

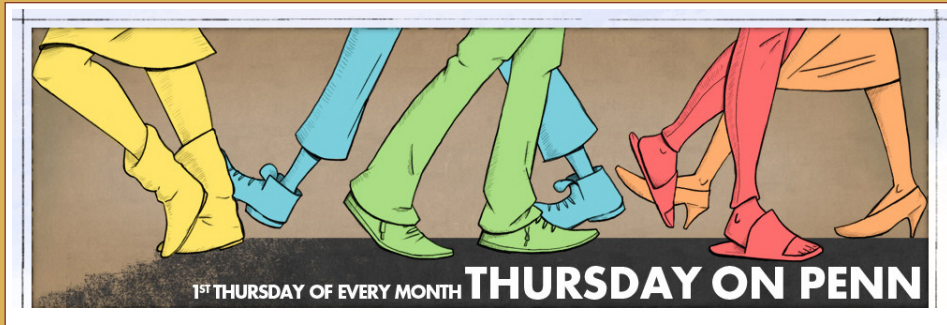


# insight

November 2012 | Volume 44, No. 2

Julia R. Vicente, Superintendent

## West Reading Merchants Support Sixth Grade Camp Fundraiser



Sixth grade parents **Stephanie Zechman** and **Kristen Shimp** organized a fundraiser to benefit the 6th Grade Camp Conrad Weiser trip. As part of the “Penn Avenue First Thursday”

### WEST READING ELEMENTARY CENTER

promotion, a number of Penn Avenue merchants donated 10-15% of their sales from the evening of September 6, 2012 to defray the cost of the trip. According to **Principal Corbett Babb**, “It is a win-win situation, as both our students and local businesses who form our district tax base, benefit.”

Zechman and Shimp discussed the idea in the late spring and continued their efforts over the summer by contacting the West Reading businesses. According to Zechman, many of the merchants fully supported the concept, so the parents hope to make it an annual event with increased adver-

tising. Proceeds from the event have totaled \$1,100 to-date.

Sixth-grade students were asked to wear their class T-shirts from last year to school that day and then also out to the event. According to Shimp, “...we had some fabulous supporters that went above and beyond and most importantly the kids had a blast. It was an awesome sight to see such a great group of families, really a great community work together for a great experience for these 6th graders.” Merchants received a handwritten thank you note from a student expressing appreciation for their support.

Participating Penn Avenue Merchants included: **Baldwin Kitchen and Bath Design Center, Bella Jules, Bistro 614, Charles Hutcheson Fine Jewelry, Firefly on Penn, Georgio’s Pizzeria, Go Fish, Good Eatz Green Café, Initials Only, Justin Bortz Jewelers, Kupkake Kouture, 1 Up Collectibles, Papillion, Star Salon** (will donate 10% anytime if the client mentions WREC), **Wendy’s, and The Wise Old Owl.**

## A look inside...

page

Meet Our New  
**TEACHERS**

**2**



**3** May we introduce you to?

National Merit  
**AWARDS**

**4**

**5**

2012 Service Recognition



**6**

Super **LETTER**

**7**

*Archive Room  
**8** Dedicated*

District News

**10**

**11**

School **STORE**

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

2

COLLEEN REINECKER



**Autistic Support Classroom Teacher  
Wyomissing Hills Elementary**

Colleen Reinecker obtained her master's degree from Saint Joseph's University. She has also completed the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Certificate Program through Penn State University and has four years' experience as an autistic support classroom teacher.

DOUGLAS SHUEY



**Music Teacher  
Wyomissing Hills Elementary/  
West Reading Elementary**

Doug Shuey is a graduate of Muskingum University with a bachelor of arts degree in Music Education. He worked in the District on an extended substitute assignment during the 2011-2012 school year as a music teacher.

MAEVE BANE



**Psychologist  
Wyomissing Hills Elementary**

Maeve Bane is a graduate of Millersville University and is certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as well as the National Association of School Psychologists.

AMANDA BAREUTHER



**French Teacher  
Jr./Sr. High School**

Amanda Bareuther is a graduate of the University of Delaware and certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in French. Her education includes study abroad in France. She was most recently a long-term substitute French Teacher in Susquehanna Township School District as well as a French Instructor in Lancaster for adult learners.

*continued on page 4*



MATTHEW STEM



The Wyomissing Area School District is pleased to announce that **Matthew Stem** joined the administrative team on August 6, 2012 as Assistant Superintendent.

Stem holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Millersville University, and a M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Temple University. He holds a

Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility through Temple University, and is also certified as an elementary and secondary principal. During his 20 years in the field of education, he has served as a classroom teacher, dean of students, principal, director of student services, and most recently as assistant superintendent for the School District of Lancaster prior to arriving at Wyomissing Area.

As a student-centered administrator he enjoys working with parents, faculty, staff, and students to improve learning and is a strong believer in the value of teamwork.

He establishes systems that encourage shared responsibility for student success, values the partnerships between home and school, and is thrilled to be part of the "Wyo family."

Mr. Stem currently resides in East Hempfield, PA with his wife, Mimi, and his two children, Nicholas and Talia. He is very active with his local church in leadership, mentoring, and musical activities. He is also an amateur jazz musician who enjoys playing both saxophone and keyboards. A principle that guides much of his leadership practices is reflected in the following quote from Stephen Covey: "Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships."



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**December 24 – January 1**  
Winter Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed

**January 21**  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Schools and Offices Closed

**February 15**  
Early Dismissal K-12  
Jr./Sr. HS 11:30 a.m.  
WREC 12:00 p.m.  
WHEC 12:30 p.m.

**February 18**  
School in Session for  
Weather Make-up Day

**November 17**  
SH Drama Presentation

**November 19 & 20**  
Parent Conferences K-6  
No school for K-6;  
Early dismissal 7-12

**November 21-26**  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
Schools Closed



## WINTER CONCERTS

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
Tuesday, December 4  
7:30 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High School  
Auditorium

**WYOMISSING HILLS  
ELEMENTARY CENTER**  
Grade 3  
Thursday, December 6  
6:30 p.m.  
Grade 4  
Tuesday, December 18  
6:30 p.m.

**SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
Tuesday, December 11  
7:30 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High School  
Auditorium

**WEST READING  
ELEMENTARY**  
Thursday, December 13  
7:00 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High School  
Auditorium

KATHERINE KERN



**Long-Term Substitute English Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School**

Katherine Kern received her bachelor of arts degree in English from Kings College and is certified to teach English grades 7 through 12. Her experience includes teaching college preparatory American Literature classes.

JANICE KINNEY



**Long-Term Substitute English Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School**

Janice Kinney is a graduate of Kutztown University where she earned her bachelor of science in Education. Her certification is English. Ms. Kinney was formerly employed by the Reading School District as an English Teacher.

KRISTIN MCLAUGHLIN



**Learning Support Teacher Jr./Sr. High School**

Kristin McLaughlin is a graduate of Gwynedd-Mercy College where she is also currently pursuing her master's degree. Her past experience includes public school learning disability education as well as her most recent experience in a privately licensed special education school setting.

4

# meet our new teachers continued

## National Merit Scholarship

The Wyomissing Area School District is pleased to announce that **Audrey Blakely, Morgan Everett, Jacob Marshall, Keian Minnich, Eric Waxler, and Ben Wertz** received letters of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

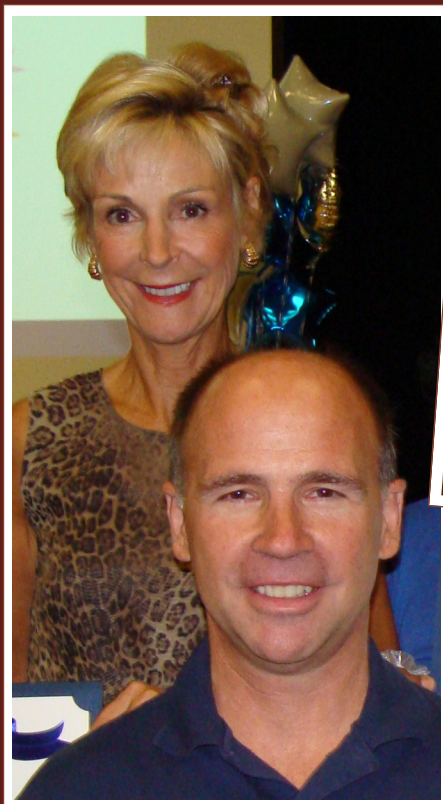
According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year and is typically below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended 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.

# congratulations!

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

**5**  
years

- Wendy Brent
- Suzanne Herbst
- Glenda Jarrett
- Jack Kasopsky
- Shari Kelly
- Jennifer Kohler
- Robert Kucharczuk
- Andrea Kupiszewski
- Jessica Lengle
- Julie Linsey
- Bernadette Lis
- Julie Miller
- Joseph Palubinsky
- Jodi Reardon
- Jeannie Reid
- Mary Reinert
- Leland Steinmetz
- Marjorie Stavelton



**25**  
years

Celebrating 25 years with WASD are clockwise from upper left: Janet Orwig, Gail Latham, Justine Coleman and Timothy Hetrich. Not pictured: Jean Cronrath

5

**10**  
years

- James Comerford
- Hilary Decker
- Jessica Godek
- Walter Holt
- Diane Kaag
- Nathaniel Miller
- Sheilah Nestro
- Brenda Phillips
- NancyLee Schlegel
- Brenda Steele

**15**  
years

- Christopher Blickley
- Bethanne Mitchell
- Erik Uliasz



**20**  
years



Curtis Minich



Daniel Smith



# Advanced Placement Scholars

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

Alexander Anzalone  
 Ninoska Aristy  
 Brian Bamberger  
 Tyler Bell  
 Nicholas Blanchet  
 Matthew Brackbill  
 Douglas Brown  
 Justin Causa  
 Owen Chastka  
 June Chiango  
 Tyler Clore  
 Kylie Cush  
 Stephanie Deem  
 Christine Ebdlahad  
 Corinne Eidle  
 Morgan Everett  
 Billy Finneran  
 Samuel Gallen  
 Madelyn Geyer  
 Christine Gieringer  
 Sonja Griesemer  
 Alyssa Heck  
 Sarah Hetrich  
 Elaine Holehan  
 Kosho Hoshitsuki  
 Daniel Izzo  
 Morgan Jones  
 Macie Kurelia  
 Jacob Leed  
 Paul Lutz  
 Andrew Maguire  
 Sally McAvoy  
 Wyatt Metzger  
 Zachary Moser  
 Alexander Radaoui  
 David Reyes  
 Hayley Robinson  
 Peter Sayde  
 Aubrey Silverman  
 Sonya Stephen  
 Alaina Swindell-Jones  
 Heather Tellez  
 Nathan Tietbohl  
 Chris Walters  
 Samuel Weidner  
 Jacob Whitmoyer



CollegeBoard AP

**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.

Alexander Altman  
 Remington Barrer  
 Jack Davis  
 Kendal Duncan  
 Theodore Kolva  
 Amit Lift  
 Hannah Link-Fitzgerald  
 Brinn McClennan  
 Kelly Petrarca  
 Michael Pottieger  
 Rachel Seibert  
 Shannon Vail  
 Skylar Weaver  
 Cara Wojciechowski

**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.

Audrey Blakely  
 Gregory Brown  
 Maria Cosma  
 Keian Minnich  
 Colleen O'Rourke  
 Eric Waxler  
 Madelyn White



**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.

Dylan Anthony  
 Alan Arriola  
 Andrea Bailey  
 Erin Benz  
 Audrey Blakely  
 Juliet Bonino  
 Gregory Brown  
 Sarah Bucolo

Christina Cesarz  
 Maria Cosma  
 Scott Goldberg  
 Chelsea Melcher  
 Nicholas Mellen  
 Keian Minnich  
 Colleen O'Rourke  
 Rachel Pleet

Connor Reedy  
 Elizabeth Rush  
 Anna Smith  
 Shane Smith  
 Eric Waxler  
 Benjamin Wertz  
 Madelyn White  
 Mary Whitmoyer

# Superintendent Announces District Instructional Focus

Our success as the Wyomissing Area School District is directly connected to our dedicated and talented staff, capable leaders, active and strong parental involvement and a supportive and generous community. As a nationally recognized school district with a long tradition of excellence in education, our district values a system of continuous improvement. We are committed to providing a challenging curriculum, skilled instruction and a learning environment responsive to our students' academic needs. When instruction levels meet the instructional needs of students, they will learn. Student learning is an effect whose cause lies in the quality and effectiveness of our educational practices.

strength and opportunities for growth, identified the “vital signs” or indicators of student educational health which will be monitored over the school year and defined our annual educational priorities and professional learning themes. Additionally, for each priority, action plans, timelines, milestones, and resources have been aligned to keep us on a continuous improvement course this school year. During monthly Administrative Team meetings we will review our progress, celebrate milestones and adjust our course of action when necessary.

The District Instructional Focus centers on four pillars or our priorities which are depicted below. These pillars include:



Superintendent  
Julia R. Vicente



## **Equitable Access to Rigorous, High-level Programs:**

All students, without exception will have access to research-based effective teaching and programs that include rigorous content aligned to academic standards;

## **Data-driven Continuous Improvement:**

We will make informed decisions using ongoing data-driven evidence to support and guide instructional practices, professional development and organizational improvement;

## **Effective Teacher in Every Classroom, Effective Leader in Every School:**

We will meet the needs of our diverse students by attracting, developing, retaining and promoting cooperation among competent, student-focused teachers and leaders; and

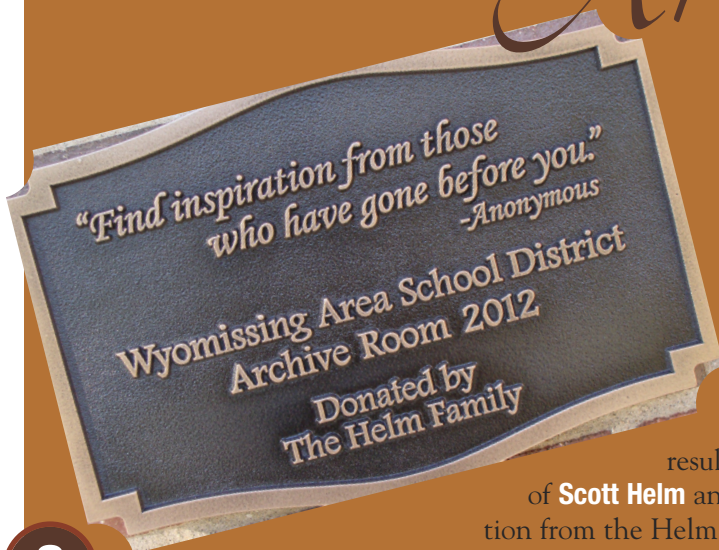
## **Safe, Healthy Climate and Strong Relationships with Families and Community:**

Together we will create a climate of trust, value, and respect for all staff, students, and community members and build a sense of ownership

If we desire improved outcomes for students, the starting point must be the creation of a results-focused plan centered on the continuous improvement of teaching practices, leadership practices, and organizational practices because they are the precursors to student learning. The creation of this plan, also known as the District Instructional Focus, began this past summer during the Administrative Team Retreat. Over the course of three days we reviewed and analyzed student achievement data, recognized areas of

*continued on page 11*

# Archive Room Dedication



8

The former main entrance to the high school on Evans Avenue received a recent makeover. As a result of the inspiration of **Scott Helm** and a generous donation from the Helm family, Wyomissing Area School District opened and dedicated the Archive Room on Saturday, October 13, 2012. More than 100 people attended the celebration at which **State Senator Judy Schwank** delivered the proclamation address and **Joanna Helm**, daughter of **Scott and Angel Helm**, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The original design, created by AEM Architects, provides showcase housing for athletic awards and memorabilia over the past century of West Reading, Wyomissing, and Wyomissing Area High School athletes. A dedication plaque installed by the front door of the school with the quotation, "Find inspiration from those who have gone before you" offers insight for the idea behind establishing the room. The dedication coincided with previously planned outside maintenance work to the courtyard. The existing marble steps were repaired, a handicapped accessible ramp was installed, and the landscaping was replaced with new







9

plantings and fresh sod. The Archive Room was also supported by the Reading Public Museum, the Gallen family, and the Light family through their donations of display cases, fabric panels and ceiling fans. Heck Bros. graciously supplied the plants and decorations for the opening.



## School-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports

During the 2012-13 school year, the Wyomissing Area School District will be laying the groundwork for implementing School-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (SWPBIS) in all three of our school buildings. SWPBIS is NOT a curriculum, intervention, or practice, but IS a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based practices for improving academic and behavior outcomes for all students. It is a proactive approach that promotes appropriate student behavior and increased learning. The word “approach” is key in that SWPBIS provides direction, not a canned program, for developing a comprehensive system of behavior support tailored to individual school needs.

Research suggests that a positive, direct instructional approach is more effective than traditional punishment-based alternatives in improving student behavior and overall school climate. SWPBIS is based upon a three-tiered model. The first tier (universal) serves as the foundation upon which the other two tiers are built. This tier provides a system of supports to all students based on preventative practices that emphasize teaching and reinforcing expected student behaviors. Tier two (secondary) provides targeted interventions to support students classified as “at risk.” Supports offered in tier three (tertiary) require the most intensive level of intervention for students with the most significant behavioral/emotional support needs.

The process for this year will involve a district-wide core team, consisting of teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators from each of the three school buildings, working with SWPBIS trainers from the Berks County Intermediate Unit to educate all district teachers on core SWPBIS principles. As this process unfolds, each school building will identify their unique student behavioral strengths and needs while developing a plan of behavioral support to match those characteristics.

While full implementation will not occur until next school year, building teams may

decide to integrate SWPBIS strategies this year that would have an immediate positive impact upon overall student behavior. For example, all three buildings are taking a proactive stance in regards to issues of bullying. As each building identifies behavioral priorities to be addressed, a specific support or intervention may emerge that addresses “bullying” and could be integrated into a building’s current support system.

The Wyomissing Area SWPBIS Core Team consists of the following individuals:

### WYOMISSING HILLS ELEMENTARY

Maeve Bane

Regina Hart

Sue Larkin

Kelly McClennan

Shana Mehlbaum

Danielle Metzger

Stephanie Myers

Matt Stem

Jill Werley

### WEST READING ELEMENTARY

Corbett Babb

Shana Easteadt

Kelly Ferrandino

Michele Hetrich

Bridgette Kozuch

Amy Miller-Cush

Karen Ostrander

Dan Smith

### WYOMISSING AREA Jr./Sr. High School

Tony Alvarez

Danielle Gingrich

Corey Jones

Bethanne Mitchell

Dana Quinlivan

Margaret Shomgard

Dave Skovera

Chris Talley

John Yoder

# School Store



## NEW FOR 2012

The PTA now 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](http://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](mailto:mipacific@aol.com) if you have any questions or to place bulk orders.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

## Superintendent Announces District Instructional Focus

through meaningful dialogue for all stakeholders.

For each pillar we identified related teaching practices, leadership practices, and organizational practices which will guide our work with students, staff, families, and our community on a daily basis. However, simply identifying priorities and practices will not necessarily ensure progress toward our goal. To increase the likelihood of successfully meeting our goal, we have identified indicators or vital signs for our practices. By paying attention to the vital signs of student learning and professional practices, we will be

able to monitor and communicate progress, continuously improve practices, ensure accountability, and celebrate our success.

Presentations introducing the District Instructional Focus have been given to the School Board, the Wyomissing Area Educational Foundation Board, the PTA, and during Open Houses in our buildings. If you have not seen one of the presentations, later this fall the District Instructional Focus will be posted on the district website.



NOVEMBER 2012 | VOL. 44, 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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MICHELLE M. DAVIS  
PRESIDENT

GREGORY L. PORTNER  
VICE PRESIDENT

ANGEL L. HELM  
TREASURER

CORINNE D. MASON  
SECRETARY (NON-MEMBER)

CAROLYN M. BAMBERGER

LESA I. BUTERA

LAWRENCE A. FITZGERALD

KAREN R. MCAVOY

SCOTT C. PAINTER, ESQ.

ANNE P. SELTZER

JULIA R. VICENTE (EX OFFICIO)