



Wyomissing Area School District

Insight

Eagles Visit WREC

Excitement is in the air at WREC. Literally! The excitement comes from way up high where eagles soar. In January, the fifth graders read three passages about our nation's symbol, the bald eagle. The students completed a text dependent analysis discovering how the bald eagle was endangered by harmful human activities that impacted the eagle's population. The pesticide DDT, power lines, and other human activities decreased the eagle's survival rate. Luckily, the government and many citizens worked to change those practices helping the eagles' numbers soar!

In addition to research, the students created artwork to collaborate on a bulletin board/museum that features many facts about bald eagles. WREC fifth graders currently follow live eagle cams in Hanover, PA and southwest Florida that provide a fascinating up close look at the eagle's life.

Continuing our eagle excitement, some birds visited WREC on February 24. Through a generous PTA mini-grant, the Carbon County Environmental Education Center brought hawks, owls, and a golden eagle to our gym. These ani-

mals were rescued and are cared for by the CCEEC. It was awesome to see the strong and powerful birds. The eagle's wing span was impressive! Finally, WREC students and teachers are anxiously awaiting the birth of two eaglets in Hanover, PA. The estimated due dates are March 24 and March 27. Check out the Eagle Cam! <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1592549&mode=2> and click on Game Commission.



A CCEEC employee shows students the wing span of an eagle.

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Spartans Got Talent

Cast

Rose Sneeringer, Kami Fecho and the WRECing Crew

Nick Fox & Colleen Vargo

Hana Mitchell & Ben Reber

Stephanie Myers & Mike Vecchio

Kelly Ferrandino, Lauren Gockley, Bridgette Kozuch, & Jennifer Mangold

Jacob Yoh

Joseph Alcaro & Peter Beck

Maryah Rudder & Michael Pham

Hilary Haubrich, Meghan Tierney, Teresa Wood, & Ginger Johnson

Building on the success of *Dancing with the Spartans*, this year's precursor fundraiser to the MiniTHON event was a resounding success. Rebranded as *Spartans Got Talent*, the show included nine acts consisting of faculty, administrators and students from across the District.

WREC teachers Kami Fecho and Rose Sneeringer returned with last year's student dancers and this year's 6th grade WRECing Crew to perform an exhibition to "Good to Be Alive" as the open-

ing act. Fecho and Sneeringer also served as guest judges on the panel with Jim Comerford, Joelle Ostrich and Chris Stanek.

The first place award went to the Principal Bobble-head Dance featuring Jennifer Mangold as Dr. Kuhn, Bridgette Kozuck as Dr. Babb, Lauren Gockley as Dr. Jones, and Kelly Ferrandino as Mr. Ferrandino. Senior Jacob Yoh won second place with a pop dance routine, and placing

third were sophomores Hana Mitchell and Ben Reber who performed a Valentine Dance Tango. The Judges' Award went to a pop dance mash-up routine featuring JSHS faculty Hilary Haubrich, Meghan Tierney, Teresa Wood and Ginger Johnson.

Principal Corey Jones and Susie Derr, English teacher, returned as emcees and Jessica Lengel, Director of Special Education conducted post-performance interviews with the contestants.



Jacob Yoh performed a pop dance.



Above: Lauren Gockley, Jennifer Mangold, Kelly Ferrandino, and Bridgette Kozuch performed the winning Principal Bobble-head Dance.



Left: Hana Mitchell and Ben Reber struck a pose in their Valentine's Dance tango.



Top left: Emcee Susie Derr; Peter Beck and Joe Alcaro lip synced to the Blues Brothers; Jessica Lengel interviewed the Judges' Award winners; Stephanie Myers and Mike Vecchio did a swing routine; and Kami Fecho, Rose Sneeringer and WRECing Crew members performed an exhibition.

Family Game Night

If you walked through the doors of either elementary school on the evening of Tuesday, February 2, you would have been struck by the aroma of pizza leading you to the sound of laughter and the sight of parents and students playing games. It was *Family Game Night* for a group of kindergartners through sixth graders. Students and family members enjoyed pizza and then spent up to two hours playing games including Hedbanz, Zingo, Boggle, Spot It,

Scrabble, and many more. In part, it was an evening to slow down the pace of life and just enjoy family and friends. Teachers, however, also recognize the academic benefits. Not only can playing games strengthen social skills, game playing may increase a child's logic, memory, and problem solving skills.

Family Game Night was hosted by Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Weidner, and Mrs. Aurentz at the WHEC and Mrs.

Easteadt and Mrs. Miller-Cush at WREC. Principal Corbett Babb visited both buildings to give parents an opportunity to learn more about and provide feedback on some of the programs in place that support students' academic success. Students did not leave empty handed that evening, but rather with a new book to take home and enjoy. The books were provided through Title I, a federal grant program. This family event was enjoyed by all who attended!



Academic Accolades

Geography Bee - For the 28th year, the National Geographic Society held its National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through the eighth grades in thousands of schools across the nation. The 2016 Bee, sponsored by Google, was won at the junior high level, for the second year-in-a-row by eighth grader, Matthew Seley. Matthew will advance to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. All school winners are eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$50,000 college scholarship, at the national competition in Washington, D.C. Fellow eighth-grader, Sam Baker was the first runner-up.

WREC's winner was sixth grader Caleb Taylor and at

WHEC Joseph Snyder took the top honor, runner-up was Symon Seyfert. Both are fourth graders.

Spelling Bee - For the second year in a row, Caroline Allen, grade 8, took top honors in the Spelling Bee. Runner-up was seventh grader Colin Howe. WREC's champion and runner-up were six graders Joel Wilkerson and Elise Wang respectively.

MATHCOUNTS - The JSHS team of Caroline Allen, Cerys Stratton-Brown, James Pottieger and Sarah Gechter won the 33rd annual regional Mathcounts competition held at Penn State Berks on February 6. Stratton-Brown won first place individually. The team is coached by Colleen Vargo and Betsy Santoro.

BCTC Recognition - Students of the Quarter

First Quarter

Alyssa Olmeda - Automotive Technology II
Saul Montoya - Business Management & Entrepreneurship
Quinn Hogue - Engineering Technology I
Allison Welch - Health Related Technology



Second Quarter

Dawson Rath - Service Occupations
Alyssa Olmeda - Automotive Technology
John Edwards - Carpentry
Olivia Cheskey - Cosmetology
Sabrina Quigg - Early Childhood Education



Colleen Vargo, Cerys Stratton-Brown, James Pottieger, Sarah Gechter, and Betsy Santoro.

Honor Societies Induct New Members

National Junior Honor Society

Caroline Allen
 Sarah Gechter
 Colleen Gieringer
 Max Hurleman
 Matt Kauffman
 Ben Kuhn
 Fanny Ortiz
 James Pottieger
 Mackenzie Reese
 Katie Riddle

National Honor Society

Seniors

Kate Brackbill
 Camryn Carwill
 Jack DeCintio
 Olivia Lazarchik
 Aidan Scargle
 Danielle Simons
 Amber Smith
 Henry Smychynsky

Juniors

Elizabeth Allen
 Monique Bristol
 McKenna Brower
 Michelle Chau
 Brian Cibulsky
 Ben Croft



Jessica DeMarte
 Thomas DiCarlo
 Faith Ellington
 Nathan Elzer
 Jesse Kaufmann
 Louis Kim
 Talia Kowalski
 Travis Melcher
 Nate Menon
 Mia Moyer
 Wesley Rosenberger
 Jolie Stallone
 Tori Stenbridge
 Erin Stephen
 Shelby Theisen
 Hannah Wagner
 Efstratios Yost



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Seated left to right: Maria Ziolkowski, Sandra Reese, Jennafer Reilly, Laurie Waxler. Standing: Susan Larkin, Scott Painter, George Zeppos, Ryan Redner, Christopher Heinly, Julia Vicente.

A Different Workout for Boys' Basketball

The varsity and junior varsity boys' basketball team spent the afternoon of their Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday off from school volunteering at the Greater Berks Food Bank in Spring Township. Joined by Coach Toph Miller, Assistant Coach Ryan Ludwig, and a few parents, the team packed, taped and lifted thousands of pounds of

food received from food drives during the holiday season.

Coach Miller said the idea came from a pre-season meeting with the parents as a way to help serve the community. A first-time experience for the team, the boys seemed to enjoy a different kind of workout and helping out!



Photo courtesy of Reading Eagle