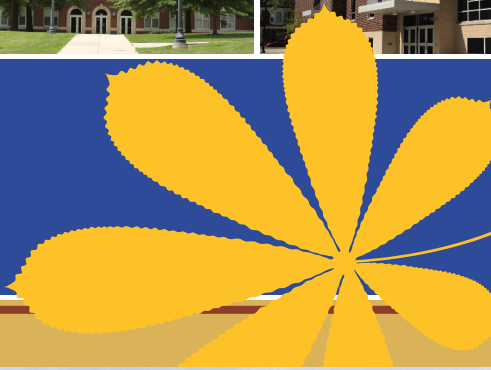




WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



insight

November 2013 | Volume 45, No. 2

Julia R. Vicente, Superintendent



2013 Opportunity House mural, "Dreaming for a Better Future - Soñar con un Futuro Mejor" is located on the side of a residence that faces the playground at Second and Beech Streets.

Art Teacher Michael Miller to be honored with 2013 Coggins Award

On Wednesday, November 13, 2013, the Yocum Institute for Arts Education will present the 2013 Coggins Award to local artist Mike Miller at Stirling Mansion. The Coggins Award, established in 2006, recognizes artists who embrace the values Jack Coggins exhibited: creativity, innovation and service to the Institute and the community. Miller has been heavily involved at the Institute for many years with the Annual Jr./Sr. High School Art exhibit and was nominated by mem-

bers of the artistic community in Berks County.

Michael L. Miller, a JSHS art teacher, earned his master's degree in Fine Art from the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. After showing his own artwork for several years in the Philadelphia area, he became interested in community-based art. This interest stemmed from the Mural Arts Program in Philadelphia. Over the past ten years, he has created collaborative murals

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A look inside...



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Meet Our New **TEACHERS**

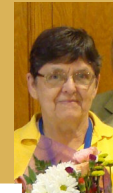
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Positive Behavior @ **WHEC**

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If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this publication, please contact:

Julia R. Vicente, Superintendent
610-374-0739, ext. 1106
jvicente@woyarea.org

meet our new teachers

Nicole Bahner ESL Teacher, WREC

Bahner acquired her bachelor's degree from Lebanon Valley College. Nicole holds the following PA Teaching Certifications: English as a Second Language Program Specialist and Elementary K-6. She has ESL Teaching experience in grades K through 6.

Cara Frederick Speech and Language Pathologist, WHEC

Frederick acquired her master's degree in Speech Pathology from Bloomsburg University. Cara holds the following credentials: PA Speech & Language Pathology License, American Speech Language and Hearing Association's Certificate of Clinical Competence, and PA Teaching Certification in Speech and Language Impaired. She has worked as a Speech and Language Pathologist in various settings inclusive of hospital, rehabilitation centers, and schools and has provided therapy to individuals from pediatric through adult.



Back Row Left to Right – Kristen Heist-Albright, Meredith Rosa, Cara Frederick, Bridget Mayberry. Seated – Nicole Bahner

Kristen Heist-Albright Art Teacher, WREC/WHEC

Heist-Albright received her master of fine arts degree from the University of Arizona. Kristen has previous experience working in the District as an Art substitute.

Melissa Kucharczuk Autistic Support Teacher, WHEC

Kucharczuk has PA Department of Education Teacher Certification in Elementary K-6 and Special Education N12. Her prior experience includes teaching in an Autistic Support Classroom.

Bridget Mayberry Student Assistance Specialist, District-wide

Mayberry holds a PA Dept. of Education Certification in the following areas: Home and School Visitor K-12 and Secondary School Counselor 7-12. Bridget has experience providing counseling in a variety of venues and most recently has worked as a student crisis counselor.

Meredith Rosa French Teacher, JSHS

Rosa acquired her bachelor's degree from Lafayette College majoring in French and Italian. Meredith has studied abroad in France and Italy.

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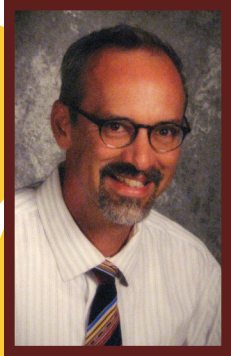


Melissa Kucharczuk

Congratulations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Michael Miller to be honored with 2013 Coggins Award



together with hundreds of people and many community organizations in the greater Reading area.

ground at Second and Beech Streets, the mural titled *Dreaming for a Better Future - Soñar con un Futuro Mejor* features a young girl holding the city of Reading in her arms. Surrounding her are more children who point up to a sky filled with stars. The mural is largely painted, but includes elements of glass mosaic as well.

Dreaming for a Better Future began in 2012 as a summer project organized by Pennsylvania Migrant Education in partnership with the Reading School District. This mural was designed by high school students from the PA Migrant Education Summer Program, under Miller's guidance. More than one hundred Migrant Education students participated in this program, under the leadership of the high school students. The project was completed by the students in Public Art Workshop, a course at

Miller's first collaborative art experience was with the Opportunity House in Reading in 2003. He coordinated a community mural with art students and day care children. It is only fitting that he just finished a landmark mural for the Opportunity House with the students from PA Migrant, Wyomissing Area High School's Public Art Workshop, and community volunteers.

The 2013 Opportunity House mural is located on the side of a residence that faces the play-

Wyomissing Area High School, and children of the Second Street Learning Center.

This project was sponsored by Pennsylvania Migrant Education, the Hawley and Myrtle Quier Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, the Wyomissing Area PTA and the Wyomissing Area School District.

The public is invited to the 2013 Coggins Award presentation and reception from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Stirling Mansion. Tickets are \$45 for members of the Institute and \$50 for non-members. Proceeds from this event benefit Yocum Institute for Arts Education. To purchase tickets or to make a contribution in honor of Michael Miller, please call the Institute at 610-376-1576 ext. 203.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

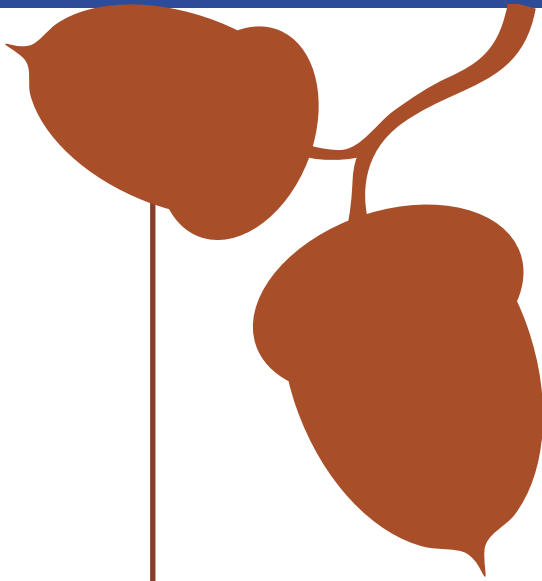
- November 8**
Schools Closed
Staff Inservice Day
- November 23**
SH Drama Presentation
- November 25 & 26**
Parent Conferences K-6
No school for K-6;
Early dismissal 7-12
- November 27-30**
December 1-2
Thanksgiving Holiday
Schools Closed

- December 3 – 13**
Winter Keystone Testing
- December 14**
Holiday Shoppe, 9 a.m. WHEC
- December 23 – January 1**
Winter Holiday – Schools
and Offices Closed
- January 20**
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Schools and Offices Closed
- February 14**
Schools Closed
Staff Inservice Day
- February 17**
Schools/Offices Closed
or Snow Make Up Day #1

WINTER CONCERTS

- JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**
Tuesday, December 10
7:30 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium
- WYOMISSING HILLS
ELEMENTARY CENTER**
Grade 3
Wednesday, December 11
6:30 p.m.
Grade 4
Thursday, December 19
6:30 p.m.

- SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**
Tuesday, December 17
7:30 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium
- WEST READING
ELEMENTARY**
Thursday, December 12
7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium



WYOMISSING HILLS
ELEMENTARY CENTER

On August 29, 2013, the students of WHEC helped start the year with a focus on the positive. The building used the day to begin implementing a school-wide positive behavior support program, designed around the concept of school rules. Staff at the Hills building worked together over the course of the last year to create a specific list of rules. The rules are as follows:

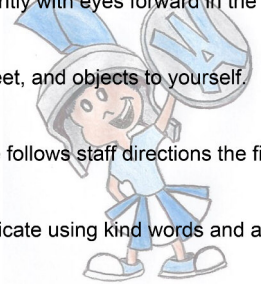
- W** – Walk silently with eyes forward in the hallway.
- H** – Hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Walk silently with eyes forward in the hallway.

Hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Everyone follows staff directions the first time.

Communicate using kind words and actions.



4

positive behavior rules at WHEC

- E** – Everyone follows staff directions the first time.
- C** – Communicate using kind words and actions.

Throughout the day, grade level teachers each taught a set of rules to the entire school. Students rotated from grade to grade, where they were presented with hands-on lessons teaching the WHEC rules.

Students were exposed to teachers in all grade levels using books, activities and even raps to teach the rules. At the end of each lesson, students received a stamp on a passport as proof of instruction in each rule.

At the end of the day, students in grades 1-4 gathered for an assembly. This assembly addressed how WHEC rule followers are rewarded. Students who follow the WHEC rules are given Spartan Spirit tickets. These tickets can be placed in a class jar or handed in for individualized classroom rewards. At the end of each month, the grade levels have an assembly to raffle off prizes to students who have received Spartan Spirit tickets. Some of the prizes thus far have included tickets to athletic events, Wyomissing t-shirts, Wyomissing pencils and erasers, and coupons for the book fair and local restaurants. The effects of this program are already noticeable. Students are reminding each other of the rules, demonstrating more appropriate behaviors, and showing enthusiasm over their hard-earned Spartan Spirit tickets! Thanks to the teachers and staff who positively reinforce their students every day, WHEC is filled with Spartan Spirit.

Congratulations

5
years

to the following employees who have earned service pins for their ...

Donna Bottiglieri
David Braley
Ivan Correa
Robert Cushman
Craig Fries
Amber Gockley
Ammon Heckler
Sarah Hungerford
Eileen John
Valerie Knauer
Jill Kuhn
Kristy Martin
Stephanie Myers
Rupa Patel
Tod Rickenbrode
Lori Rohrbach
Lori Scargle
Kristen Schaffer
Rebecca Sibbett



Left to right: Matt Stem, Lesa Butera, Carolyn Bamberger, Roseann Tice, Julie Vicente, Janice Duquette, Amber Gockley, and Jennifer Auman.

ROSEANN TICE

Following a 35-year career of dedicated service to Wyomissing Area School District, Roseann Tice made the difficult decision to retire. Although most recently serving as the attendance secretary, she filled many roles, duties, and seats as a support staff member in the JSHS. Opening day in-service activities for the 2013-14 school year featured a video montage of photos of her WASD family delivering messages of well wishes and goodbyes.

35
years

10
years

Joseph Alcaro
Glen Johnston
Michael Matz
Rose Sneeringer

15
years

Andrea Bensusan
Andrea Boerger
Meredith Emkey
Maria Gernert
Michael Hawkins
Sallyanne McNichol
David Skovera

20
years

Regina Barletta
Gwen Gibson
William Hartman
Robin Kline
Kim Lally
Susan Lehr
Joan Mathews



Erin Tyrrell, second-grade teacher and Crisanne Bansner, math teacher and department chairperson.

25
years

Crisanne Bansner
Erin Tyrrell

Reading Apprenticeship Taking JSHS by Storm



In classrooms all over the Junior/Senior High School these days, things have been looking a little different. One might see students investigating a difficult new concept in a biology textbook, making hypotheses about the possible meanings of new and unfamiliar words.

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Students in English class are filling novels with post-it notes that reveal their thinking while they read, only to later organize those post-its to determine the major themes of the novel. Social studies students are taking apart texts like the Declaration of Independence to find the most important words and phrases, leading them to the main ideas and underlying assumptions within the text. The root cause of all of this challenging student work: *Reading Apprenticeship*.

Reading Apprenticeship came to the JSHS in the 11-12 school year when teachers of 9th grade English, Biology and social studies became part of a national research project funded through an i3 grant for Innovations in Education. A group of seven teachers spent ten days at DeSales University learning how to truly apprentice their students in the processes of reading for their content area. Those seven teachers returned to implement practices in their classrooms that provide students with varied skills and strategies for reading that prepare them for the challenging readings they may encounter in college and

future careers. Students learn to collaborate to discuss texts, bring forward their thinking processes and comprehend a wide variety of high-level texts. Teachers from the first cohort include **Rob Cushman** (teacher leader), **Shirley Gashi**, **Melissa Devlin**, **Ryan McBrearty**, **BJ Dramby**, **Joe Allen**, and **Chris Kersikoski**.

This group of teachers found such great success with student achievement, motivation and ability to reach higher-order thinking that word spread. When the District gained an opportunity for more teachers to receive this professional development, another cohort of teachers came on board for the 2012 -2013 school year, including **Valerie Knauer**, **Julie Linsey** (teacher leader), **Michael Gallagher**, **Martin Mann**, **Michele Hatt-Ciemiewicz**, **Chris Stancheck**, and **Joan Mathews**. Yet another cohort of teachers signed on for the 2013-2014 school year, including **Jim Comerford** (teacher leader), **Jennifer Mangold**, **Erik Uliasz**, **Jim Delp**, **Mary Kate Bogart**, **Michele Filippini**, **Brenda Phillips**. Each cohort is led by a teacher who has the opportunity to network with other teacher leaders from across the state of Pennsylvania three times each year, sharing resources and learning new protocols for working with students and promoting collaboration among teachers. At this time, there are 20 trained teachers in the JSHS. Two of those teachers, **Rob Cushman** and **Valerie Knauer** have also delved deeper into the *Reading Apprenticeship* model to join the ranks of the facilitation teams for the professional development.

Letter from the Superintendent

The 2013-2014 school year is well underway after a very successful opening across the District. Late in August, we welcomed the entire staff back during our Opening Day session. Thanks to the generosity of VIST Bank and UFinancial, our staff members enjoyed a wide variety of delicious breakfast offerings, compliments of these two financial institutions. After a beautiful serenade of *You Lift Me*

wishes and fond memories as she transitions into retirement. For certain, there were few dry eyes by the end of the video! (see page 5).

During this time together, the 2013-2014 District focus was shared with staff. Building on the Four Pillars introduced last year (see figure left), which provided the framework to our district-wide initiatives, this year our focus centers on the people of the District. The people who comprise the Wyomissing Area School District are vitally important to our daily work with students, and the 'BEST in Action' exemplifies this. The 'BEST in Action' is a theme that focuses on everyone in our district and how they work to achieve the high goals that have been established for our schools. The 'BEST in Action' commits to ongoing professional development and growth, recognizes success, encourages innovation, celebrates, problem solves, and trusts ... Together.

Each staff member received a lapel pin imprinted with the 'BEST in Action' and was encouraged to place the pin on his/her own lanyard as a daily reminder of our focus. Each letter in the word 'BEST' bears special significance: **B**uilding Capacity, **E**mpowering Others, **S**trengthening Relationships, **T**ogether. As we continue to strategically align our work to the Four Pillars, we will create opportunities for our staff to be the 'BEST in Action' through their daily work.



Superintendent
Julia R. Vicente



Up by our own Camerata, the agenda for the morning began. We welcomed 14 new staff members to the Wyo family whose assignments span the entire District from the Hills to WREC to the Jr./Sr. High School. It is my sincerest hope that our new family members will find WASD a supportive and energizing place to work and grow professionally.

Each Opening Day, we recognize and honor staff who have achieved 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service with a pin and certificate. This year we had a very special recognition! After 35 years, **Rosanne Tice**, announced her retirement. We surprised her with a video montage of well

Reading Apprenticeship Taking JSHS by Storm continued from page 6

These teachers have now developed a strong collaborative network that involves monthly meetings for sharing successes in their classroom practice, discussing techniques of instruction for literacy across content areas, and addressing the challenges of how the *Reading Apprenticeship* framework helps to support working towards the rigor of the PA Core Standards.

Reading Apprenticeship isn't just a prescribed set of reading strategies, but

rather a framework for teaching and learning that celebrates the thinking students do as they inquire, explore and grapple with the complexities of texts. Teachers are able to leverage their expertise in their content areas to facilitate the learning students are doing, rather than just providing them with the answers. The transformation has been profound for many teachers, creating a truly student-centered, collaborative learning environment.



Advanced Placement Scholars

AP SCHOLAR – Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Jakim Aaron
Yusef Awan
Brian Bamberger
Adrianna Bates
Emma Bittner
Jonah Bowman
Danielle Carabello
Owen Chastka
June Chiango
Bennett Conlin
Cody Cox
Finnegan Daly
Jack Davis
Michael DeLucas
Thomas Dennis
Peter DiCarlo
Christine Ebdlahad
Caroline Endy
Morgan Everett
William Finnernan
Christine Gieringer
Sarah Hetrich
Daniel Izzo
Jacob Kennedy
Greta Koch
Stephanie Kotula
Dakota Lash
Amit Lift
Spencer Lloyd
Andrew Maguire
John Masano
Wyatt Metzger
Brigid Moser
Alexander Radaoui
Ricardo Saad
Peter Sayde
Caitlin Scargle
Aubrey Silverman
Kathryn Smith
Wade Stallone
Daniel Sweitzer
Alaina Swindell-Jones
Marcos Urena
Chris Walters
Skylar Weaver
Katherine Weidner
Abigail Wells
Jacob Whitmoyer

AP SCHOLAR WITH HONOR – Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Alexandra Bernosky
Kelsi Bickel
Christina Bowers
Colleen Boyle
Douglas Brown
Kylie Cush
Corinne Eidle
Alex Fisher
Samuel Gallen
Austin Kuhn
Scott McAvoy
Brinn McClennan
Lily Moran
Joshua Pappas
Connor Reedy
Elizabeth Tonneslan
Shannon Vail
Jenna Wickman

NATIONAL AP SCHOLAR – Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Remington Barrer
Audrey Blakely
Scott Goldberg
Nicholas Mellen
Keian Minnich
Shane Smith
Eric Waxler

AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION – Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Ryan Babb	Rodolfo Folino	Caroline Pattillo
Remington Barrer	Erica Gleason	Robert Pattillo
Audrey Blakely	Scott Goldberg	Kelly Petrarca
Samuel Blanchet	Kosho Hoshitsuki	Michael Pottieger
Ian Brackbill	Kevin Kusmierz	Shane Smith
Christopher Eaton	David Link	Eric Waxler
Caroline Edelman	Nicholas Mellen	Benjamin Wertz
Emma Fogel	Keian Minnich	

National Merit Scholarship

The Wyomissing Area School District is pleased to announce that **Emma Fogel** received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program in recognition of her outstanding academic promise.

According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year and is typically below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit® Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.



SPARTAN SPIRIT NEWS

Spartan Spirit News editors include from left to right:

Jaxon Gehman,
Ben Kuhn,
Ryan Kusmierz,
John Sachenik,
Matt Kauffman,
Sarah Gechter,
Caroline Allen,
Colleen Gieringer,
Maddie Menon,
Allie Messenger

Sixth Grade Reporters Pen Monthly Newsletter

After analyzing the extremely high fifth grade PSSA writing scores, Sixth-grade Teacher **Bridgette Kozuch** approached

WEST READING ELEMENTARY CENTER

Gifted Teacher **Kristin Allen**, with the idea of developing a student-written newsletter. Together they determined the format for the newsletter and selected students to participate.

The first monthly issue of *Spartan Spirit News*, WREC's school newsletter written and compiled by sixth grade students, was published October 2013. It provides a recap of recent events, reviews, a featured teacher, and puzzles. Recurring articles will include the

Sports Report which provides an update on the performance of the fifth and sixth grade teams in their recreation leagues and *He Said/She Said* that will focus on two sides of an issue.

The *Spartan Spirit News* reporters meet every Tuesday during the lunch and recess period to brainstorm ideas, review drafted articles and meet with each other and advisors, Kozuch and Allen. Kozuch said, "The ideas come straight from the students. This opportunity gives students a true purpose for their writing, and allows enrichment for our talented writers in sixth grade."

Spartan Spirit News will also appear on the WREC page of the District website, www.wyoarea.org.

School Store

PTA makes it easy for you to shop for Spartan apparel and accessories! The style and color of your choice is only a click away! Visit

www.campuscloz.com/wyomissingpta to view the selection. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Wyomissing Area PTA. Please contact Michele Fischetti at mipacific@aol.com if you have any questions or to place bulk orders.

Wyomissing apparel will be available for purchase at the

**PTA HOLIDAY SHOPPE
Saturday, December 14, 2013
Wyomissing Hills Elementary Ctr.
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

NOVEMBER 2013 | VOL. 45, NO. 2



OUR MISSION:

The Wyomissing Area School District, in partnership with parents and community, is committed to:

- educate all students to their fullest potential
- provide all students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in the 21st century
- encourage all students to be productive, responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

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