



# Eagle Pride

WINTER - SPRING 2008  
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M A T H   M O V E S   B E A

The Official Newsletter of the Bald Eagle Area School District

On the Cover .....	<b>2</b>	Day of Caring Activities .....	<b>12</b>
Superintendent's Message .....	<b>2</b>	Wingate Project Wisdom .....	<b>12</b>
PSSA Recognition .....	<b>3</b>	Technology –	
BEA Homecoming .....	<b>3</b>	the Future is Now .....	<b>13</b>
Spotlight on BEA Family .....	<b>4-5</b>	Howard Elementary	
Scholastic Honors Banquet .....	<b>6</b>	eats that frog! .....	<b>13</b>
Eagle Scouts .....	<b>6</b>	Adult Education Classes .....	<b>14</b>
Port students lend		Volleyball News .....	<b>14</b>
a helping hand .....	<b>7</b>	Do you have any questions? .....	<b>15</b>
Go!Girl!Go! .....	<b>7</b>	Gathering on the Mountaintop .....	<b>16</b>
Newest members			
of the BEA Team .....	<b>8-11</b>		

WE TEACH FOR SUCCESS

## On the Cover...

*MathMovesU: Exploring Cool Careers event held at BEA*

*(Left to Right): Samantha Rougeux (Howard Elementary, 6th grade), Dylan Peters (Wingate Elementary, 6th grade), Michael Murnyack (Mountaintop Elementary, 6th grade), Jessie Jenkins (Wingate Elementary, 5th grade), and Justin Rearick (Port Matilda Elementary, 6th grade) enjoy watching an activity at the MathMovesU: Exploring Cool Careers event held at the Bald Eagle High School.*

Fifth and sixth grade students from all four elementary schools attended this exciting event, which was sponsored by Raytheon. Jerry Sandusky, former Penn State football defensive coach and founder of The Second Mile, and Reggie Showers, renowned motorcycle racer, were the featured speakers. Showers, who lost both legs in an incident involving peer pressure, gave an inspirational talk.



The noise and interest level was high, as the students toured twelve exhibits that demonstrated math-related career choices, such as a video game designer, pilot, BMX biker, pyrotechnician, and oceanographer. Who knew that careers in the math and science fields could be so exciting?

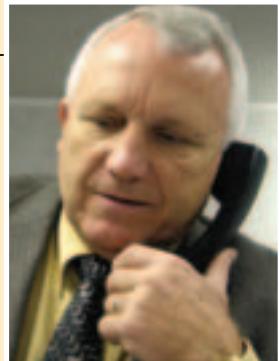
Winners of the High School Math Essay Contest were also on hand for the fun. These students received a certificate and a Wal-Mart gift card: Lawrence Flood, Olivia Hardy, Timothy Gleason, Megan Smith, Shane Besong, Amber McClure, Jolene Carper, Kenny Dupler, Erica Sams, Brad Meyer, Kayla Sipes, Paul Miller, John Schall, and Ethan Corle.

## Superintendent's Message

**Dan Fisher**

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It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the mid-point of this school year and already preparing for the next one. With the exception of a couple bumps, the 2007-2008 school year is going well and our students have already made significant accomplishments this year. BEA students and staff are working hard and performing well.

We celebrated the first graduation from our BEA Cyber Academy in September 2007. The transition to Everyday Math, while not without some growing pains, is happening successfully in K-2, with the expectation of moving into third grade next year. Our teachers in all grades have been participating in math training programs throughout the year. The Raytheon-sponsored program, MathMovesU, was an educational and inspirational math experience for our students, highlighting how math permeates our lives and is so necessary for our occupations. Our reading and science programs are also transitioning to higher, more intense levels again this year. Our Girls Volleyball team made school history with both individual and team accomplishments. All of our district facilities really are busy places from sunrise to sunset for students, staff, parents, and our Bald Eagle Area community.

As discussed in the renovation article in this issue, we are beginning the 20-year cycle of renovations with the High School and Wingate Elementary School. Thus far, the Facility Advisory and Facilities Study committees have met for selecting an architect and for further refining and prioritizing what needs to be accomplished in this cycle for these two schools to serve our students, staff, and community until about 2030. There will be some difficult decisions to be made, as not everything that would be wonderful to have will fit into our construction budget. Hopefully, we will all come to agreement by April of just what we want to have done in this renovation cycle. We have scheduled an informational public meeting for all concerned residents to provide input on the project on February 28, 2008, 7:00 p.m., in the High School cafeteria. If the Pennsylvania Department of Education approval process goes as scheduled, we expect the actual renovation work to begin during the summer of 2009.

Our students and staff still have a lot of educational ground to cover in the last half of the school year. The PSSA requirements to make Adequate Yearly Progress in both Math and Reading have increased significantly this year. We need every hour of instructional time we can squeeze into the next few months to be able to perform our best when those tests are given. Regular student attendance is such an important part of that equation. We truly have no educational minutes to spare.

I am honored to have been part of the successful Bald Eagle Area mission for most of my life and look forward to working with our Board of Education, our students, staff, and community as we reach for higher levels of achievement and student success.

# PSSA Recognition

The Board of Education honored the following students for achieving the highest scores on the 2007 PSSA assessments.

## Howard Elementary

Nicholas Krape	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Chenoah Stamm	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Seth Woodring	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Tyler Litz	Grade 3	2007 Reading Assessment
Cole Robinson	Grade 3	2007 Reading Assessment
Brandon Gettig	Grade 4	2007 Math & Reading Assessment
Cole Mann	Grade 5	2007 Math & Reading Assessment
Dennis Fisher	Grade 6	2007 Math Assessment
Evan Kim	Grade 6	2007 Reading Assessment
Loren Newman	Grade 6	2007 Reading Assessment

## Mountaintop Area Elementary

Matthew Blaylock	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Natasha Jozefick	Grade 3	2007 Reading Assessment
Colton Urbanik	Grade 3	2007 Reading Assessment
Clarissa Woomer	Grade 4	2007 Math & Reading Assessment
Michelle Kachik	Grade 5	2007 Math Assessment
Cheyenne Smolko	Grade 5	2007 Reading Assessment
Billie-Jo Friedline	Grade 6	2007 Math Assessment
Emily Chambers	Grade 6	2007 Reading Assessment

## Port Matilda Elementary

Dallis Dillon	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Lacey Fink	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Morgan Mason	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Karina Bloom	Grade 3	2007 Reading Assessment
Taylor Minarchick	Grade 3	2007 Reading Assessment
Nicole Bonsell	Grade 4	2007 Math & Reading Assessment
Rosalind Cowan	Grade 5	2007 Math & Reading Assessment
Cody Mandell	Grade 5	2007 Math Assessment
Jacob Marquardt	Grade 6	2007 Math & Reading Assessment

## Wingate Elementary

Sarah Van Cise	Grade 3	2007 Math Assessment
Taylor Lucas	Grade 3	2007 Reading Assessment
Zachary Ishler	Grade 4	2007 Math Assessment
Megan Shiels	Grade 4	2007 Math Assessment
Shanelle Spotts	Grade 4	2007 Math Assessment
Nicholas Pytel	Grade 4	2007 Reading Assessment
Samuel Van Cise	Grade 5	2007 Math Assessment
Sean Walsh	Grade 5	2007 Math Assessment
Emily Quick	Grade 5	2007 Reading Assessment
Kourtney Vermillion	Grade 5	2007 Reading Assessment
Olivia Hardy	Grade 6	2007 Math Assessment
Jacob Taylor	Grade 6	2007 Math Assessment
Lawrence Flood	Grade 6	2007 Reading Assessment

## BEA High-Middle School

Nathan Eisenhuth	Grade 7	2007 Math Assessment
Matthew Dillon	Grade 7	2007 Reading Assessment
Timothy Gleason	Grade 7	2007 Reading Assessment
Garren Kunes	Grade 7	2007 Reading Assessment
Ashley Gates	Grade 8	2007 Math Assessment
Mackenzie Bagley	Grade 8	2007 Reading Assessment
Mallory Leupold	Grade 8	2007 Reading Assessment
Ethan Corle	Grade 11	2007 Math Assessment
Tyler Hoffman	Grade 11	2007 Reading Assessment



Port Matilda Elementary students (from left) Karina Bloom, Morgan Mason, Dallis Dillon, and Taylor Minarchick admire their recognition plaques.



Board of Education member Tom Letterman congratulates Samuel Van Cise from Wingate Elementary for his achievement, while Principal Jim Orichosky looks on.

## BEA Homecoming

Kasey Corl (center), who is a daughter of Bill and Heather Corl of Snow Shoe, was crowned Bald Eagle Area's 2007 Homecoming Queen. Katie Wedlake (right) was the first runner-up, and second runner-up was Terra Haines (left).





# Spotlight on BEA FAMILY

Kindergarten teachers start BEA students on the path of excellence.

The Bald Eagle Area community and, in particular, our youngest students, are fortunate to have the most loving, capable, nurturing kindergarten teachers that can be found anywhere in the country. Jason Bair, Tammy Bierly, Jennifer Houser, Jennifer Murray, Jayne Pillot, Mary Price, and Sherri True work together as a group to plan instruction, and meet once a month to share ideas and strategies they are using in their classrooms.

Our four elementary schools feature quality, full-day kindergarten programs that build the foundation to launch our fledgling eaglets off to a terrific educational flight as they begin their thirteen years at BEA. We presently have seven full-day kindergarten classrooms throughout the district with an average class size of sixteen. The classrooms are spacious, bright and beautiful, and always chock-full of educational exhibits. Many folks, at one time, minimized the educational importance of kindergarten, and, many schools, including Bald Eagle Area, offered only a half-day program until just a few years ago.

Half-day kindergarten had been described by some as, “a play period separated by an obligatory nap.” That does not happen here at Bald Eagle Area! Our full-day program, prepared by educational experts, has all but erased the image we once had of kindergarten. Our reading and writing program is very intense. Many of our students now exit kindergarten knowing both how to read and write stories with 6-10 sentences, using punctuation and capitalization. Just a few years back, that formal reading and writing process only started in first grade.

Students also learn Everyday Math, social skills, and good work habits, too. Our FOSS science program introduces them to the wonders of science as they learn the skills to observe plants and



Jason Bair, Mountaintop Elementary



Tammy Bierly, Port Matilda Elementary



*Jennifer Houser, Port Matilda Elementary*

animals; the physical properties of fabric, wood and paper; and much, much more. With the guidance of our wonderful kindergarten teachers, they learn all of this while having a very enjoyable experience throughout the year.

Kindergarten students visit the computer laboratory at least once a day, usually in the afternoon when attention spans may be lagging, to be engaged by Imagination Station. The children LOVE to work on this colorful, interesting, fast-paced online program. Imagination Station offers yet another learning style that addresses each individual student's needs at a level that is challenging, but not frustrating, and serves to reinforce what the kindergarten teacher has introduced earlier.

We proudly feature our Bald Eagle Area family of kindergarten teachers in this issue as a talented, enthusiastic, loving team whose members are always excited, prepared, and warmly willing to help each new student begin a path that will surely lead to success at BEA and in life.



*Jennifer Murray, Mountaintop Elementary*

*Jayne Pillot, Wingate Elementary*



*Mary Price,  
Wingate  
Elementary*



*Sherri True,  
Howard  
Elementary*





# BEA holds Scholastic Honors Banquet

The Bald Eagle Area School District honored the following students for their 2006-07 academic achievement at the 2007 Scholastic Honors Banquet.

## Grade 12

Chelsea Bartley  
Will Barton  
Max Besong  
Derrick Bonsell  
Randy Breon  
Todd Ciancarelli  
Jendi Clontz  
Ethan Corle  
Trevor Eisenhuth  
Alexia Flickinger  
Cory Gates  
Tyler Hoffman  
Kathryn Hoover  
Kendra Immel  
Bre Johnstonbau  
Drew King  
Justin Koleno  
Carly Kristofik  
Erin Kunes  
Silas Lucas  
Megan Mehalko  
Lacey Moore  
Georgianna Mor  
Luke Nyman  
Megan Rhoat  
Mary Salvanish  
John Schall  
Sara Smith  
Amanda Surove  
Kale Thompson

## Grade 11

Nikkita Bechdel  
Monica Bittinger  
Casey Brobeck  
Rebecca Crust  
Noret Flood, IV  
Brittany Greenawa  
Dominic Lacivita  
Abigail Parmely  
Janelle Poorman  
Holly Preslovich  
Jenna Raymond  
Danielle Reese  
Chelsea Robinson  
Shane Robinson  
Sarah Rogus  
George Schall  
Laura Sengle  
Megan Shaw  
Daniel Waite  
Samantha Watson

**Grade 10**  
Jeremy Beck  
Melanie Bytheway  
Emily Catherman  
Lauryn Davidson  
Zachary Deering  
TeAnna Dorey  
Sasha Hutchings  
Charles Martin  
Kayla Miller  
Shawna Mitchell  
Nicole Reese  
Sarah Reese

Jessica Scrudders

Shannon Singer  
Emily Strunk  
Carrina Trawinski  
Danielle Turner  
Alysha Waite

**Grade 9**

Mackenzie Bagley  
Wyatt Barnyak  
Shane Besong  
Krista Biggans  
Sara Bowling  
Nicholas Burther  
Kelly Chambers  
Shane Eckenrode  
Caitlin Foresman  
Ashley Gates  
Justin Giedroc  
Shaina Hahn  
Mallory Leupold  
Laura Lutz  
Rebecca Martin  
Amber McClure  
Katelyn Miller  
Jennifer Neely  
Heather Salvanish  
Kelsey Shaw  
Megan Staub  
Emily Sutton  
Cora Talarigo  
Justin Taylor  
Nicholas Taylor  
Kyle Womer

Grade 9

Grade 9			Grade 10	
Mackenzie Bagley	HMR		Clayton Gardner	MR
Wyatt Barnyak	HMRW		Steven Gawryla	HR
Shane Besong	H		Abby Gettig	HMR
Krista Biggans	HMW		Molly Gilbert	H
Sara Bowling	HM		Timothy Gleason	HMR
Nicholas Burther	R		Kelley Hamer	R
Kelly Chambers	M		Bryce Hockenberry	M
Shane Eckenrode	M		Tyler Howell	H
Caitlin Foresman	R		Kyle Johnson	HMR
Ashley Gates	HMR		Tiffany Kolp	R
Justin Giedroc	HMW		Garren Kunes	HR
Shaina Hahn	H		Maggie Mehalko	HMR
Mallory Leupold	R		Nathan Neely	M
Laura Lutz	W		Raechel Passarelli	R
Rebecca Martin	HR		Emilie Rogers	H
Amber McClure	HMW		Daniel Styles	H
Katelyn Miller	R		Douglas Turner	M
Jennifer Neely	W		Alaina Warner	HM
Heather Salvanish	HMRW		Shelby Wellar	H
Kelsey Shaw	HMRW			
Megan Staub	H		H – Top 10% of	
Emily Sutton	HM		Class Honor	
Cora Talarigo	HM		M – PSSA Math Honor	
Justin Taylor	W		(Top 10 Scores)	
Nicholas Taylor	R		R – PSSA Reading Honor	
Kyle Womer	W		(Top 10 Scores)	
			W – PSSA Writing Honor	
			(Top 10 Scores)	

# Eagle Scouts

**B**ald Eagle Area is proud of its three newest Eagle Scouts, Thomas Stewart, William Sutton, and Lyle Watson. For his Eagle Scout project, Thomas fabricated an entrance sign/statue to Governors Park from several sections of discarded playground equipment; William donated a computer to the Black Oak United Methodist Church and remapped the Black Oak Cemetery in Port Matilda, using computer technology; and Lyle removed the bell from the bell tower at the Pleasant Valley Church in Marsh Creek and relocated it on an attractive stand near the building, complete with landscaping.

BEA offers heartfelt congratulations to these Eagle Scouts, and to everyone who offered support and encouragement to them.



# Port students extend a helping hand

Last year, the Port Matilda 6th graders from Ms. Gailey's and Mr. Weber's classes had some fundraisers for their year-end Hershey trip. After the trip fees were paid, the students decided to donate their "left over" money to a Hurricane Katrina victimized school in Louisiana.

A student in the Port Matilda class, Katy Livezey, has relatives there and had visited the area last year. She proposed the idea to the class and they responded with agreement. The students decided on donating Science equipment, which included a microscope, science books, and a Science Habitat Center, to a kindergarten class at Walter Abney Elementary. The kindergarten class had lost 90-95% of their classroom materials in the hurricane.

Sixth grade teacher Dan Weber was touched by the Port Matilda students' kindness. He said, "I was so impressed and am still impacted by their act of generosity."

Here is the thank you letter the Port Matilda Elementary students received from the Walter Abney Elementary School in Slidell, LA:

*Dear Port Matilda Elementary 6th Grade Students,*

*I would like to thank you with all my heart. These items will really enhance my teaching in the Science area. I really love to have hands on activities for my students. I also enjoy letting them watch Science happen through observation. This would not have been possible without your help. I will never be able to tell you how much this will affect my students and future students. Thank you so much.*

*Dawn Chaisson*



(Left to Right)

Back row: Matthew Maney, Logan Reese, Colton Housel, Caleb Daye, Jacob Marquardt, Cole Carolus, Sean Walzer, Nick Echelberger, and Alex Strong.  
Middle row: Allison Simpson, Chelsea Lowery, Mallory Bennett, Dion Barnard, Katy Livezey, Brandy Kelley, Nicole Gass, Amber Breon, Jeffrey Reese, and Tyler Carson.  
Front Row: Amanda Cole, Lucas Kottwitz, Keith Haagen, Samantha Lansberry, Nina Walk, and Joshua Barrientos.

## GoGirlGo!

"1-2-3, go chicks with sticks!"



With that pre-game cheer, the girls' team is off for another round of intramural field hockey. Field hockey is a game much like soccer; however, the small 3-inch ball is moved around by sticks, similar to hockey sticks (but much shorter) and players on the field can go wherever they like. Intramural field hockey at BEA is co-ed, with many of the boys' varsity soccer players participating when the soccer team has a late practice.

Brandy Preslovich, advisor for the group, says that IM field hockey "gives an opportunity to those students who aren't involved in varsity

athletics to stay active and participate in a competitive game several times a week."

About 40 seventh through twelfth grade students get together twice a week, as long as the weather cooperates in the fall, for some field hockey exercise and fun. "It's a wonderful thing, because everyone plays," Preslovich says. "If too many students show up for one game, we will get two games going."

The ability to have enough equipment for everyone to play is partially a result of GoGirlGo! grant monies the District recently received. With

those funds, BEA was able to buy sticks, balls, jerseys, and protective equipment for intramural field hockey. As a bonus, the students in gym class also use this equipment.

"It's pretty cool," 11th grade student Casey Brobeck, who has played IM Field Hockey every year since 7th grade, says. "This year we get to have jerseys with our number and keep it all year long."

Bald Eagle Area was one of the 27 recipients this year of the GoGirlGo! grants, which were awarded by the Women's Sports Foundation.

# New PERSONNEL

*Please welcome the new members of the BEA team.*



## **Joyce Baranak** / Learning Support Assistant/Mountaintop Elementary

I am a 1990 graduate of the Bald Eagle High School. In 2006, I achieved the status of "Highly Qualified NCLB Para Educator." I reside in Clarence with my husband of 13 years, Tim, and our 11-year-old son Brandon. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, card making, bike riding and traveling. I am looking forward to another exciting year working with the students and staff at Mountaintop Elementary School.



## **Larry Campbell** / Driver's Ed-Physical Education-Health/High School

I graduated from Pennsbury Area High School in 1994 and earned a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from Penn State University. I am also the head volleyball coach at Bald Eagle, which is how I spend most of my free time. My wife, Mandy, and I live in State College with our two daughters, Samantha (2 1/2) and Jessica (7 months). And, we are now busy getting ready for our third child due in April! My expanding family and I are looking forward to sharing many successful years with everyone in the Bald Eagle Area School District.



## **Jacy Clark** / Science/High School

I am a 1999 graduate of Bald Eagle High School. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education Biology and General Science from Lock Haven University in 2003 and later a Master of Science degree in Educational Development and Strategies from Wilkes University. Prior to joining the Bald Eagle Area staff, I taught one year in the Midd-West School District and three years in the Elizabethtown Area School District. This past July my husband, Adam, and I welcomed our first child, a son Kaden, into our family. In my spare time, I enjoy running, scrapbooking, sporting events, and spending time with family and friends. I am excited to be teaching at my alma mater and am looking forward to working with the students, staff, and families of the Bald Eagle Area School District.



## **Melissa David** / Pre-K Instructor/Matternville (Cen-Clear)

I am originally from Bay City, Michigan, and I have been living in State College for the past year. I graduated in 2006 from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education, with a concentration on Early Childhood Education. During my spare time, I enjoy biking, kayaking, traveling and spending time with my family. I'm really excited to be involved with the new Pre-K program in this District.



## **Suzanne Dooris** / Learning Support-Reading/High School

I graduated from Bald Eagle High School. I received my degree in Elementary Education from Penn State University and additional certification in Special Education from Saint Francis University. I have taught a number of years at all levels from preschool to high school in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, traveling and spending time with my family. I am delighted to return to my alma mater, and I look forward to working with the students, staff and families of the Bald Eagle Area School District.

## **Diane Ebeling / Head Cook/Port Matilda Elementary**

Hello everyone in the Bald Eagle Area School District! My name is Diane M. Ebeling. I am a life long resident of the Bald Eagle Valley and a proud 1977 graduate of BEA. The high school students have seen me as a substitute in the cafeteria and the Student Store for the last three years. I have also enjoyed working with our life skills students and our learning support students at the high school. Before joining the BEA staff, I had worked at Penn State and also for the Shaner Hotel Group in State College.

My husband, Tim, has a construction business that keeps us very busy. My three terrific children are Elizabeth, a 1996 graduate of BEA; Jonathan, a 2006 graduate of BEA; and Megan who is in 11th grade at BEA. I enjoy many activities including camping, hiking, visiting historic sites, traveling west to Montana or to the Cape Hatteras Area in North Carolina, and especially trail riding on either of our two horses, T.C. or Moon.

I'm very happy to be part of the wonderful Port Matilda elementary staff and I am looking forward to many years with my new family of co-workers. Life is good!



## **Heather Evert / Pre-K Instructor/Wingate Elementary (Cen-Clear)**

Born and raised in the State College Area, I graduated from State College Area High School in 2001. After high school, I continued my education at Penn State University where I earned a B.S. in Elementary and Kindergarten Education. This spring I will be continuing my education at Lock Haven University where I will be pursuing my certification in Early Childhood Education. In my free time, I enjoy cooking, reading, and spending time with my friends and family. I am excited to be collaborating with the Bald Eagle Area School District for the new Pre-K Counts program!



## **Sharon Gates / Personal Care Assistant/High School**

Hi, I am Sharon Gates. I reside in Bellefonte and graduated from Bellefonte in 1983. I have been married to my husband, Steve, for 11 years and we have 3 children – Jenn 20, who is a Junior at Penn Tech; Samantha, 10; and Chelsea, 7. Samantha and Chelsea go to Bellefonte Elementary School. I enjoy spending time with my family, going to camp, or watching my girls either in Cheerleading or Soccer. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, shopping, and riding horses. I am very excited to be working at Bald Eagle.



## **John Gribble / Business Manager/Administration Building**

I was born, raised and educated in Shippensburg (South-Central Pennsylvania). My family and I currently reside in Howard. We believe Howard is a fine place to live. The Gribble's (eight of us) especially enjoy swimming, fishing and boating in the lake, hunting in the nearby mountain, and other outdoor activities.

My work experience includes stints in the computer industry, higher education, and most recently K-12 education. As district business manager, I hope to provide the very best support services possible to our educators, all staffs, and administrative team. Finally, I think it is worthy to note that the Bald Eagle Area School District is a very friendly, professional work environment.



## **Danielle Hengst / Health & Physical Education/High School**

Hello to all BEA families and friends! I am excited to be in such a great school district. I recently graduated from Penn State University where I completed my Bachelors of Science degree in Kinesiology. It was through my experiences during the past four years that I became passionate about helping youth get healthy, build strong character, and strengthen their ability to make healthful decisions. I enjoy coaching our volleyball team here, walking with friends, and cheering on PSU football and the Steelers, and watching my brothers (Bradley, 14 and Braden, 12) play sports at Chestnut Ridge. Thanks to everyone for welcoming all the new staff members and myself to BEA. Best wishes to all for a fun and healthy year!



# New P E R S O



## **Laura Hine / Family & Consumer Sciences/High School**

I am a 2000 graduate of Lehighton High School, near the Poconos. I graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in 2004 with a Bachelors degree in Interior Design. After working in the field for a year and a half, I began to re-evaluate my career choice and decided to return to IUP to get a second Bachelors degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. I couldn't have made a better decision! I am enjoying life with the Bald Eagle Area School District and my Foods I students are making the high school halls smell really good. For fun, I like to hike, cook, travel, and spend time with family and friends.



## **Mandy Horner / Science/High School**

I graduated from Penns Valley Area High School in 1997 and received my Bachelor of Science in Biology from Susquehanna University. After graduation, I gained certification as an Athletic Trainer and went to Lock Haven University where I obtained my Masters of Education in Teaching and Learning. I was the Head Athletic Trainer at Central Mountain High School for two years, and then decided to go back to school at Susquehanna University and finish my teaching certification in Biology. This past year I was a long-term substitute for 7th grade science at Penns Valley. Even though I still live in Penns Valley, I am so excited to be a part of the BEA Family! Go Eagles!



## **Sharon Kotzur / Personal Care Assistant/Wingate Elementary**

Hi, my name is Sharon Kotzur and Lock Haven High School is my alma mater. I live in Howard with my husband, Michael, and our dog, Lucy. I have two children and two grandchildren. Both of my children graduated from Bald Eagle High School and my granddaughter entered Kindergarten this September at Howard Elementary. I am a Personal Care Attendant at Wingate Elementary School. After working in a dental office for 12 years, I was very excited when the opportunity arose for me to work at a school which is something I've always wanted to do. It is very rewarding and I can truly say I love my job.



## **Jennifer Leisner / Learning Support-Math/High School**

Hello! My name is Jennifer Leisner and I am very excited to be here at Bald Eagle Area. As a transplanted New Yorker (Rochester and Albany areas), I am slowly adjusting to life here in the country. I graduated from Ichabod Crane High School in 1995 and Geneseo State in 1999. My teaching experience includes two years at an urban charter school, four years in a middle school, and last year at a 6th through 12th grade alternative school within Keystone Central. I am excited to be collaborating with the middle school math teachers and working with seniors as they prepare to graduate and take on "the real world." I am very impressed by my fellow staff members, students, and parents, and I look forward to an enriching and enlightening year!



## **Alex Matunis / Learning Support-Math/High School**

I graduated from Penn State University in 2005 with a Bachelors degree in Industrial Engineering, and then went on to pursue a mathematics teaching certificate from Drexel University. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, cooking, sports, traveling, and spending time with my friends and family. I am thrilled to begin my teaching career at BEA and am looking forward to a wonderful year!

# N N E L

## **Katey Neff** / Predictable Term Substitute/Port Matilda Elementary

I graduated from Bald Eagle Area in 2002, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Clarion University in 2006. During my spare time, I enjoy shopping, reading, and spending time with my family and friends. I am very excited to start my teaching career at my alma mater. I'm looking forward to a successful school year at Port Matilda Elementary.



## **Brandy Preslovich** / Health and Physical Education/High School

I graduated from Bald Eagle High School in 1998. I completed my Bachelor's Degree at Juniata College in Huntingdon, in 2002. While at Juniata, I participated in basketball and softball. In 2005, I earned a Masters degree in Exercise Science and Physical Education from McDaniel College. In my spare time, I enjoy playing basketball, running, and going on bike rides. I also love spending time with my gorgeous miniature doxen named Josey. I am very excited to have the opportunity to teach at my alma mater and am looking forward to a great year.



## **Michelle Rogus** / Learning Support Assistant/Mountaintop Elementary

I am a 1982 graduate of Bald Eagle High School. I reside in Snow Shoe with my husband, Mike, and my four children, Laura (21), Michael (20), and Sarah and Jonathon (16). I have spent the last 12 years working at a preschool and am so excited to be working with the older children at Mountaintop Elementary. I enjoy reading, walking, and spending time with my family. In addition to this job, I work at the after school program at the Mountaintop Elementary.



## **Angela Smith** / Spanish/High School

I am a graduate of Lock Haven University, earning a Spanish teaching degree as well as minoring in mathematics and international studies. I can also teach math, although Spanish is my first love. I have lived in the Lock Haven area all of my life, and have traveled to Costa Rica to learn Spanish. I enjoy reading, crocheting, playing volleyball, and teaching. I love this area and this school, and look forward to helping students reach their potential.



## **Amber Strouse** / Predictable Term Substitute/Mountaintop Elementary

I graduated from Lock Haven University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. I am also certified to teach Middle School Mathematics, which includes grades 6 through 9. In my spare time, I enjoy being outdoors, painting, and spending time with my family. I look forward to working with the students at Bald Eagle Area School District!



## **Leanne Yeagley** / Science/High School

In 2006, I graduated from Bloomsburg University with a degree in Secondary Education and Biology. I then moved to Vero Beach, Florida where I taught science at Sebastian River Middle School. I love to travel and have taken many road trips with friends and family throughout North America. Most recently, I spent three weeks backpacking through Europe with my sister. My other interests include nutrition, running, soccer, and drinking coffee! I am very excited to be working with the kind and brilliant students here at Bald Eagle!





*(Left to Right): Olivia Hardy, Jerami Lose, Matthew Maney, and Jacob Taylor.*



*(Left to Right): Brianna Storms, Aaron Varner, and Marissa Ward.*



*Jacob Taylor adds a finishing touch.*

## DAY OF CARING ACTIVITIES

Students completed a variety of service projects at 22 different work sites within the Bald Eagle Area School District during Day of Caring activities. Some of the work sites were the Advent Cemetery, Mountain Top Youth Center, Milesburg Museum, Cain-Miller Sportswear, Bald Eagle State Park, Port Matilda Fire Company, Snow Shoe Little League, and the Bald Eagle Administration Building.

Seven middle school students exercised their artistic abilities during Day of Caring when they spent the morning painting their version of an autumn “Caring Quilt” on the windows of Cain-Miller Sportswear in Milesburg.

The students received a very brief instructional summary on window painting from art instructor, Rosemarie Cox, prepped the area around the windows to protect merchandise and carpeting, and worked diligently to complete the project in just 2 1/2 hours! Passersby, store patrons, and fellow students “oohed” and “aaahed” at the final results.

The Bald Eagle Area communities appreciated the students’ help, and projects are already being planned for next year.

## WINGATE ELEMENTARY Launches Project Wisdom

Wingate Elementary School has recently expanded its curriculum to include an exciting new character education program called Project Wisdom. In a world where many students routinely face challenging situations that require practical social skills and strength of character, trends in education are supporting programs like Project Wisdom that teach bedrock concepts such as integrity, respect, confidence, courage, honesty, and diligence. In fact, schools across the country are now covering these topics along with the traditional cornerstones of education: reading, writing and arithmetic. More important, emerging data indicates that effective character education improves academic achievement.

Wingate is proud to be one of over 14,000 schools nationwide utilizing this collection of daily words of wisdom. Project Wisdom’s messages are rich in history, culture, and literature, and work to develop responsible and caring individuals. The messages inspire, teach and encourage students to reflect upon the larger issues of life.

Each morning, Wingate students hear a short message containing a quotation from a historic figure, celebrity, or modern hero that reinforces the topic of the day. The 60-second announcement is narrated by Principal Jim Orichosky, and ends with the same phrase each day, “Be kind, be responsible and be the best you can be. The choice is yours.”

The Wingate staff has taken the program a step further by organizing the messages into monthly themes. Each month features a particular character trait, which is reinforced during the school day through journal writing activities and classroom meetings (part of the Olweus Bullying program). At the end of the month, two students from each classroom are recognized at a special luncheon for their “strength of character.” The themes for this school year are: October/Responsibility, November/Cooperation, December/Generosity, January/Respect, February/Compassion and Caring, March/Perseverance, April/Courage, and May/Self-Control.

Wingate Principal Jim Orichosky says, “The program helps all of our students start every day on a positive note and also helps them think about being kind and responsible in all situations.”

*Sixth grade students enjoy a special luncheon – a recognition treat for their “responsible” character. From left: Afton Rhine, Dakota Bartley, Bryce Greene, Kourtney Vermillion, Wyatt Glover, Austin Cowher, Dylan Peters, Stevie Pressler, and Kenny Reiter*



# Technology – *THE FUTURE IS NOW*



*(Above) Assistant Computer Network Administrator, Steve Thompson, readies a laptop cart for student use.*

*(Top Right) These Classrooms for the Future teachers are learning new methods of using computer technology in their instruction.*



Eight BEA high school teachers are glad to have a COW. In fact, they volunteered to have one.

In the technological world, COW is an acronym for Computers on Wheels – the mobile cart with 30 laptops connected to it that will be wheeled into the classrooms for students to use in their studies. Eight COWs were just part of the equipment received from the \$215,494 Pennsylvania State Classrooms for the Future (CFF) grant. CFF is a three-year investment to provide laptop computers, high-speed Internet access, and state-of-the-art software to high school classrooms across the state. Digital projectors, digital cameras, digital video camcorders, wireless access points, and interactive smart boards (a very large computer screen visible to the entire classroom, where the instructor uses his/her finger as the mouse) were also part of the grant. Bald Eagle Area received the computers and equipment in December, and the installations were completed by Christmas.

BEA decided to have two teachers from each of the core high school subjects – language arts, math, reading, and science – participate. High school teachers who volunteered, John Coltabaugh, Tara Deitrich, Scott Krise, Marie Lomison, Diane Lucas, Greta Markle, Gary Spotts, and Leanne Yeagley, each received a laptop for classroom use.

Participating staff members attended much training, including 30 hours of required online instruction. Bill Corkill, BEA's Instructional Technology Specialist, was selected to be the CFF Coach, a position required under the grant. He will help the teachers to find better ways to integrate technology into their classrooms.

Today's students live in a digital world, so it is fitting that they should be educated and engaged using the technology they use everyday in their away-from-school lives. CFF will prepare our students to successfully use equipment and technology that are commonplace in colleges and universities, corporate offices, production plants, and just about anyplace they will go after graduating.

At BEA, the future is now. We are excited to be a part of it.

## Howard Elementary eats that frog!

### *Great Ways to Get Great Things Done Well*

Howard elementary students each have a special goal this school year, after watching an assembly in which they learned about a book by Brian Tracy entitled, "Eat That Frog". Students found out that someone's frog is his or her biggest, most important task that can have the greatest impact and results at a point in time. The first rule of frog eating is: If you have to eat two frogs, eat the ugliest one first. When asked what that meant, students were quick to answer that if you have two important things to do, you should start with the most important, hardest one first. Students then thought about what the most important thing was for them to do this school year. That became their "frog," or their most important task. Then they learned the second rule of frog eating: If you have to eat a live frog at all, it doesn't pay to sit and look at it for very long. Students knew this meant to do it now, do it right, and do it right now!

Students created their own frog goals, which are on display at the school. Student goals include: The most important thing I can do this year is ...

- To learn how to write letters.
- Read.
- Do more working and less talking.
- Learn to write cursive.
- Get organized.
- Study harder.
- To always have a good attitude.
- To do a good job in gym class because it makes you healthy.
- Help others to clean up.
- Become better at math.
- Do my homework before I go to football.
- Read more.
- To make smart choices.



# ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

## Winter/Spring 2008

The Bald Eagle Area School District (BEASD) will offer an Adult Education Program for the Winter/Spring 2008 Session. Class descriptions, course cost, and beginning dates are listed below. District policy requires that at least 10 people register for a class before it will be held. In some cases, class size is limited, and registrations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Registration will remain open until Friday, February 8, 2008. Interested persons should complete the registration form and mail it, along with a check payable to Bald Eagle Area School District for the amount of the class cost. Registrations can be made over the phone, but will be held until a check for the class fee is received. Please do not send cash. In the event that we do not receive the required 10 people for a class, your check will be returned. Any questions regarding the Adult Education Program can be directed to the Superintendent's Office in the Administration Building at 355-4860 or 355-3737, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm. Please ask to speak with Nancy Fisher.

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS** – This is the perfect course for new computer users or those who have never had any formal orientation to the Windows environment. You will learn to identify different types of hardware and their functions, how to customize the Windows environment, and much more. Class will be held at the Bald Eagle Area Middle/Senior High School on Monday & Wednesday from 7 pm - 9 pm, beginning Monday, February 25, and will continue for 6 weeks. Cost: BEASD Resident - \$50.00, Non-resident - \$100.00.

**BEGINNING WATERCOLOR** — This course is designed to introduce watercolor techniques to beginners. Those who have some experience using watercolors are welcome. Class will be limited to ten students (ten people must register before the class will be held) in order to accommodate individual needs. Examples of what will be covered include What Colors Are a Good Beginning?, Color Mixing, What Happens When the Brush Hits the Paper?, etc. Instructor will be Janet Riggio, who is an art teacher at Wingate Elementary School and an exhibiting watercolor artist. Class will be held at the Wingate Elementary School on Tuesday and Thursday from 7 pm – 9 pm, beginning Tuesday, March 4, and will continue for four weeks. Cost: \$40 registration fee, plus an additional \$35 for supplies that can be purchased the evening of the first class. If a student prefers to purchase his/her own supplies, a list will be available.

**MICROSOFT WORD/EXCEL** – This course provides a focused introduction to two important features of Microsoft Office. It is designed to teach the basics about Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel that you need to know for practical tasks at school, at work, or at home. Prerequisite: Typing skills. Class will be held at the Bald Eagle Area Middle/Senior High School on Tuesday & Thursday from 7 pm - 9 pm, beginning Tuesday, February 26, and will continue for 6 weeks. Cost: BEASD Resident - \$50.00, Non-resident - \$100.00.

**INTRODUCTION TO PHOTO EDITING** – In this course, we will explore the ABC's of digital photo editing (cropping, red-eye removal, adjust lighting and color, etc.) as well as ways to artistically enhance and "retouch" digital photos. We will also explore ways to restore printed photographs using photo editing software, how to make digital photo collages and photo slideshows, and where to find and use free photo-editing software for use on your own personal computer. Instructor – Rosemarie W. Cox. Class will be held at the Wingate Elementary School on Monday and Wednesday from 7 pm – 9 pm, beginning Monday, March 3, and will continue for four weeks. Access to a digital camera or images on CD required. Cost: \$40.

### ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM (Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Class you wish to register for \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the Bald Eagle Area School District? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "Bald Eagle Area School District"  
PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH

Please return registration form and check before February 8, 2008 to:

Bald Eagle Area School District, Adult Education Registration  
751 S. Eagle Valley Rd., Wingate, PA 16823

*Congratulations to the Lady Eagles!*  
*2007 District 6 Class AA Volleyball*  
*Champion Runner-up*

### For the Record

Junior Danielle Reese set a school record for kills in a season (513), breaking the previous record of Angela Hoover (458). Also, Danielle's career kills are currently at 821, breaking the previous record of Lindsay Confer (745).

Senior Ashley Hamilton set a school record for career assists (1,759), breaking the previous record set by Mayleen Brown (1,608).





# Are there any Questions?

## WHY IS BEA RENOVATING WINGATE ELEMENTARY AND THE HIGH SCHOOL?

We have had this question asked many times by both citizens just driving by both facilities mentioned in the question, and by visitors to our buildings. Looking both inside and outside of these buildings, it would be easy to conclude that a present renovation is unnecessary. But those who are responsible for maintaining both attractive and functional facilities are well aware of mechanical and building structural components within the buildings that are nearing, or are beyond, their predictable life span. In a few paragraphs, we will try to explain why the projects need to be initiated now.

Bald Eagle Area began a renovation cycle with all district buildings in 1989, starting with Wingate Elementary and the High School. Renovations at Mountaintop, Howard, and Port Matilda Elementary schools followed later, ending in 1997.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provides substantial financial assistance to school districts when they either build new facilities or renovate existing facilities. Their rule of thumb for renovations of existing facilities is to only provide this financial assistance every twenty years.

The twenty-year limitation is right around the corner for us now at the Wingate Elementary School and the High School. After an extensive approval process, PDE will pay for up to 75 percent of all renovation costs. Simply, if Bald Eagle Area spends ten million dollars on an approvable project, PDE would pay up to 7.5 million of that total amount. But again, they will only provide this reimbursement every twenty years.

Presently, both Wingate Elementary and the High School have some high cost items that, although you can not see them from the outside, will have to be addressed in the near future. For example, the entire roof system at the high school is now five years past its normal predicted life span. It will need to be replaced in the not too distant future, and the replacement cost for just the high school roof alone will exceed one million dollars. If replaced as part of a PDE-approved renovation program, the cost to district residents will only be one-fourth of that amount, or \$250,000. And there are other deferred maintenance items in both buildings that need addressed, including plumbing and electrical service replacement, emergency generator upgrades, state-mandated handicapped access upgrades, and needed upgrades to the air conditioning, heating, and ventilation systems.

Planning a renovation every twenty years makes economic sense. Because of PDE participation, BEA will be able to upgrade the facilities at Wingate Elementary and the Bald Eagle High School, with needed improvements, at only a fourth of the cost, rather than the entire amount.



*Facilities Manager Don Snyder, left, explains electrical and heating systems renovation needs to Superintendent, Dan Fisher, and Board of Education member, Shirley Dudish.*

**TOP PHOTO:** Members of the BEA Facilities Advisory and Facilites Study Committees, which are composed of students, community members, BEA staff, and Board of Education members, discuss the renovation project with Hayes Large Architects.

# GATHERING ON THE MOUNTAINTOP

*School community celebrated in monthly activity*



*Noontime Assistant, Percy Sipes (center) is honored for being a "lifesaver." Kathy Muirhead (left) and Marsha Sackash (right) help Mrs. Sipes with her "lifesaver" vest.*



*Sixth grade Mountaintop students present an anti-bullying program. (From left) Bottom Row: Rebecca Bowling, Cheyenne Smolko, and Cory Scott (Guidance Counselor) Back Row: Briana Gardner, Tanner Cramer, Tyler Schall, and Kristina Smith.*

**E**ach month, the Mountaintop Area Elementary School students and staff swarm to the multipurpose room for their extraordinary Gathering events. It is a special time where everyone in the building has the opportunity to participate in some fun activities, sing songs, and share the good things that are happening in the building. Music teacher, Jennifer Schadle, is always knee-deep in the action as she provides the entire group with a variety of lively music enjoyed by all ages. She develops a graphics-loaded PowerPoint as the Gathering agenda. Each grade level is responsible for performing a song, proudly doing a skit, or leading an activity at some point during the school year. This creates a variety of experiences for the students to enjoy.

At the last Gathering, Mrs. Scott, school counselor, and a small group of sixth graders read an interesting and relevant story to the group. The story was about students working together to eliminate BULLYING in school and other places. They did a terrific job and ended the activity with every student reciting a pledge to not bully others and to help those that are being bullied. The Mountaintop school is working very hard to prevent bullying problems in the building, on the bus, and on the playground.

Another highlight of the event was Mrs. Priscilla Sipes receiving a unique award from the students and staff. Mrs. Sipes accepted the Mountaintop "Life Saver" Award for her heroic efforts to save a child from choking during lunch. Mrs. Kathy Muirhead, custodian and resident crafts expert, designed a distinctive vest for Mrs. Sipes, labeled with the words, "Life Saver," on the back. The vest was covered with real lifesaver candies, to the amazement of the students. Mrs. Sipes paraded around the room to the applause of all of the children and the staff.

Last, but not least, the principal, Ms. Sackash, welcomed all of the new students to the building. The students were asked to share something about themselves with the whole school. They loved speaking on the school's microphone and smiled delightfully when they were introduced.

Our Mountaintop Elementary School Gatherings provide an opportunity for everyone to experience a school community first hand, and demonstrate how this camaraderie can improve every person's experience in the school.

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Mr. Daniel Fisher, Superintendent

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