation, Jim Jordan used his "game show" atmosphere, stage full of props, and magical slight of hand to help deliver important messages to BEA teenagers – the importance of helping targets of bullying and making decisions with integrity and respect.

The Middle School Bully Prevention Committee hosted Jordan's presentation as their "kickoff" for bully prevention efforts that will be occurring in grades 7 and 8. The issue of bullying has come to the forefront in America, and bullying is no longer seen as "child's play," as studies have revealed that it not only

causes social and emotional pain, but also causes students' academics to suffer. According to the United States Office of Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), bullied children are more likely than their peers to report wanting to avoid attending school, have higher absenteeism rates, dislike school, and receive lower grades. To help prevent these issues from occurring, the district has trained a group of staff members from the middle school. This group is now coordinating bully prevention classroom meetings and implementing bully prevention efforts school-wide.

The focus of Jim Jordan's presentation was on the students who are bystanders. Bystanders in most bullying situations are the "silent majority." Because

students who are bullied normally don't have the strength, knowledge, or courage to defend themselves, Jordan encouraged the "silent majority" to raise their voices to defend victims and stop fueling the bullying. He also provided "Stop Bullying" boxes and forms for students to report bullying anonymously. Another avenue Jordan provided was access to his online bully reporting that allows students and parents to report bullying in the district from their computers. This online report can be found at <http://www.jimjordan.ca>.

To become involved or to obtain more information, please contact Guidance Counselor Carol Tancibok or Prevention Coordinator Gary Heverly at 355-4868.



Spotlight on BEA FAMILY

Elementary School Secretaries

The first person that anyone in our elementary schools goes to for help is the school secretary. It doesn't matter whether it is about a lost item, a paper cut on their thumb, a special announcement to be handed out, or just to have a chat about a problem that they are worrying about. The school secretary is the master of problem solving. You would expect that the persons with lost items, an injury, or feeling the need to chat would usually be the students in the school, but the secretary is the problem solver for the staff, and quite often for parents, too! The secretary gives of herself to take care of her school family.

In our elementary schools, we are proud to have four very special ladies that arrive each day with a smile on their faces and the acknowledgement that no concern is too small for their attention in their role as the school secretary. They are the official greeters to any visitors to our schools and do whatever is needed throughout the day to get the job done. They are also the unofficial newsletter writers and editors, librarians, nurses, copy repair ladies, computer technicians, transportation directors, cafeteria supporters, event planners, emergency facilitators, office organizers, and friends to all.

Thank you Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Murnyack, Mrs. Veneziano, and Mrs. Weaver for making our schools warm and friendly places for all who come through the school doors each day. We appreciate you and everything that you do for all of us in the Bald Eagle Area Elementary Schools.



Cindy Gardner

Who holds the title of the First Fire Queen in Howard? Cindy Gardner, a native of Howard, holds this unique title. Cindy is a Bald Eagle Area graduate and she has been the Howard secretary for the past 17 years. Cindy makes an effort to always put the kids first, from helping them to find the right books and taking care of boo-boos, Band-Aids and thermometers, to pulling earlobes for those special birthday traditions. She reads to the local daycare children when they come to visit the library. She and her husband Jim, have three children and four grandchildren. Cindy is an active supporter of BEA wrestling and baseball, and she is a serious Penn State fan, too. Whether it is Blue and Gold or Blue and White, you will find her current with all sporting updates. She enjoys spending time on the beach when she can, and is active with her church and in the community.

Cindy Gardner checks out library books at Howard Elementary.

Sandra Murnyack

Sandra Murnyack, "Sandie," has been the secretary for Wingate Elementary School for the past 23 years. Jim Orichosky, building principal, states, "She has done an outstanding job everyday, greeting and working with all members of the school family and the community." You can always expect a smile and genuine interest in what you have to say when you arrive in the Wingate office. Sandie is efficient in getting things done and she is willing to do anything to help things run smoothly in the school. She does everything from putting band aids on small fingers, to typing memos to the staff, or getting substitutes in emergency situations. Sandie always offers words of encouragement to the children, the staff, and the visitors to the school. Sandy lives in Clarence with her husband Alex. Her five children and ten grandchildren help her keep a youthful outlook to each and every day, and the Wingate students have become a much larger extended family for her.

Sandie Murnyack repairs eyeglasses for a Wingate Elementary student.



Susan Veneziano

Whenever Principal Marsha Sackash thinks of Susan Veneziano, or "Susie" as she is known to her friends, she thinks of someone that has found a wonderful way to use her many special "gifts" to make a difference in the lives of the students and staff at Mountaintop Elementary School. Susie is someone who "connects" with all the people, small and tall, who enter through the school doors each day. She shows that she enjoys her work and that it gives her personal fulfillment. How can one tell? She is always smiling as she goes about performing the many tasks of her job and even at the end of a very long day, she cheerfully prepares for the next day's events. Susie is a graduate of Bald Eagle Area and she started as a part-time aide in 1992. She lives in the Snow Shoe area with her husband and three children. Susie remarked that "it gives her great pleasure to go to the grocery store and have the children come up to her to share their news or to just say hello to her."

Susie Veneziano reads to classes at Mountaintop Elementary when they come to the library each week.



Diana Weaver

You can't think of Port Matilda Elementary and not think about Diana Weaver. "She is a super secretary and is the Port Matilda working definition of the word "multitasking"!" says John Noonan, fifth grade teacher. Diana became the secretary in 2002 and since then she has found that the secretary wears many different hats, including being the cafeteria accountant and locator of all the lost items in the school. Diana keeps things running smoothly, and as Laurice Mitchell, first grade teacher, says, "She is more than a secretary – she is the person we all go to when we need something or have a problem." Diana helps make the school a better place to work and learn. What makes her so special? The students and staff think it is her positive, friendly attitude and her sincere efforts to help each person who comes through the school doors. Diana lives in the Julian area with her husband and two daughters.

Diana Weaver helps Chef Ott get ready for the dinner to celebrate the Reading Competition victory at Port Matilda Elementary last fall.





Students representing each classroom at Mountaintop Elementary pose with the BEA Reading Challenge trophy. Left to right, (Seated) Chelsea Butterworth, Zachary Caudill, Seth Koleno, and Austin Besong; (Standing) Bastian Conaway, Noah Chambers, Alyssa Ward, Nathan Vozniak, Julia Cingle, Jakob Vozniak, Taylor Noecker, Brittney Cain, and Kaleigh Tobias.

Mountaintop Elementary Wins Reading Super Bowl

The Elementary Reading Trophy found its way to the Mountaintop after Mountaintop Elementary edged out four-time winner Port Matilda Elementary and won the BEA Reading Super Bowl I Reading Challenge. Principal Marsha Sackash declared a day of reading celebration for students and staff, along with a Crazy Hair Day. The special day included guest readers, a Crazy Hair Parade, a trophy celebration – complete with singing and dancing, and sundaes and pizza. The students and staff had a great time reading to win, and a great time celebrating their victory.

Bullying Prevention Program Poster Contest Winners

Seventh and eighth grade students were invited to participate in a poster contest as part of the Middle School Bullying Prevention Program. Students were asked to create a colorful and informative poster that tells everyone our rules against bullying. Prizes were awarded to the top three posters in grades seven and eight.

Posters needed to include the four rules about not bullying students.

The rules were:

- We do not bully students.
- We help students who are bullied.
- We include students who are left out.
- We tell an adult at school and an adult at home when somebody is being bullied.

Prizes for the contest were:

- 1st Place - \$50.00 Gift Card
- 2nd Place - \$40.00 Gift Card
- 3rd Place - \$25.00 Gift Card

7th Grade Winners were:

1st Place	Maggie Mehalko
2nd Place	Samantha Woodring
3rd Place	Alaina Warner

8th Grade Winners were:

1st Place	Brooke Anskis
2nd Place	Justin Giedroc & Taylor Parsons
3rd Place	Casey Lynch

Congratulations to these students and all the students that participated in the poster contest.

OFF TO KINDERGARTEN WORKSHOP

(HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN)

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007 • 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: WINGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • ALL PURPOSE ROOM

FOR: ALL PROSPECTIVE BEA KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Welcome and Introductions • “Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?”

Rotate Through Five Centers: Reading With Your Child, Math Manipulatives, Letters/Rhyming, Writing, Turtling with PATHS – School Counselors • Complete Workshop Evaluation

Wingate

LUNCH & LIMO RIDE

Pictured are some of the students who were the top sellers for Wingate P.T.A.'s fundraiser. Because these students were some of the top sellers, they were rewarded with a ride in a limo to McDonalds and treated to lunch.

4Sight Test Data Helps Students Succeed

This year BEA has a new way of measuring how well our students understand the different concepts in math and reading – 4Sight Tests. Students in grades 3-11 take these tests four times a year. The format is similar to the types of questions that were asked on the PSSA tests in mid-March. Students take the first 4Sight test at the very beginning of the school year, so teachers have a starting point of what each of their students know.

During the January 29th Act 80 Day, the elementary teachers in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 took a closer look at some new reading and math data from these 4Sight Tests. Betsy Dickey, Port Matilda Elementary Principal, provided each teacher with item analysis profiles for the areas of reading and math. Each sheet had the type of question identified across the top and a place for student names down the left side of the chart. The teachers worked together to record their students' data from the latest 4Sight Test onto the sheets, shading boxes to represent the questions each student answered correctly. (See sample.)

This activity clearly showed the teachers the areas of strengths and concerns for each child in their classroom. The teachers then created an individualized plan for their class to address these areas of concern, and shared ideas on how to best instruct the students in the specific areas of weakness before PSSA testing occurred.

This special in-service for the staff would not have been possible without the background work of Betsy Gettig, Stephanie Moore, and other

4 Sight Profile

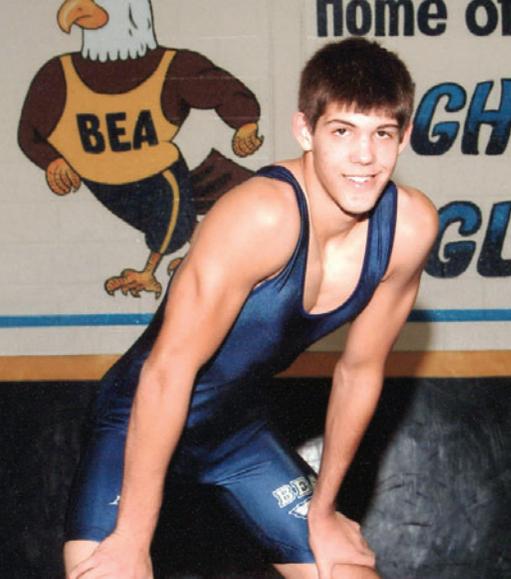
6.3 Reading

6th Reading 6.3 Third Edition	6.3 Reading																											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Names																												
Makayla	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x	x	x	4	3
Kathryn	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x	x	x	3	2
Brad	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x	x	x	4	4
Mia	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	1	2
Kyle	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	2	3
Sarah	x	x	x		x					x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	1	1
Brooke	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	3	2
Jacob	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x		x	2	3
Brian	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x		x	2	3
Marie	x	x	x		x					x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	1	1
Zach	x	x	x		x					x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	3	2
Frank	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x		x	2	3
Andy	x	x	x		x					x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	1	1
Anne	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x		x	2	3
Heather	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x		x		x	3	2
	16																											
	17																											
	18																											
	19																											
	20																											
	21																											

A= Affix CC = Context Clues FL = Figurative Language M I = Main Idea P I = Plot
 Ant = Antonym CV = Content Vocab. H = Headings P = Purpose TC = Text Connection
 C = Character F/O = Fact / Opinion I = Inference PoV = Point of View TO = Text Organization

In this sample 4Sight Profile, the teacher needs to concentrate on sections covered by questions 7, 9, 15, 19 and 23 as none of the students in the class answered those questions correctly. The sample also points out that some students need individual attention on certain items.

school staff involved in the scanning of the test results in such a timely manner. Everyone's efforts were greatly appreciated, and we are sure that these 4Sight Tests will help students get the proper instruction needed in those portions of the subject areas they do not completely understand.



Quentin Wright

PIAA Class AAA State Champion

Junior Quentin Wright followed up last year's impressive second place State Title finish one notch higher on the podium this year, striking gold in the 160 – pound final of the PIAA Class AAA Wrestling Championships in Hershey by defeating Canon McMillan senior Matt Ryan with a 6-3 win. Quentin went 41-0 during his perfect season this year, and became Bald Eagle Area's 8th State AAAwrestling champion.

BEA seniors Kevin Struble (215) took third and Grant Paswall (145) took fourth place at the State Championships.

PORT MATILDA ELEMENTARY SENDS TWO TEAMS TO INTERSCHOLASTIC READING COMPETITION

Port Matilda Elementary School is proud to announce that, not one, but TWO teams represented our school at this year's Interscholastic Reading Competition. Twenty-six students, in grades 4 through 6, have been diligently read and discussed the 42 books found on the book list. The list was comprised of quality children's literature, both fiction and non-fiction, and features many award winning titles. The students began reading and becoming familiar with the books in early October, and competed against a number of other schools on March 31st, at Central Mountain High School in the Keystone Central School District.

The students who qualified for the Port Matilda teams, the Blue Speedy Reading Eagles and the Gold Speedy Reading Eagles, have each successfully completed five reading team books, wrote summaries and good comprehension questions about the books, and

demonstrated a positive attitude towards the reading competition and a commitment to their teams. Members of both reading teams are shown in this photo, on MVP day, during which students were encouraged to dress 'wacky' to celebrate all of their hard work during the recent BEASD reading competition.

The teams looked forward to several fun activities prior to the competition, which included tie-dyeing our team t-shirts, and a mock competition and pizza dinner with another elementary school in our district. On the day of the big event, the teams spent the day competing against other schools in three exciting rounds, during which students were asked comprehension questions about the books they have read. This event promoted strong readers, great sportsmanship, and FUN!

PORT MATILDA ELEMENTARY TEAM MEMBERS:

Cassandra Barr	Cody Mandell
Mallory Bennett	Matthew Maney
Nicole Bonsell	Jacob Miller
Tyler Carson	Colton Moore
Rose Cowan	David Neff
Leevi Dillon	Dustin Pluebell
Chelsea Eisenhuth	Makenzie Proctor
David Gawryla	Allison Simpson
Samantha Hutton	Nadine VanNess
Robert Jones	Briella Walk
Brandy Kelley	Nicole Walzer
Katy Livezey	Sean Walzer
Natea Lyles	Hannah Wedlake



Senior Culminating Projects Shine

Their senior projects are varied, reflecting a student's special interest and individual personality. They may have sewn a quilt, refinished a gun or antique chest, composed a musical selection, or put together a scrapbook. But one thing about the senior project is the same – after the formal presentation is over and their slight case of jitters is gone, the students are all eager to share more about their projects. With big smiles, the students explain certain pictures or demonstrate how a certain part fits. Their gestures become animated, their voices excited. This is what the Senior Culminating Project is all about – pride in personal accomplishment, along with demonstrating their knowledge and skills and sharing them with their peers, educators, and the community.

The Senior Culminating Project requirement for graduation began at BEA in 2002. Students must choose a project in their junior year, select a mentor, keep a time log, conduct research, and write a report about the process of their project. The final step is a 5 – 15 minute formal presentation before a panel of judges, which must include a visual aide. The students are graded on a pass-fail scale.

This year, senior Samantha Weaver tutored first grade students in math at Port Matilda Elementary for her senior project. Samantha worked with small groups of children, playing math games and trying to make learning math fun. "I learned patience – that was the main thing," she said about her project. She is planning on attending college,

with secondary math education as a first major and accounting as a second. Samantha likes numbers, and explains to the panel that she is also thinking about accounting as a career because it also involves working with numbers.

BEA senior Curtis St. Clair, a masonry student at CPI, constructed a pond of red bricks and grey stone. The pond contains an electrical pump that creates a waterfall. Curtis hopes to join the military (Army Special Forces) after graduation.

Jason Trimpey built a computer that included DVD and CD-ROM drives for his senior project. "Computers are basically friendly," he said enthusiastically. And how did he learn to build a computer? "I had some help from relatives and learned by tearing things apart," he said. Starting with an empty computer case he bought through EBay for \$50, he used spare parts from discarded computers or parts he obtained through trading other computer parts, and piece by piece, day by day, the computer began to take shape. It took a while – he recorded 106 hours on his project time log.

"When I flipped the switch and it worked, I was so surprised!" he laughed. Jason enjoyed his computer project. "Working with computers is a hobby for me and I think I can make a career out of it." In today's technological world, he probably can. In fact, all of the seniors will probably use the experience gained during their senior project, in one way or another, as they make decisions and choices about their future lives.



TOP: BEA Senior Curtis St. Clair, a third year masonry student, constructed a brick pond for his senior project. The pond is on display at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology.

MIDDLE: Samantha Weaver tutored students in math at Port Matilda Elementary.

BOTTOM: Jason Trimpey, who thinks of technology as a hobby, built his own personal computer.



HOWARD ELEMENTARY Students Experience An English Tea Party

On Friday, March 2nd, the fifth grade class at Howard Elementary School got to experience what it was like to have an English Tea Party. The class had studied all about Great Britain for the previous two weeks, learning about the culture, money system, kings and queens, and historical attractions.

Each student was required to complete a research report on famous attractions in London. During the English Tea Party, students presented their reports and also sang songs by the Beatles and Elton John, famous English musicians. Overall, the tea party was an excellent way to end the unit and the students really enjoyed it.

Dressed in red, white, and blue – the colors of the flag of the United Kingdom – Howard Elementary students enjoyed studying Great Britain.



Wingate Elementary 4th grade band practices "Hot Cross Buns."



Sixth grade Wingate Elementary student, Clifford Smolko, practices his trumpet, under the guidance of Kellie Richner.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH *Wingate Elementary Bands?*

Instrumental music at Wingate Elementary School is full of excitement and fun. Over 80 students are enrolled in that elementary instrumental music program, with numbers growing higher daily. The students have class every other day, and for each band rehearsal Kellie Richner, Wingate's elementary band instructor, puts up a Word-of-the Day somewhere in the classroom – words such as "key signature" or "baton." Students find the word, which is a musical phrase or term, and they discover what it means. Recently, band members were discovering what a "conductor" is and how it is important to watch the conductor to keep a steady beat when playing songs together in band. Students even learned how to conduct!

Ms. Richner also has a practice challenge that gives all band members the opportunity to work toward rewards for

practicing the most minutes in their grade level. One such reward is a trip to Sheetz. Each week one student from each grade who practiced the highest amount of minutes is given a certificate, has their name posted on the "Band Room Practice Wall of Fame," and is allowed to choose their seat for their band rehearsal that week.

The Bald Eagle Area School District has an inventory of 150 instruments available through a loan program, and many of the students at Wingate Elementary are practicing their lessons using these instruments, or using them when their personal instrument is being repaired outside the District. The instruments include flutes, clarinets, oboes, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, trumpets, French horns, trombones, tubas and even drumsticks. Most of these instruments are being used

at the high school level; thirty are available at the Howard, Mountaintop, and Port Matilda Elementary Schools; and twenty-four are available at Wingate Elementary.

This spring, Wingate sixth graders learned about Mozart and his importance in music, and worked on a song called "Variations on a Theme by Mozart." This song takes the well known tune "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," and alters it slightly. This song will be featured at the elementary spring band concert, which will be held at the Bald Eagle Area High School on Thursday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. Performing will be Howard, Mountaintop, Port Matilda and Wingate Elementary 4th, 5th, 6th, and combined 5th and 6th grade bands. The bands will be conducted by Ms. Richner and Mr. Farley. Be sure to mark your calendar for this exciting event.

Special Education Department Successfully Completes Compliance Monitoring

We are happy to report that in December 2006 the Bald Eagle Area School District successfully completed the required compliance monitoring process that the Bureau of Special Education performs at each school district every three years. In reaching compliance determinations, the visiting monitoring team applied both state and federal special education regulations to determine whether our school district was in compliance. The Bureau's report provided detailed findings for each of the 147 criteria of 3 major

sections for the compliance monitoring check list.

Monitoring activities included:

- Interviews of district administrators and school district personnel.
- Review of policies, notices, plans, special education forms and formats and data reports.
- Comprehensive case studies with staff, parents, and students, as well as a review of student files.

Out of the myriad of areas examined, the evaluators found a need for our District to further

formalize the preparation for our special education students for a career and adult life beginning when they turn age 16. In Special Education "talk," the term to describe this is transition services. The District will provide further training for staff members and increased opportunities for our students in transition services by January 2008.

Please contact the Special Education Office at 814-355-5731 if you have any questions regarding compliance monitoring.

Mountaintop Spirit Club Members Honored



Front Row: Zachary Chambers, Morgan Chambers, Hailey Miller, Morgan Salvanish, Haylee Hemphill, Hannah Hemphill

Back Row: Lauren Onder, Luke Jozefick, Clarissa Woomer, Matthew Blaylock, Noah Chambers, Ashley Christensen, Jessica Lehman, Sarah Blaylock

At the January 31st Mountaintop Spirit Club meeting, 14 children "retired" from the club. The students had joined the after-school club in January of last year, knowing that they would be serving their school for one year. In the past year, the students have organized community projects such as providing gifts for preschool-aged children and planting flowers and cleaning up their school and community during Make Our Town Beautiful Week. They also organized special "spirit" activities including Pajama and Slippers Day, Super Bowl Day, Crazy Hair Day, Teacher Exchange Day and much more.

The remaining Spirit Club students honored these retiring students, and talked about the many things they had accomplished during their term of service and how they made a difference for all children in the school. Each student received a certificate of appreciation and a pin that denotes them as "someone who has made a difference in the Mountaintop Elementary School." This meeting was a celebration of what has been, and what will continue because of this group of students' spirited activities.



LAURA SENGLE CHOSEN AS HOBY REPRESENTATIVE

Bald Eagle Area Sophomore, Laura Sengle, was selected as BEA's HOBY Representative for the 2006-07 school year. She was chosen on the basis of her essay regarding leadership.

The mission of the Hugh O'Bryan Youth Leadership Program (HOBY) is to seek out, recognize and develop leadership potential commencing with high school sophomores. As BEA's representative, Laura will attend a seminar in May at the Millersville State University Campus. Each year the seminar is held to bring together a select group of high school sophomores who have demonstrated leadership ability so that they can interact with groups of regionally, nationally and internationally renowned leaders in business, government, education and the professions.

Laura is the daughter of JoAnn and John Sengle of Julian.

Special Olympics Newsflash



Tenth grade student, Dominic Lacivita, proudly displays his winning T-shirt design.

This article, written by BEA student Katie Wedlake, was taken from the January - February 2007 issue of The Talon, BEA's high school newspaper.

Special Olympics of Pennsylvania (SOPA) is a program in which the intellectually disabled are able to participate in sports activities such as aquatics, volleyball, floor hockey, etc. These sporting events are held all across Pennsylvania. They are usually sponsored by community groups and colleges or universities.

Bald Eagle Area High School hosted the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania State Floor Hockey Tournament on March 3rd and 4th of 2007. BEA is the only high school that sponsored a Special Olympics sporting event! This year's theme was "Facing Off in the Tropics." Kale Thompson, a junior at Bald Eagle, was the event director for this tournament. He chose to do this as his senior culminating and Eagle Scout project.

Normally, a professional designer creates the design that is placed on the T-shirts that the Special Olympics volunteers wear, but this year the SOPA organizing committee decided that it would be done by a student from Bald Eagle Area. A contest was held to determine the winning design. The winner, Dominic Lacivita, was announced on February 23rd. He received a T-shirt with his design on it, and a \$50.00 gift card to the Nittany Mall. Congratulations Dominic!

Are there any Questions?

HOW ARE SNOW DAYS DETERMINED?

It's 5:15 a.m. on a snowy morning in March. The phones in the district are ringing off the hook with the notifications that school will be cancelled for that day. Although parents may just be waking up to that phone call, administrative personnel have already been up for at least an hour evaluating the weather situation.

The four Centre County schools work together to decide if school will be in session or delayed. For each of the months of November through March, the Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, and State College school districts each take their turn at being the lead school in that decision-making process. The designated school personnel are up during the night, conferring with weather personnel, state police, and road crews. Around 4:30 a.m., the administrative conference calls between all four schools begin. Usually, the schools come to a consensus, but not always. Weather conditions are sometimes different in Pine Glen than they are in State College.

Here at BEA, we check with all our bus contractors about the conditions of the outlying roads that the buses must travel. Since 96 percent of our students travel on buses, road conditions are a big consideration in our decision. The road

outside your window may be completely clear – but this may not be the case somewhere else in our district, which is the largest, geographically, in Centre County.

Once we make the decision to cancel or delay school, administrative personnel immediately notify the news media. Many of them require a code word that must be given to assure our call to them is authentic. Also, since our district contracted with the Alert Now system two years ago for emergency alerts, an automated telephone call is sent to the home of each staff member and student in the district to notify them of the delay or cancellation. With this computerized system, it only takes 20 minutes for all these calls to be completed. The Superintendent and Technology Assistant have pre-recorded many messages with different wording for various weather scenarios so that, with a few online clicks of the mouse from a computer anywhere, the appropriate message is sent to over 1,600 household phones in the district. Staff members keep the database current by using on-file student and staff contact information – so if you have a different number that should be used for Alert Now notifications, please call 353-1413 to let us know. Also, for emergency early dismissals,

parents may want to receive that notification at their work or cell phone number. If so, let us know that too, and we can program that into your contact information.

When school is delayed at BEA because of extremely cold temperatures, the delay will be announced as a “wind chill” delay. Since many children must wait outside for their bus to arrive, extremely low temperatures are also considered in our decisions. On those days when school is delayed because of a dangerous wind chill, the BEA staff reports, as usual. If parents wish to drop their children at school at the regular time, because of child care needs, they can do that. Children desiring breakfast can receive a modified breakfast meal on the days that school has a delayed start.

This year we had four snow days and five two-hour delays, and the last day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12. We hope you now better understand the thought, energy, and planning that have preceded the announcement, “All Bald Eagle Area Schools are closed.” Sometimes the judgment call of whether to close or delay school is easy; sometimes it's not. But that decision is always made to err on the side of safety for our students and staff.



Court
is now in session

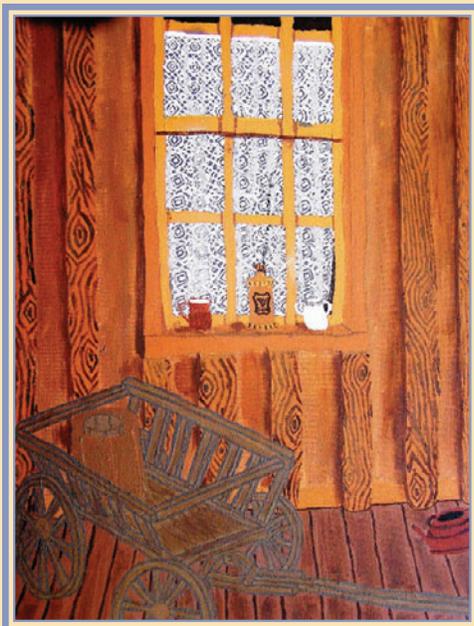
The Bald Eagle High School 2006-07 Mock Trial Team is pictured here with Centre County Judge David E. Grine. From left to right: Cory Peters, Emily Catherman, Noret Flood, Rusty Armstrong, and Gage Cooper. Advisor for the team is Mary Beth Crago.

Notable Notes

- **Dick Rhoades**, former Bald Eagle Area High School Health/Physical Education Teacher and Head Varsity Wrestling Coach, was nominated by the Pennsylvania State Chapter to receive the "Lifetime Service to Wrestling" Award. He was then selected by the Board of Governors of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame to receive this award. Mr. Rhoades was honored at a banquet in April and received a place in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.
- **Lindsay Confer**, a senior at Bald Eagle Area High School, was selected to the 2006 Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association AA All-State Team.
- **Several** Bald Eagle Area High School students placed at the SkillsUSA District VII Competitions 2007. Nicole Hughes placed 2nd in the Preschool Training Assistant Contest; Amanda Moyer placed 2nd in the Technical Computer Applications Contest; Bill Sutton placed 3rd in the Computer Maintenance Contest; and, Will Barton, Will Bracken, Curtis St.Clair, and Ethan Swancer placed 3rd in the Team Works Contest. Congratulations to all these students for a job well done.
- **Paula Crock**, a 1986 graduate of BEA, has been spending time in Antarctica measuring the ozone thru the use of an instrumentation balloon. She is scheduled to continue with the project in McMurdo Sound, Antarctic until August.
- **Brian Kochik**, BEA Senior, was selected as a Scholar Athlete. This award honors the academic, athletic and community service accomplishments of Central Pennsylvania High School and College Senior Football Players.
- **Samantha Gosa**, a freshman at BEA, qualified for all around in gymnastics and attended the Individual State Champions in Palmyra, PA in February. She finished 28th on vault, 16th on bars, 17th on beam, and 14th on floor.
- **2007** is the Golden Anniversary of the 1st graduating class from Bald Eagle Area High School. The Class of 1957 graduated on May 29, 1957 and was the first class to physically graduate from the high school.

Senior High Art Gallery

ACRYLIC PAINTING



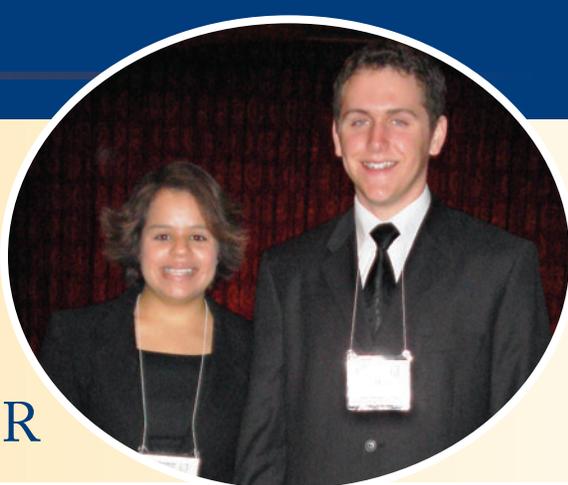
Julie Rote – 12th grade



Carly Kristofik – 11th grade

Eagle Musicians

BUSY DURING SPRING SEMESTER



The BEA Music Department put much preparation into this spring's myriad of events. Once again, numerous students represented BEA at various music festivals throughout Central Pennsylvania. This year, two of our musicians earned an extra special opportunity. From March 8-11, Deanalis Resto and Kale Thompson traveled with choral director, Emily Homan, to Hartford, Connecticut to participate in the All-Eastern Choir Festival, an event open to the most talented students from 12 states in the Eastern United States. Attendance at this festival is an honor only a select few have ever achieved in Bald Eagle Area history.

Kale and Deanalis have had their hands full in 2007, as they also participated in the 2007 District Choir Festival at Central Mountain High School, held in January. For this event, Evan Gettig, Hilary Henderson, Kristen Hinton, Kara Krebs, Adam Miller and Jessie Strunk joined them. These students worked diligently under the direction of Dr. Anthony Leach from Penn State University, and all auditioned well while at the festival. Kale, Deanalis and Adam qualified for the Region Choir Festival held in February at Penns Valley. At this festival, Deanalis qualified for the Pennsylvania All-State Choir and attended the festival held in Hershey on April 18-21.

The 2007 District Band Festival was held in early February with events occurring at Lock Haven University. The festival, co-hosted by Sugar Valley and Bucktail, was directed by Don Wilcox, Director Emeritus from West Virginia University. Nine students: Max Besong, Bob Burris, Kristen Hinton, Kara Krebs, Travis McClain, Adam Miller, Lauren Reed and Katelyn Weaver, had the honor of participating in this festival and the opportunity to audition into the Region Band Festival. Kristen and Lauren earned the right to attend the Region Band Festival and represented BEA at Clearfield High School on March 21-24.

Three Bald Eagle students also participated in this year's District Jazz Festival on February 15-17 in Lewistown. Adam Miller, Rusty Armstrong and Brian Robison represented the district at this three-day festival under the direction of Dr. Jeff Kunkel and Professor Dan Yoder from Penn State University.

Spring Musical – *Wonderful Town*.

Many of these students have also spent their "free time" preparing for this year's spring musical, *Wonderful Town*. This musical tells the story of two sisters (Deanalis Resto and Sara Warner) from Ohio who make the journey to New York City hoping to make it big as a writer and an actress, respectively. They are met by an off-beat landlord (Gage Cooper), a young couple (Samantha Watson and Adam Miller), a local editor (Kale Thompson), gentlemen callers (Tim Zimmerman and Nate Inglesby), cops, Brazilian Cadets and townspeople who make their endeavor a comical and dramatic story. *Wonderful Town* was performed on April 13, 14, and 15.

County Band and Choir Festival

Bald Eagle was also pleased to be the host of this year's County Band and Choir Festival, an event open to musicians from all six middle schools/junior highs of Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, Philipsburg-Osceola and State College school districts. This festival brought together over 200 students for two days of rehearsal and a combined band and choir concert on the evening of March 30 here at BEA.

Students qualifying for County Band

Julie Allen - Bassoon
Amber Barner - Bass Clarinet
Shane Besong - Percussion
Krista Biggans - Clarinet II
Sara Bowling - Alto Sax II
Zachary Deering - Alto Sax II
Kenneth Dupler III - Tuba
Ashley Gates - Flute II
Thomas Gordon - Trumpet I
Mallory Leupold - Trumpet II
Maggie Mehalko - Oboe I
Brandon Reese - Trumpet III
Brian Robison - Trumpet I
Nicole Rossman - Trombone II
Jessie Scrudders - French Horn I
Jess Simcisko - Trumpet III
Rachel Wallace - Flute I
Jenny Weston - Clarinet I
Coty Williams - Oboe II

Students qualifying for County Choir

Melanie Bytheway - Soprano
Anne Hoover - Soprano
Monica Maggs - Soprano

Deanalis Resto and Kale Thompson at the All-Eastern Choir Festival in Connecticut.

Shannon Singer - Soprano
Danielle Turner - Soprano
Abby Gettig - Alto
Taylor Kresovich - Alto
Laura Lutz - Alto
Maria Maggs - Alto
Nathan Benner - Tenor
Tyler Greer - Tenor
Doug Turner - Tenor
Joe Ciancarelli - Bass
Joshua Snyder - Bass
Brian Yearick - Bass

Spring Music Trip

We are also proud to announce this year's spring trip was to Boston, Massachusetts where our students had the opportunity to represent Bald Eagle Area as musicians and young adults as they experienced the beauty, history and culture of the New England area. Our journey took us not only to Boston, but to Salem, Gloucester and Sturbridge Village between April 25 and April 28.

Upcoming Music Calendar

Members of the community will also have many opportunities to hear and see these talented students in performance. The following is a calendar of events for May 2007.

- Elementary Band Fest, McConnellsburg, Friday, May 4
- Senior High Concert, High School Auditorium, May 8, 7 PM
- Grades 4-6 Band Concert, High School Auditorium, May 17, 7:30 PM
- Middle School Concert, High School Auditorium, May 20, 3 PM
- Elementary District Choral Concert, High School Auditorium, May 22, 7:30 PM
- Wingate Elementary K-3 Concert, High School Auditorium, May 30, 7 PM
- Jazz Night, High School Auditorium, May 31, 7 PM

Please come out and support these ensembles and keep Bald Eagle Music soaring!

Winnie Younkin, Director of Mathematics.

MATH- It's Beginning to Add Up!

An interview with Winnie Younkin, Director of Mathematics
at the Bald Eagle Area School District

Please Note: In 2006, the Board of Education authorized a comprehensive review of our mathematics program. Our Math Committee, under the leadership of Math Director Winnie Younkin, has recommended changing the elementary math program to a hands-on active learning method – Everyday Mathematics.

The Math Committee is recommending a change in our math program. Why is BEA changing the math program?

Improving mathematics education has been a national priority since the Russians launched Sputnik in 1957. Different programs have been promoted since then, many of which have not produced the desired outcomes. We live in a very information-rich, technologically-based era, with math becoming more and more important to our workplaces and daily lives. Indeed, math has become the universal language of our global society. The rate at which our world is changing is increasing as well. Our students will need and benefit from learning both the foundational skills and concepts and a range of more advanced math knowledge. Mathematical content and process knowledge develops over time through experiences that extend and build upon prior knowledge.

Recent research indicates that students are more likely to progress to advanced math courses if they take classes that are more demanding early in high school. In order for our students to have the knowledge, skills, and interest to succeed at the secondary level, a solid foundation with both the basics and the ability to problem solve needs to be formed at the K-6 level. The program we are currently using was developed prior to many of the changes that have occurred in the expectations for student achievement and how that is assessed.

How are the Bald Eagle Area School District's scores on the Pennsylvania State Math Assessments?

Bald Eagle students score well on Pennsylvania's mathematics assessment (PSSA). In 2006, 81% of our 3rd graders scored in the proficient or advanced range. Districts of varying size and demographics in Pennsylvania that are using Everyday Math had test scores in the 94% range in 3rd grade in 2006. Our scores show some decline over the grade levels, which has caused us to review the foundation we are providing. We also have some variance across the domains that suggest areas for growth. We are good, but are striving for continual improvement in areas that need more attention.

What improvements would you like to see and how will a new program help make this happen?

We'll know we're on the right track when our students have mastered the basics and can easily do the mental math required in everyday life. When kids use all of their short term memory (and fingers and toes) to figure out basic addition and subtraction (in the upper grades), there is not enough working memory left to do the

higher level thinking. Mastering the basics is essential. I would like to see our students be able to tackle complex problems with the mindset that they have the ability to solve them if they persevere. I also think that an active, relevant approach to mathematics is necessary so that our students enjoy, value, and pursue math, science, technology, and engineering fields of study.



Howard Elementary fifth grade students solve math problems at the board.



Math Committee members review mathematics material to decide on a new program.



Teachers listen to a presentation on the fundamentals of Everyday Mathematics.

The Everyday Math program has an excellent balance of basics and problem solving, with high levels of information for parents. The program consistently cycles back to prior concepts so that students do not learn something once and then it's done. The supporting hands-on tools that students use with the program are excellent. The program holds high expectations for students and is in line with or exceeds state and national standards.

How will you help teachers and students make the changes that will be necessary to change to Everyday Mathematics?

First of all, BEA teachers want to provide the best possible math program that is available. They have worked hard to keep on the cutting edge of other subjects, such as reading, and will do that with Everyday Mathematics, too. We need to provide them with the tools and they will make that happen. Our teachers and students will work together to make the new expectations of Everyday Math come alive in our classrooms throughout the district.

Our teachers will work with experienced trainers before, during, and after the changes. We will also provide support during grade level meetings and classroom visitations. Teachers will have a network of support for any questions or needs that might arise. We are proposing to begin implementing the program in grades K-2 so that students become familiar with the program prior to the transition in 3rd grade. Teachers and students will have all the resources necessary to make this change a success. We will also be holding parent information sessions so that parents are well informed of the components to the new program and what their children are learning at each grade level.

BEA voters to decide fate of tax question on May 15

On May 15, at the local primary election, the voters throughout the state will have an opportunity to vote for reducing taxes on approved homestead and farmstead properties by raising the earned income in the districts. In fact, the ballot question in Bald Eagle Area will ask this directly:

Do you favor the Bald Eagle Area School District imposing an additional 1% earned income tax? The revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be used to reduce school district taxes on qualified residential properties by an estimated \$338.00. The current school district earned income tax rate is 1.05%.

It is likely that many voters will only read the "increased tax" part of the question and immediately vote "NO." Our goal is not to tell you how to vote, but simply to try to present enough information to enable you to know how the tax shift will personally affect you and our Bald Eagle Area community.

What does it mean to you personally?

- If you are retired, with little or no earned income, and own your home, voting YES will decrease your property tax by \$338.00 this year and \$500.00 in future years.
- If you own your home and your (the homeowner's) earned income exceeds \$50,000, voting YES, will increase your total taxes by 1% of the amount above \$50,000 for you, at least until you retire.
- If you rent your home, voting YES will simply increase your tax 1% on your earned income.



Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if the voters disapprove the referendum?

The negative consequence would be that the approved homestead and farmstead property owners would not receive the property tax reduction. The Earned Income Tax rate would remain at 1.05% in the Bald Eagle Area School District, as it has been for the past few years.

Will the school district still be able to receive gaming revenues if the referendum is disapproved?

Yes. District voter approval will not decrease or increase the likelihood of receiving gaming revenues at some time in the future.

When will the first property tax reduction be seen if the majority of voters vote "Yes?"

Approved homestead and farmstead property owners would see the first reduction in the property tax bills mailed out this coming July 2007. Reductions will be \$338.00 this year and about \$500.00 beginning in 2008.

Will retirement benefits or social security be taxed with this new tax?

No. The 1% increase includes only what is considered earned income, which does not include payments received for retirement plans or social security.

How long will my homestead or farmstead exemption be valid?

Presently there is no expiration date for your approved exemption. The Centre County Assessor will establish a review procedure at some time in the future.

If I did not apply for the exemption this year, will there be another opportunity?

The last date to have applied for a reduction this year was March 1. Should the referendum be approved, property owners who did not apply will have another opportunity to apply for the homestead exemption that could provide for a reduction in 2008.

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