



WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

insight

July 2011 | Volume 43, No. 1

David P. Krem, Superintendent

Music in Our Schools at WHEC



Students and staff at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center have been enjoying Music In Our Schools luncheon performances during the month of March for the past eight years. The National Association for Music Education has designated March as Music In Our Schools Month. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about the importance of music education.

As part of this effort, Wyomissing Hills music teacher **Dawn Main** invites parents, friends, and relatives of Wyomissing families, faculty, and members of the community to perform for the students in the cafeteria during their lunches. The students and staff always look forward to this special program each year, which

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Above: **Erin Drebusenko** and **Michael Pham** play their clarinets for the Hills student body.



Kayla Koyste enjoys listening to her grandfather, **Neil Wright**, play the saxophone.

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

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Famous American for a Day

WYOMISSING HILLS
ELEMENTARY CENTER

by Danielle Metzger

During the weeks of Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing, the third-grade students at Wyomissing Hills enjoy learning about famous Americans who have made significant contributions to American history. It is a fabulous project that allows the students to express their creative abilities.

To begin, students choose the American that they would like to research. Next, they read all about their historical figure in books from the library and the classroom. Students also conduct research using resources accessed from the computer lab. During the research phase, they learn to take notes about important information regarding their historical figure. Once all the research is complete, students write a biography report.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the project for many students is completed in the afternoons after PSSA testing; students create a “replica” of their historical figure. Parent volunteers offer guidance as needed throughout this final process.

As a culmination to this activity, students dress up as their famous American and demonstrate their learning by sharing their reports with first- and second-graders. Most students really enjoy becoming their famous American for the day as they help bring history to life.

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Clockwise from top left:
Arthur Auchenbach as Paul Revere
Xavier Rodriguez as George Washington
Michael Kuhn as Christopher Columbus
Jonathan Kremer as Benjamin Franklin
Gabrielle Connelly as Abigail Adams
Serafina France-Tribe as Sacajawea



WBWA Wowed by Student Mural

The façade of the Western Berks Water Authority (WBWA) recently received a facelift, courtesy of art students from two local high schools. Water from the WBWA reaches both the Wyomissing Area and Governor Mifflin communities; therefore, the WBWA invited students and their teachers from the Public Art Workshop at Wyomissing Area and the Visual Art class at Governor Mifflin to collaborate on a mural project at the WBWA.

The 9-by-65-foot mural illustrates the story of where water comes from before it reaches the WBWA and how munici-



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pal water is used in our community after it is purified at the facility. In addition to its painted design, the mural features a mosaic composed of more than 50 square feet of hand-cut glass.

Public Art Workshop students, under the direction of art instructor **Michael Miller**, included: **Sonangeliz Abreu**, **Sally Abribat**, **Kevin Altman**, **Remington Barrer**, **Christina Bowers**, **Justin Causa**, **Quang Chu**, **Tyler Eisenhardt**, **Samuel Gallen**, **Dylan Hampton**, **Kalyssa Krick**, **Elijah Marshall**, **Menaiza Mata**, **Amneris Rivera**, **Lisa Rivera**, **Sharon Stein**, **Sonya Stephen**, **Madison Wagner**, **Yong Wang**, and **Alex York**.

The mural image will aid the staff of the WBWA during tours of the plant by illustrating the cycle of water to visitors.



WAEF

presents 2011 scholarships

Left to right: Kara Noon, Ryan Melcher, Joshua Hamsher, Sharon Stein, and Tionna McPhatter.

Missing from photo:
Sterling Rose Torres
and Teri Gallegos-Rosa

The 2011 Scholarship Reception was held on Wednesday, May 4, at which time the following scholarships were awarded to their respective recipients:

The Class of '59 Memorial Scholarship

One \$1,000 scholarship awarded to the senior with the most improved GPA between 9th and 12th grades.

2011 Winner –
Tionna McPhatter

The Women's Club of Wyomissing Scholarship

One \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a senior who has performed outstanding service to school and community, and who demonstrates financial need and academic achievement.

2011 Winner – **Kara Noon**

The Samuel R. Kozloff Scholarship

One \$1,600 scholarship awarded to a senior who has demonstrated achievement and interest in social studies or foreign languages.

2011 Winner – **Ryan Melcher**

The Class of 1946 Memorial Scholarship

One \$1,250 scholarship awarded to a meritorious member of the senior class who has shown academic and leadership potential.

2011 Winner – **Joshua Hamsher**

The West Reading High School Alumni Scholarship

One \$1,500 scholarship awarded to a senior who needs financial support and is a resident of the Borough of West Reading.

2011 Winner –
Sterling Torres

The Koullias Family Scholarship

One \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a senior planning to study electrical engineering, math, or science.

2011 Winner – **Sharon Stein**

The Gertrude K. McGonigle Adult Scholarship

This is a \$1,000 scholarship provided to an adult who is at least 24 years old and is re-entering education after at least a one-year lapse in time. This includes GED, vocational, baccalaureate, and masters programs.

2011 Winner –
Teri Gallegos-Rosa

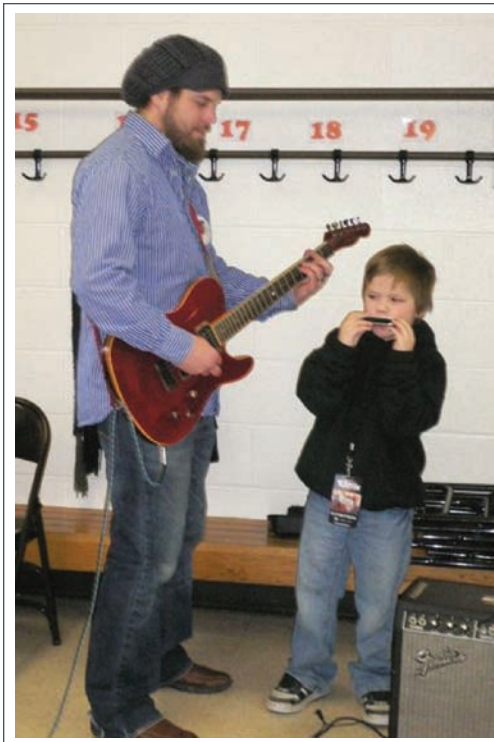
Music in Our Schools

continued from front page

exposes students to various instruments and different styles of music. In addition to the luncheon performances, students performed as part of the morning announcements.

This year, more than 30 performers volunteered their time and talents to the program. Notable local musicians, including **Chris Heslop**, **Neil Wright**, **Pete Specht**, **Crystal Kowalski**, and **Josh Taylor**, performed for the students. Although an emphasis is placed on live performances, this year the students were thrilled to listen to music provided by **DJ H. Vidal**. Thank you to all of the performers who have helped to make this program such a success!

Zeke Specht plays the harmonica while his father, **Pete Specht**, jams on guitar.



Jump Rope for Heart

by **Steven O'Neil**, contributor

In March 2011, Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center was involved in "Jump Rope for Heart." This is a great fundraiser that gives all proceeds to the American Heart Association. All donations collected are put toward heart research. This past year we doubled the amount of donations we were able to give to the American Heart Association. In 2010, \$2,000 dollars were raised; in 2011, students raised \$4,200. Physical education teachers **Mr. Blickley** and **Mr. O'Neil** are so proud of the effort of all the children at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. For Jump Rope for Heart we had one week where every student in the school did jump rope activities for an entire 45-minute physical education class. Not only did students raise money for a great cause, they had a great class in which they were all physically active and involved.



Madeleine Piersol,
WHEC first-grade student, jumps for heart!

WYO Area Student Chosen for All-National Honors Choir



Jennifer Helinek, a Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School senior, was selected for the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) All-National Honors Choir. Jennifer, a member of the Soprano II section, was chosen based on her choral achievements and her previous selection to Pennsylvania All-State Chorus and MENC All-Eastern Choir. The National Honors Choir is composed of 150 of the finest chorals singers from every state across the nation. Jennifer participated in the event in June at the JFK Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. When Jennifer was recognized at the April 26 school board meeting for her accomplishment, her choral director, **Mrs. Sharon Luyben**, pointed out that this was the first time that a student from Wyomissing Area has been selected for this honor.

NEWS tidbits

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History Bowl Team

The Wyomissing Area High School History Bowl team finished as the 54th best team in the country at the National History Bowl competition April 16, 2011, in Washington, D.C. Competing members of the team were **Wyatt Metzger**, **Brant Portner**, and **Emily Clapp**. The team competed in several prestigious venues, including Mount Vernon and the National Museum of American History.

YNOT Awards

Two Senior High Drama Club members were among the winners at the seventh annual YNOT Awards ceremony held on May 25, 2011. The event showcased student musical performances from the eight county school districts that participated. **Anna Smith** tied for the lead actress award, and **Jennifer Helinek** tied for the supporting actress award. They were recognized for their excellence in acting and characterization among a very talented field of nominees.

AAA Safety Video Contest

Students in Multimedia Tech placed first, second, and third in the AAA Safety Video Contest for 2011. First place team: Seniors **Sarah Lorish**, **Chelsea Pellicano**, **David Ciatto**, and **Skyler Lash**. Second place team: Juniors **Grayson Helm**, **Michael Gaza**, and **Jack Dando**. Third place team: Juniors **Beau Masano**, **Veronica Lloyd**, and

Anthony Nally. **Evan Mallon** won the Best Actor award at the 6th Annual 4500 Digital Video Competition Awards on April 23 at the Miller Center.

Wyomissing Area Chess Team Takes County Championship

The Wyomissing Area Chess Team, undefeated through the season, earned the Berks County Championship. The team then competed at the Pennsylvania State Championship, where it took seventh place in the U1000 Division. Two players, junior **Jacob Leed**, president of the team, and freshman **Robert Pattillo**, finished in the top 20 for individuals.

PA Stock Market Game

Wilberto Ortiz created and managed the top performing investment portfolio in the PA Stock Market Simulation. Wilberto's portfolio managed a 32 percent return during a 10-week period in this spring's game. His portfolio finished first out of 100 teams in the region and ninth in the state out of 4,170 teams. The Stock Market Simulation is played as a part of the academic and honors economics classes.

Japan Relief Efforts

Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School students, faculty, staff, and administration raised more than \$1,600 for the Red Cross Japan relief efforts. Donations were raised through a classroom roaming bake sale and Japan t-shirt sale.

where 2011 do we go from here?

Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School Seniors' Post-Graduation Plans

Sally Abribat
Aveda Institute

Kevin Altman
Franklin & Marshall College

Rajeandra Appadu
St. John's University, Queens

Elaine Arias
Temple University

Julio Arredondo
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Lewis Arredondo
Penn State University, Berks

Brandon Bahr
Temple University

Johnny Barnes III
Art School

Madison Barrer
Indiana University of PA

Brianna Bentz
Drexel University

Alexa Bickhart
Syracuse University

Creighton Bieber
Temple University

Alisha Boguslowski
Kutztown University

Ashlee Boguslowski
Temple University

John Bonino
University of Mary Washington

Ashley Bossler
Employment

Julianne Boyle
Duquesne University

Gregory Brown
University of San Diego

Seamus Byrne
University of Vermont

Victoria Cameron
Ursinus College

María Candal-Tribe
Haverford College

Quang Chu
Millersville University

David Ciatto
Northeastern University

Jessica Colón Garcia
Alvernia University

William Conlin IV
University of Wisconsin Colleges

Edgar Cruz Pedraza
Reading Area Community College

Mackenzie Cummings
Arizona State University

Rachael D'Addezio
Syracuse University

Marcus De Vos
Messiah College

Eric DeMarte
Shippensburg University

Erin Diaz
California University of PA

Sonya Dingeldein
Reading Area Community College

Joseph Dougherty II
Drexel University

Katie Duggan
Drexel University

Samantha Dutt
Reading Area Community College

Thomas Edelman
Boston University

Emily Evans
Arcadia University

Bethany Feinauer
Shippensburg University

Ian Galiyano
Kutztown University

Britnee Ganster
Edinboro University

Kathleen Gieringer
Alvernia University

Amanda Gonzalez
Penn State University, University Park

Justin Gonzalez Jr.
Reading Area Community College

Alex Grimm
Rollins College

Zachary Grimm
Employment

Dylan Hampton
Employment

Joshua Hamsher
University of Richmond

Kaitlyn Harris
Bridgewater College

Quinten Heinly
Coastal Carolina University

Daniel Helinek
Vanderbilt University

Jennifer Helinek
Williams College

Nick Hodgkins
Central Michigan University

Keito Hoshitsuki
University of Pittsburgh

Kyle Hummel
Apprenticeship

Victor Johnson
Barber School

Adrianne Jones
Reading Area Community College

Emily Kaag
Penn State University, Berks

Stuart Kase
Penn State University, University Park

Andrew Kaucher
Alvernia University

Alexander Keener
Marine Corps

Meredith Keller
Millersville University

Thomas Kelly
Berks Technical Institute

Justin Knarr
Employment

Mark Koslow
Duke University

Skyler Lash
Lafayette College

Jessica Lazo Quintana
Lehigh University

where 2011

do we go from here?

Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School Seniors' Post-Graduation Plans

Andrew Long
Reading Area Community College

Connor Longacre
Colorado State University

Sarah Lorish
West Chester University

Trevor Luyben
Penn State University, Berks

Evan Mallon
Temple University

Daniel Manderewicz
Albright College

Lizannette Martir
Reading Area Community College

Dylan Marz
Undecided

Julia Masano
University of Notre Dame

Shielese McCoy
Reading Area Community College

Peter McGowan
Penn State University, Erie

Tionna McPhatter
Messiah College

Ryan Melcher
George Washington University

Zachary Metz
Shippensburg University

Laila Muallem
Penn State, Jefferson Accelerated Medical Program

Derek Nally
Penn State University, University Park

Jyana Nanouh
Penn State University, Berks

Jennifer Neiman
Shippensburg University

Abena Nimako-Boateng
Temple University

Kara Noon
New York University

Alison Nugent
University of Delaware

Matthew Ohnsman
Temple University

Erin Paolini
University of Pittsburgh

Cassandra Papademetriou
Temple University

Yoham Peguero
Employment

Chelsea Pellicano
University of Delaware

Jennifer Pierce
Reading Area Community College

Shirley Poon
Penn State University, Berks

Kerina Prussman
Reading Area Community College

Brady Putt
Apprenticeship

Tyler Rank
Widener University

Katarina Rodriguez
Kutztown University

Maria Ruiz
Employment

Francisco Saillant
Military

Renella Sayers
Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus

Charles Settle
Undecided

Duval Singleton
Reading Area Community College

Jordan Skokowski
Widener University

Mary Stairiker
Millersville University

Sharon Stein
Drexel University

Shelby Strauss
University of South Carolina

Andrew Tetley
Penn State University, Berks

Day-Jour Thomas
Employment

Sterling Torres
Antonelli Institute

Ruthanne Tuke
Penn State University, Berks

Sharibel Ureña
Reading Area Community College

Erin Vail
American University

Blake Wagner
Bloomsburg University

Madison Wagner
Champlain College

Matthew Warner
Reading Area Community College

Corbin Weaver
Penn State University, University Park

Christopher Wellock
The Catholic University of America

Brian Wells
Mount St. Mary's University of Maryland

David Wert
Reading Area Community College

Stephanie Wert
University of Delaware

Thomas Zimpelman Jr.
Reading Area Community College

Garrett Zinn
Millersville University

employee SPOTLIGHT

ENGLISH TEACHER EARNS AWARD

Christopher Stanchek, high school English teacher, was recently awarded the John Huzzard Award by Millersville University. The John Huzzard Award is one of two writing awards presented annually to students enrolled in Millersville's graduate program.



FULBRIGHT JAPAN SELECTION

Michael Miller, high school art teacher, was selected to participate in the 2011 Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). He participated in the Joint Conference in San Francisco in May and traveled to Japan June 21 – July 5, 2011.



retirees RECOGNIZED

*Best wishes for a long, happy,
well-deserved retirement.*

The following dedicated employees retired at the end of the 2010-11 school year. Thank you for your many years of service.

Tammy Lobaugh, gifted teacher at Wyomissing Hills Elementary, retired after 19 years in education.

Carolyn Okla, grade 1 teacher at Wyomissing Hills Elementary, retired after 38 years in education, 15 at Wyomissing Area.

Richard Schlegel, custodian, served the students and staff at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center for 10 years.

Karl Schneiderhan, van driver, retired after eight school years; however, he will continue to serve the District as a substitute van driver.

Judy Simmons, JSHS food service worker and crossing guard at WREC, retired from the District after 27 years.



L to R: Carolyn Okla, Barbara Troxel, Betty Youndt, Judy Simmons, and Tammy Lobaugh.
Missing from photo: Richard Schlegel and Karl Schneiderhan.

Barbara Troxel, coordinator of Child Accounting and Central Registration, retired from the District Office after 20 years of service.

Betty A. Youndt, secretary to the JSHS principal, retired after 22 years with the District.

district news



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Every month for the past several years, West Reading Elementary students have been learning about and focusing on a different positive character trait in the Character Counts program. This year, students not only talked about those traits, but also lived them every day in their temporary "homes" within two area churches.

While the West Reading Elementary building is under construction, fifth grade has been housed at St. James Church in West Reading, while sixth-grade students have been spending their days at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Reading.

It is obvious that both school and church communities had to be flexible and accommodating during this time. However, there have been some very positive, pleasant, and unexpected lessons learned by both children and adults. Cooperation and tolerance quickly turned to mutual understanding and friendship as the church staff and members and school staff and students became "family."

Fifth-graders were welcomed to their new space with letters sent by the fifth grade students of Sacred Heart School, located just down the street. The students of Sacred Heart shared their playground space with West Reading students so that they could still have recess each day. Church staff, especially **Mr. Roy Kissinger**, custodian of St. James, made many space accommodations and adjustments, demonstrating respect and caring to their new neighbors. Fifth-grade students and staff were even treated to an ice cream party in May.

At the Greek Orthodox Church, the sixth-grade students learned quickly about Greek culture, often being treated to Greek artwork, language, traditions, and perhaps best of all, delicious Greek pastries that were generously shared.

Sts. Constantine and Helen runs a food pantry, distributing food to area families each month. Student council members had the opportunity to volunteer their time in March, setting up and staffing the food distribution while getting a firsthand look at citizenship in action.

In June, the church custodian, **Mr. Frank "the Greek" Petrakis**, prepared a delicious lunch of Greek-style chicken, beans, potatoes, and cookies and baklava for staff and students. West Reading employees were always invited to participate in church activities and charities, such as the blood drive benefiting the Keystone Blood Bank.

Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship: these are the character traits West Reading students and staff members strive to focus on every month. Thanks to their new friends, they have a great understanding of each of these traits in action.

mark your calendar

August 29

First Student Day

September 2

Schools Closed

September 5

Labor Day
Schools and Offices Closed

September 22

JSHS Open House
6:30 p.m.

September 24

Homecoming
1:30 p.m.

October 6

WREC Open House
7:00 p.m.

October 7 & 10

Staff Inservice Days
Schools Closed

October 13

WHEC Open House
6:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MICHELLE M. DAVIS
PRESIDENT

GREGORY L. PORTNER
VICE PRESIDENT

LAWRENCE A. FITZGERALD
TREASURER

CORINNE D. MASON
SECRETARY (NON-MEMBER)

CAROLYN M. BAMBERGER

ANGEL L. HELM

JOHN A. LARKIN

SCOTT C. PAINTER, ESQ.

LYNN T. SAKMANN

ANNE P. SELTZER

DAVID P. KREM (EX OFFICIO)

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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School Opens August 29

School Hours

WYOMISSING HILLS ELEMENTARY CENTER
GRADES K-4
8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

WEST READING ELEMENTARY CENTER
GRADES 5-6
8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

WYOMISSING AREA JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES 7-12
7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Bus Schedules

If you have not received your anticipated bus schedule in the mail by August 19, please contact the Transportation Department at 610-374-0739, ext. 1110 or 1101.

Cafeteria Prices

BREAKFAST:

ELEMENTARY \$1.45

SECONDARY \$1.55

REDUCED \$.30

MILK \$.55

LUNCH:

ELEMENTARY \$2.10

SECONDARY \$2.30 AND \$2.80

REDUCED \$.40

MILK \$.55

In order to qualify for free and reduced lunches, an application must be completed each school year. Applications are available at each school building office or online at

www.wyoarea.org,

click on Food Service Department link
OR CLICK HERE TO BE TAKEN
DIRECTLY TO THE APPLICATION