



insight

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Julia R. Vicente, Superintendent

Art Teacher Named Finalist for PA Teacher of the Year 2013



Michele Hetrich



Michael Miller

Pennsylvania's Teacher of the Year program is co-sponsored by the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania chapter of the national State Teacher of the Year, which was founded in 1995. In May, Secretary of Education Ron Tomalis announced 12 finalists for Pennsylvania's 2013 Teacher of the Year award. Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School art teacher **Michael Miller** is among those 12.

According to Tomalis, "These finalists for Teacher of the Year, and many of the professionals in our schools, are dedicated to improving the learning environment for every student and inspiring students to reach for excellence. Teachers play a crucial role in the lives of their students and, as such, they have the responsibility of preparing students for a successful future,

both academically and personally."

Miller and the other 11 finalists were nominated by students, parents, colleagues, and members of the community in recognition of their

achievements in and outside the classroom. A member of the Wyomissing Area staff since 1999, Miller has coordinated many collaborative public artwork projects in the area, including the glass mosaic for the West Reading Elementary Center renovation, a mural at the Western Berks Water Authority depicting the story of water, landmark mural projects for Pennsylvania Migrant Education, and several murals for the Police Athletic League and Olivet Boys and Girls Club. Through his involvement in the Fulbright Japan Teacher Exchange for Education for Sustainable Development, he is currently coordinating two international art collaborations with schools in the United States and Japan centered on the theme of sustainability.

Miller was nominated by his colleagues

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A look inside...

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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@wyoarea.org



A “Ducky” Day at the Hills

Tuesday, June 5, did not start out as a usual day at Wyomissing Hills Elementary. When second-grade teacher **Kelly Keim** arrived at work, she saw a mother duck frantically circling an area of the parking lot and quickly discovered several ducklings had fallen into the storm drain. Although she

WYOMISSING HILLS
ELEMENTARY CENTER

could hear quacking, she couldn't see the ducklings because they were in the horizontal pipe between the two storm drains under the parking lot. Efforts to rescue them, including tempting them with popcorn and using cellphone apps with duck calls, were fruitless. **Benito Diaz**, WHEC custodian, called the District's Buildings and Grounds Department,

and workers **Barry Matz**, **Jack Kasopsky**, and **Jim Jackson** were sent to the rescue. After using a crowbar to remove the grates, Kasopsky and Jackson each entered a drain. With Matz lying on his stomach, dropping a towel down the drain each time a duckling emerged, the trio captured eight, one by one, and secured them in a cardboard box. Two additional stubborn ducklings evaded capture until **Jon Yorgey**, grounds foreman, suggested using a backpack blower to gently push them through the pipe to be rescued. The mother was finally reunited with her brood.

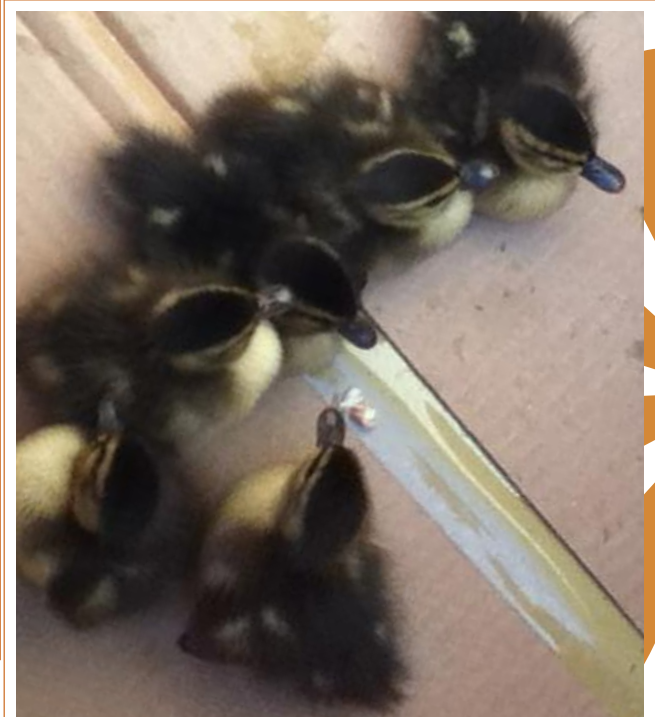
Lauren Yelinek, a teacher's aide at WHEC, owns a farm that boasts three ponds already inhabited with ducks. With the assistance of Lauren's grandmother and aunt, the mother duck was captured, and all were safely delivered to Lauren's farm to live happily ever after.

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RESCUE CREW

L to R: **Barry Matz**, **Benito Diaz**, **Jon Yorgey**, and **Jack Kasopsky**
Missing: **James Jackson**





Math Olympiad

L to R: Drew Feightner, Sophia Ortiz, Sammy Zechman, Paddy Mahon, Leah McAvoy, Annie Williams, Sam Botterbusch, Christopher Poon, Collin Messenger, Joe Cullen, Matthew Driben
MISSING: Jack Ambarian, Joey Ambarian

West Reading Elementary Center's Math Olympiad Team had another great year. Under the direction of **Kristin Allen**, the team earned a plaque

WEST READING ELEMENTARY CENTER

for "highest achievement." Their total team score was among the top 10 percent of all schools participating in Math Olympiad nationally. In the Pennsylvania Math League Competition, the team ranked third in

our region (made up of Berks, Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Lehigh counties) and 12th in the state out of 130 teams. Team members, whose scores counted toward the team score, were **Sam Botterbusch, Matthew Driben, Sammy Zechman, Sophia Ortiz, Christopher Poon, Paddy Mahon, Leah McAvoy, Jack Ambarian, Joey Ambarian, Joe Cullen, Drew Feightner, Collin Messenger, and Annie Williams.**

Teacher of the Year Finalist continued

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at the Jr./Sr. High School as Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012. **Kara Les**, the librarian at Wyomissing Hills Elementary, and **Michele Hetrich**, sixth-grade teacher at West Reading Elementary Center, were chosen by their faculties as Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012 in their respective buildings. District administration believed Miller had the credentials to compete at the state level and forwarded his application for consideration to the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year program. The winner will be announced in the fall.

Miller, Les, and Hetrich were recognized at the Board meeting on May 29, 2012, for being selected as Teacher of the Year representatives for their buildings. Each was presented with a certificate. In addition, Miller was presented with a citation from the office of State Representative Thomas Caltagirone. Christopher Winters, executive aide, presented the citation, saying that Miller is "the epitome of what we need in our schools to succeed in public education across the Commonwealth."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 27
First Student Day

August 31
Schools Closed

September 3
Labor Day
Schools and Offices Closed

September 20
Jr./Sr. High School
Open House 6:30 p.m.

October 4
WREC Open House 7:00 p.m.

October 5 & 8
Staff Inservice Days
Schools Closed

October 11
WHEC Open House 6:30 p.m.

October 13
Homecoming 1:30 p.m.



Do One Thing Collaborative Mural
2012

Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for Education for Sustainable Development

未来のために今できること 共同壁画制作
2012年
ESD日米教員プログラム

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Art Projects Spark Collaboration Between Wyomissing Area and Japanese Students

Art students from Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School collaborate with students from Washington, D.C. and Japan to create a mural focused on the theme of sustainability.

More than 80 students from Wyomissing Area High School's Art Department participated in **Do One Thing**, an art project that asks students to look at their personal resource consumption and form new habits that focus on sustainability.

The project came about when art teacher **Michael L. Miller** participated in the Fulbright-Japan Teacher Exchange for Education for Sustainable Development. Through this program, teachers from both countries met and discussed issues related to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The teachers were encouraged to design collaborative projects to use with their students. **Do One Thing** was created through this process.

Nearly 700 students in the following schools participated in the project:

- Morioka Chuo High School Iwate Prefecture, Japan
- Sakuraminami High School Chiba Prefecture, Japan
- Woodrow Wilson Public High School, Washington, D.C.
- Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School Wyomissing, PA

- Japanese students participating in the Japan-U.S. Youth Exchange Program for High School Students

The project began with student research in consumption and sustainability through a variety of topics, such as water, food, energy, materials, and waste. The research revealed many simple ways to approach these topics in a more sustainable way. The students considered their own habits and committed to a six-week change to their daily routines that would somehow be more sustainable. The students kept progress logs to document their personal commitments, measuring quantifiable data that was totaled at the conclusion of the project.

The project culminated with a collaborative mural. Each student involved in the project created a small artwork inspired by his or her personal sustainability-inspired change. The small works were created according to a master plan that determined some of the characteristics of each student's work. When completed, the individual works were photographed and exchanged via the Internet so the entire collection of small pieces could be assembled into a larger image by each school.

Senior students in **Susan Derr's** English classes collaborated with **Michael Miller's** art students and Japanese students in answering

WYOMISSING AREA
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

the Essential Question: How do our perceptions of peers from another country/culture differ from the true reality? The students completed two exchanges of written work to answer the question. The theme for the first exchange asked them to describe their ideas about what life is like for a typical teenager in the other country. They were to explain the major differences between the other teenager's life and their own. In the second exchange, the students described their life in their own country in

terms of their daily schedule, yearly schedule, interests, local area, home and family, confirming or dispelling preconceived ideas of teenage life in another country.

Participating schools included:

- 10th-Grade Oral Communication class, *Affiliated Upper and Lower Secondary Schools, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan*
- Art Majors 1,2, and 3, Essentials of Drawing, Public Art Workshop, and three Senior English classes, *Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School, Pennsylvania, USA*

Art students in the Essentials of Drawing course drew the portraits in the picture below. The students in the drawings are from both schools.

Vase Face Perception Portraits Writing Exchange



Farewell from the Superintendent

When I came to the Wyomissing Area School District I never imagined these years, the last of my career, would fly by so quickly. As we cannot predict what the future may bring, I have always believed what my parents taught me: do your best; put your best foot forward; make your mark on your work so that people can trust that when your name is associated with anything, they can be sure of the quality in the job. My parents are no longer with me, but I would like to think they would be pleased to know I have carried these values with me throughout my career in education.

I believe my team and I have accomplished a tremendous number of positive goals as we've moved forward in rebuilding this school system. We have reestablished Wyomissing Area's position as a nationally recognized public center for academic, athletic, and art education excellence. If you attended this year's graduation, you heard me speak of how the true secret in the success of this school district is the

community—not only the parents, but all members of the community actively participate in our schools. There exists a caring atmosphere, a focus on excellence that transcends the generations. Our students enjoy success and are willing to work and take advantage of the opportunities provided.

Often, we hear from parents who want to send their child to our schools in order to receive the benefits of our outstanding programs. We don't accept tuition students; and for move-ins, we advise them that this school system is hard work on the part of everyone. We make every effort to explain that there is no magical shot we can inject into their child that will make them be successful. It is the parents and the community that drive the schools. Therein lies the real magic.

I commend this community for the accomplishment of having developed a system designed to provide the children with the key factor for success—a caring, lov-



Superintendent David P. Krem retired on June 29, 2012.

ing, and supportive environment which values success. It has been my honor to lead this system, if only for a short few years. As I move into the next phase of my life I will be certain to follow the continued growth of Wyomissing Area School District and look forward to learning of the successes, which I am positive, will come to the children. Again, thank you and goodbye.

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School Opens August 27

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 22, please contact the Transportation Department at 610-374-0739, ext. 1110 or 1101.

CAFETERIA PRICES

Breakfast: Elementary \$1.50
Secondary \$1.60
Reduced \$.30

Lunch: Elementary \$2.15
Secondary \$2.35 and \$2.85
Reduced \$.40
Milk \$.60

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 via the Food Service Department link.



L to R: **Dorothy Lefever**, **Dr. Marcia Moyer**, **Michael Farrara**, **Carol King** and **Victoria Wilson**. Missing from photo: **Rita Belletti** and **Mary Hedbavny**

The following dedicated employees retired in the 2011-12 school year. The District wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude for their many years of service.

Dorothy E. Lefever, special education instructional aide at the Jr./Sr. High School, retired with 18 ½ years of service in the District.

Rita J. Belletti, English and ESL teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, retired after 13 years at Wyomissing Area.

Michael P. Farrara retired after serving Wyomissing Area for 33 years as an industrial arts teacher.

Mary E. Hedbavny, guidance counselor, retired after 11 years at WREC.

2012 RETIREES recognized

Carol A. King retired after 11 years of service to the District. She served first as a library aide and then as the librarian at the Jr./Sr. High School.

Dr. Marcia L. Moyer served the District for 10 years in various capacities, including reading supervisor, kindergarten teacher, and reading specialist.

Victoria R. Wilson, school psychologist at WHEC, retired with 19 years of service to the Wyomissing Area School District.

David P. Krem, superintendent, retired after 39 years in various roles in education and two years of service to Wyomissing Area.

Best wishes for a long, happy, well-deserved retirement to all!



WAEF

Front – L to R: Elaine Holehan, Cara Wojciechowski, Christina Cesarz, Colleen O'Rourke

Back – L to R: Sonya Stephen, Brant Portner, Juliet Bonino, Marilyn Smith

Missing from photo: Stephanie Deem and Ashley Morris

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presents 2012 scholarships

The 2012 Scholarship Reception was held on Wednesday, May 3, 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.

2012 WINNER –
ASHLEY MORRIS

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.

2012 WINNER –
CARA WOJCIECHOWSKI

The Samuel R. Kozloff Scholarship

One \$1,500 scholarship awarded to a senior who has demonstrated achievement and interest in social studies or foreign languages.

2012 WINNER –
SONYA STEPHEN

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.

2012 WINNER –
COLLEEN O'ROURKE

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.

2012 WINNER –
CHRISTINA CESARZ

The Koullias Family Scholarship

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

2012 WINNER –
BRANT PORTNER

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.

2012 WINNER –
MARILYN SMITH

PTA Scholarship

One \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a senior who will be majoring in education and/or a child related field in college. A GPA of at

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congratulations!

to the following students for their achievements...

Berks Career & Technology Center

The following students were recognized for their achievements at BCTC at the Board meeting on May 29, 2012:

Students of the Quarter

FIRST QUARTER

Tyler Simons –
Automotive Repair

SECOND QUARTER

Matt Brackbill – Advertising
Art and Design Technology

Nick Galiyano –
Welding Technology

Yashira Santos –
Cabinetmaking

THIRD QUARTER

Nick Galiyano –
Welding Technology

Jasmin Rosado – Carpentry

Adeline Santana –
Cosmetology II

National Technical Honor Society Member

Matt Brackbill

Individual Award Winners

Gold Medal Winner for the Health Occupations Students of America State Competition

Gabrielle Joyal –
Health Occupations

First Place Pennsylvania Regional High School Computer Fair and Second Place Pennsylvania State High School Computer Fair

Matt Brackbill – Graphic Design

The Future of Computing

Caroline Pattillo, grade 10, competed in “The Future of Computing,” a high school student project competition sponsored by the Temple University Department of Computer and Information Sciences. Her project, the Wyomissing Student Council Website, was awarded a bronze medal in the High School Division. Caroline’s purpose in creating the website was to solve a communication problem between Student Council members and the school community. The website features three main components that facilitate communication: News Feed, Feedback Section, and Database. Her teacher and mentor, **Curt Minich**, said, “I enjoyed working with Caroline. She displayed tremendous initiative and dedication to follow through with this complicated project. She demonstrated great project management, independent research, and communication and presentation skills to design and produce a deserving award-winning website. She’s proven herself as a technology expert who can communicate with laymen to meet their real-world needs!”

least 3.0 is required, along with strength of character and altruism.

2012 WINNER –
STEPHANIE DEEM

WAEF Scholarship

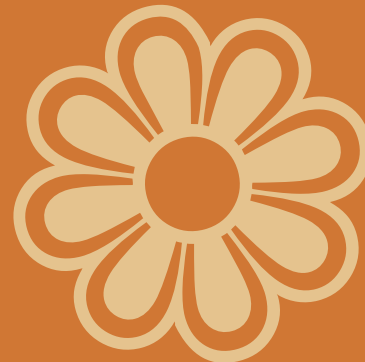
One \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a student who has at least a 3.0 GPA and plans to continue his or her education in the field of Fine Arts, Sports & Wellness or Technology.

2012 WINNER –
ELAINE HOLEHAN

Sean M. Flannery Scholarship

A \$500 scholarship awarded to a senior who demonstrates leadership, has been rostered on a varsity sport and is in good academic and disciplinary standing. This is the first year this scholarship has been awarded.

2012 WINNER –
JULIET BONINO



where 2012

do we go from here?

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

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Soniangeliz Abreu
Reading Area Community College

Alexander Altman
Bucknell University

De'Aira Anderson
The University of Tampa

Dylan Anthony
Tulane University

Ninoska Aristy
University of Richmond

Alan Arriola
Drexel University

Andrea Bailey
University of South Florida, Tampa

Tyler Bell
College of William & Mary

Erin Benz
Washington College

Marcus Betances
Reading Area Community College

Nicholas Blanchet
Boston College

Juliet Bonino
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Alexandra Bowman
Philadelphia University

Matthew Brackbill
Grove City College

Gregory Brown
University of Virginia

Sarah Bucolo
Goucher College

Keely Calvaresi
Penn State University, Berks Campus

Emma Carter
DeSales University

Christina Cesarz
Duke University

Madison Chaffe
Millersville University

Jessica Christ
Employment

Emily Clapp
American University

Tyler Clore
Moravian College

Eliseo Cordero III
Unknown

Cristopher Cortez
Reading Area Community College

Maria Cosma
Penn State University, Schreyer Honors
College

Erika Dahl
Widener University

Jack Dando
San Diego State University

Stephanie Deem
The University of Scranton

Morgan Dillon
Johnson & Wales University

Krysten Dmochowski
Elizabethtown College

Hailey Doyle
Employment

Kendal Duncan
Boston University

Tyler Eisenhardt
Job Corp

Jessica Ertel
Gettysburg College

Jesenia Fischer
Berks Career & Technology -
Horticulture Program

Skyler Fisher
United States Navy

Alexander Fry
University of Mississippi

Charlotte Gaines
West Virginia University

Alexis Garapola
Pennsylvania State University, University
Park

Michael Gaza
Gettysburg College

Nicholas Gdowik
Penn State University, Berks Campus

Alex Geissler
Shippensburg University

Jason Gentry
The University of Alabama

Madelyn Geyer
University of Pittsburgh

Lindsay Godown
Kutztown University

Nicole Green
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Sonja Griesemer
Drexel University

Brittany Hartman
Reading Area Community College

Emelie Harvey
Philadelphia Biblical University

Alyssa Heck
West Virginia University

Arizona Hedrick
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Grayson Helm
Lawrenceville/Bucknell University

Jessica Hernandez
Reading Area Community College

Nathan Hertzog
Millersville University

Kyra Hierl
Temple University

Dylan Hogue
Rochester Institute of Technology

Elaine Holehan
Bryn Mawr College

Branden Jambeau
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Katie Johnson
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

Richard Johnston
Pennsylvania State University, Berks
Campus

Thomas Kelly
Clarion University

Madison Key
United States Military

Theodore Kolva III
Boston College

Austin Koppenhaver
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University,
Florida

Kalyssa Krick
Unknown

Macie Kurelia
University of Florida

Katherine Landis
Juniata College

Alison Lashinsky
Clarion University

Jacob Leed
George Mason University

Hannah Link-Fitzgerald
Temple University

Veronica Lloyd
Lafayette College

DeQuinn Lockhart
Employment

Paul Lutz
Drexel University

Kyle Manbeck
Elizabethtown College

Elijah Marshall
Employment

Beau Masano
Susquehanna University

Sally McAvoy
Bloomsburg University

Shakair McCain
Culinary Institute of Philadelphia

Elizabeth McDonald
Reading Area Community College

Kathryn McElwee
Juniata College

Lawrence Medaglia
Hiram G. Andrews

Chelsea Melcher
Elizabethtown College

Aaron Merwine
Unknown

Brock Molinaro
Saint Joseph's University

Ashley Morris
Arcadia University

Zachary Moser
Gettysburg College

Ashly Moyer
West Virginia University

Brennan Moyer
Pennsylvania State University,
Berks Campus

Anthony Nally
University of South Florida,
Tampa

Lynn Nguyen
Alvernia University

Christian Nimako-Boateng
Pennsylvania State University,
Berks Campus

Andrew Ondra
Employment

Ryan O'Neil
Employment

Colleen O'Rourke
Pennsylvania State University,
University Park -
Penn State-Jefferson
Accelerated Medical Program

Wilberto Ortiz
Employment

Jillian Painter
East Stroudsburg University

Matthew Perez
Reading Area Community
College

Rachel Pleet
University of Delaware

Tyreik Porter
Employment

Brant Portner
Pennsylvania State University,
Berks Campus

Tyler Prussman
United States Military

Brandon Racine
Kutztown University

Cory Rank
York College of Pennsylvania

Coryn Rank
Clarion University

Sarah Reusing
Bloomsburg University

David Reyes
Arcadia University

Alvin Rineer
Employment

Kevin Rivera
Employment

Hayley Robinson
George Washington University

Sierra Rodriguez
La Salle University

Iris Rojas-Ocasio
Berks Technical Institute

Jasmin Rosado
Thaddeus Stevens College of
Technology

Limarys Rosado
Community College of
Philadelphia

Olivia Rothermel
University of Tennessee

Elizabeth Rush
Pennsylvania State University,
University Park

Imane Saif
Unknown

Allison Salsano
Reading Area Community
College

Danielle Sampson
Kutztown University

Sandro Sanchez II
United States Marine Corps

Colin Sanders
Reading Area Community
College

Adeline Santana
Employment

Andrew Schlegel
Rowan University

Billy Schlouch
Berks Career and Technology
- Service Occupations
Program

Jordan Schwambach
West Virginia University

Jaime Seaman
Unknown

Rachel Seibert
Pennsylvania State University,
University Park

Charles Settle
Employment

Nathan Shaffer
Employment

Colin Shecktor
Kutztown University

Anna Smith
Franklin & Marshall College

Yuliana Solorio
Reading Area Community
College

Derek Stavarski
Gettysburg College

Gloria Steele-Pizarro
Reading Area Community
College

Sonya Stephen
University of Auckland

Lindsay Strause
West Chester University

Marina-Margot Tarrach
Reading Area Community College

Eric Thomas Taylor, Jr.
Robert Morris University

Heather Tellez
University of Pittsburgh

Nathan Tietbohl
Elon University

Dezera Unger
Reading Area Community College

Livia Ungurean
Messiah College

Ali Van Sickle
Edison State College

Joshua Vazquez
Undecided

Daniel Weaver
Lock Haven University

Chelsea Webb
Moravian College

Ian Weeber
Millersville University

Samuel Weidner
Wake Forrest University

Megan Wenger
Rutgers University

Madelyn White
The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill

Malcolm White
Delaware Valley College

Mary Whitmoyer
Franklin & Marshall College

Brian Williams
Ferrum College

Miranda Wilson
Employment

Cara Wojciechowski
Pennsylvania State University,
University Park

Carly Wojciechowski
Millersville University

Abigail Wolf
Albright College

Ann Wondowski
Millersville University

Alex York
Undecided

Christopher York
Employment

Tess Young
Albright College

In the News

Two Wyomissing Area teachers were highlighted in May in the Reading Eagle's weekly feature "In Our Schools." **Michael P. Farrara**, a technology education teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, is retiring this year after more than 33 years with the district. Farrara stated in the article that appeared May 7, 2012, the best part of his job was "...working with young people and seeing their excitement when they learn something new and see the quality they are capable of producing."

Rose Sneeringer, sixth-grade teacher at West Reading Elementary Center, was featured May 21, 2012. In her interview with the *Reading Eagle*, she shared her funniest classroom moment. "When I first taught at West Reading Elementary, I wanted to motivate my students to read more. I gave them a challenge—Daily Independent Reading Time (DIRT)—to see who could read the most books



Rose Sneeringer

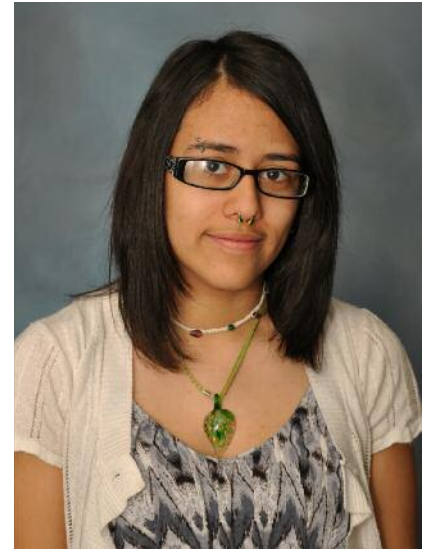
Reading Eagle: Ryan McFadden

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in the school year. When they asked what the prize would be, I promised I would make the winners eat "dirt," a not-so-familiar dessert back then. There was a horrified look on their faces that puzzled me until I explained that it was a yummy dessert made with Oreo cookie crumbs, chocolate pudding, and gummy worms! The class and I had a good laugh over that incident, and it still makes me smile."

Jasmin Rosado, grade 12, was among the members of the Class of 2012 featured in the Spring/Summer 2012 issue of *Career Connections*, a publication of Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC). Rosado studied carpentry at the West Campus. She has been accepted to continue her studies at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. She said of her education at the career center, "BCTC is a good way to try out different careers and gain the knowledge of your dream career at an early age. In my three years at BCTC, I have already learned enough to begin my career."

The 12th annual edition of the *Reading Eagle's* "Berks Best" featured WASH senior **Maria Cosma** as the winner in the social studies category. Maria's family moved from Romania to Wyomissing in 2001, when she was seven years old. Throughout her young life she was immersed in sharing her Romanian culture with classmates and newly learned American culture with her family. Maria was quoted in her interview as saying,



Jasmin Rosado



Maria Cosma

Reading Eagle: Lauren A. Little

"Social studies is my passion, the one thing I plan to dedicate the rest of my life to, whether it will be as an economist, a politician, or a human rights lawyer." She has been accepted to Schreyer Honors College, Penn State University, to pursue her education.

Wyomissing Area also had two finalists in the business category: **Theodore Kolva** and **Madelyn White**.

Wyomissing Area Ranks in Publications

Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School has recently received high rankings in two separate publications. **U.S. News & World Report listed Wyomissing Area as fifth in Pennsylvania and 427th across the nation in its 2012 edition of the “Best High Schools” in the country.**

During the ranking process, 21,776 public high schools from 49 states and the District of Columbia were analyzed. A three-step process is used to determine the Best High Schools. The first two steps make sure the schools are serving all their students well, using performance on state proficiency tests as the benchmarks. The third step determines how well prepared students are for college-level work using the Advance Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) test data as benchmarks.

Step 1 assesses whether each school’s students were performing better than statistically expected by reviewing reading and math results on each state’s proficiency tests (PSSAs for Pennsylvania). The percentage of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in the school was then factored in to identify the schools that were performing better than statistically expected.

Step 2 determines whether the disadvantaged students in the schools who passed Step 1 were performing better than average for similar students in the state. Those schools whose math and reading proficiency rates for disadvantaged students were performing better than the statewide average for these student groups advanced to Step 3.

Step 3 measured which schools produced the best college-level achievement for the highest percentage of their students using a “college readiness index.” The index is based on the school’s AP or IB participation rate (the number of 12th-grade students in the 2009-2010 school year who took at least one AP or IB test before or during their senior year, divided by the number of 12th-graders) and how well the students scored on the tests. The quality-adjusted AP or IB participation is the number of 12th-grade students in the 2009-2010 academic year who took and passed (received an AP score of 3 or higher or an IB score of 4 or higher) at least one of the tests before or during their senior year, divided by the number of 12th-graders at that school. Any individual AP or IB subject was considered when determining if a student took or passed at least one test. The quality-adjusted participation rate was weighted 75 percent in the calculation, and the simple AP or IB participation rate was weighted 25 percent. The test that was taken by the most students at a particular school was used to calculate the school’s college readiness index.

Wyomissing Area was also awarded a Gold Medal, having passed Steps 1 and 2 and having a college readiness index above the median benchmark.

The Washington Post ranked Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School as the top school in Pennsylvania and 193rd in the nation in its “High School Challenge.” The Challenge Index rating of public high schools was started in 1998 when reporter Jay Mathews noticed that some teachers



proved that average students could thrive in AP, IB, and AICE courses if given extra time and encouragement. In the Challenge Index, Mathews uses a measure of college-level test participation simple enough for readers to calculate the ratings of their neighborhood schools. He divides the number of AP, IB, and AICE exams at each school by the number of graduating seniors. The current ranking reflected the number of college-level tests given at schools in 2011.



District Students Garner Awards in PTA Reflections Program

Each year, the PTA Reflections Program challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. This year's theme was "Diversity Means...". In late October, students submitted artwork to our local PTA. These works were judged at the local level and the winning entries advanced to the district/ region level. Top entries are then forwarded to the next level (state PTA). Lastly, top state award-winning entries advance to the national level of judging. The announcement of national Reflections Program award winners occurs in May each year.

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This year's winners at the regional level were invited to attend a Reflections Awards Ceremony on March 3, 2012. At that time they received their placements and awards. All regional winners were advanced to the State level. Only first place at the State level advanced to the National level.

Congratulations to the following winners and specifically to **Robert Pattillo**, grade 10, whose work placed 3rd at the State level. State winners are posted on the Pennsylvania PTA website as well. The state of Pennsylvania has over 15,000 entries and our region (Region 13) includes 73 local PTA programs with over 3000 of those entries! The state level of judging includes all the



1st place entries from the all the regional PTAs. *****Bravo to our five regional winners!**

The submissions and awards were on display in the spring Wyomissing Area School District Art Show at the Jr./Sr. High School.

LITERATURE:

Alex Potcovaru, Grade 10

1st place –
Local PTA (senior division)
Winner –
District PTA (senior division)
*****1st place winner –**
Region 13 PTA (senior division)

Robert Pattillo, Grade 10

2nd place – Local PTA (senior division)
Winner –
District PTA (senior division)
*****2nd place winner –**
Region 13 PTA (senior division)
*****3rd place winner –**
State PTA (senior division)

*****Regional Winners**

MUSICAL COMPOSITION:

Rainer Aristy, Grade 11

1st place – Local PTA (senior division)
Winner – District PTA (senior division)
*****1st place winner –** Region 13 PTA (senior division)

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Sydney Lentz, Grade 6

1st place – Local PTA (intermediate division)

Destiny Staboleski, Grade 6

2nd place – Local PTA (intermediate division)

VISUAL ARTS:

Artie Auchenbach, Grade 4

1st place – Local PTA (intermediate division)

Samantha Zechman, Grade 5

Tied 2nd place – Local PTA (intermediate division)
Winner – District PTA (intermediate division)
2nd place winner ******* – Region 13 PTA (intermediate division)

Letter from the Superintendent

The Wyomissing Area School District enjoys a strong sense of pride in our excellence in academics, the arts and athletics, celebrates traditions making us uniquely Wyomissing, treasures our students who walk in our hallways and learn in our classrooms, honors our faculty and staff who dedicate their time to our district for its betterment, and applauds the community support of our district endeavors, staff and students. Recognized as one of the best school districts in the state of Pennsylvania, we strive to be a benefit not only to our students and families but to the greater community, also.

The value of a Wyomissing Area education goes beyond high test scores, outstanding college acceptance rates, and workforce preparedness. A Wyomissing Area education is about engaging the whole person through building healthy relationships, encour-

aging students to grow and stretch academically, and developing skills for life. We are grateful to all who contribute to the education of our students including our teachers and staff, school board members, administrators, parents and guardians, and our community members.

It is truly my pleasure and honor to lead the Wyomissing Area School District as Superintendent. Our community is full of energetic, creative, passionate, and dedicated individuals who are committed to ensuring our students receive the best educational opportunities while attending our schools. Thank you for your support of our school district and for your continued investment in our most important resource – the children of West Reading and Wyomissing boroughs. I look forward to partnering with you as we move forward!



PTA Reflections Program continued

Morgan Dietrich, Grade 3
Tied 2nd place – Local PTA
(intermediate division)

Kathryn Ziolkowski, Grade 4
3rd place – Local PTA
(intermediate division)

Keira Auchenbach, Grade 2
1st place – Local PTA
(primary division)
Winner – District PTA
(primary division)
***3rd place winner – Region 13 PTA
(primary division)

Ainsley Quinter, Grade 2
2nd place – Local PTA
(primary division)

William Auchenbach, Grade 1
3rd place – Local PTA
(primary division)

FILM PRODUCTION:
Carly Gaines, Grade 12
1st place – Local PTA (senior division)

Chelsea Webb, Grade 12
Tied 2nd place – Local PTA
(senior division)

Elaine Holehan, Grade 12
Tied 2nd place – Local PTA
(senior division)

Stephanie Kotula, Grade 11
3rd place – Local PTA (senior division)



In April 2012, this billboard was posted at Granite Point to announce Wyomissing Area's participation in the HeartSAFE program.

HeartSAFE

The goal of HeartSAFE Berks County is “to improve the survivability of sudden cardiac arrest victims living and working in the county.” In February, Jr./Sr. High School Nurse **Sally McNichol** met with Dr. Michael Koslow and representatives from the “Friends of The Reading Hospital and Medical Center.” Their HeartSAFE program is working with every high school in Berks County to make Automated External Defibrillators (AED’s) easily accessible throughout the school and to teach the school community to perform CPR and to use an AED. Recently, there has been more student athletes who have died from an

electrical cardiac problem that perhaps could have been saved if an AED was readily available and someone nearby trained to use it. In keeping with Dr. Koslow’s desire to teach all senior students in Berks County how to do CPR and use an AED before they graduate, a team of instructors from Reading Hospital trained the senior class on March 13, on the skills necessary to perform CPR and use an AED.

During a review of our existing AED’s and their placement throughout the Jr./Sr. High School complex, it was determined that we could benefit from two additional AED’s, a wall-mounted cabinet and better signage, all of which

was provided free of charge from HeartSAFE Berks County. AED’s can be now be found in the auditorium, outside the new gymnasium, outside the old gymnasium, in the hallway outside the Community Board Room, one in the Field House, and two circulating throughout the athletic fields for use by the athletic training staff during sporting events.

Following the review of all Berks County high schools, the HeartSAFE program will begin assessing equipment needs at elementary and middle schools.

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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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