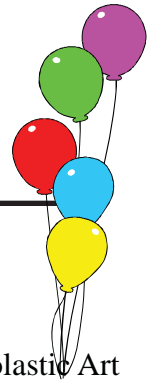




West Allegheny School District
STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS
(Formerly *In the Spotlight*)



West Allegheny online: www.westallegheny.k12.pa.us

For the March 17, 2010, Board of Directors Meeting

❖ West Allegheny School District students captured three Gold Key Awards in the 2010 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program in the regional competition in New York. West Allegheny seniors Nicole Bing and Alyssa Kirk won in the sculpture category, and junior Walt Haim in the painting category. Works of 693 students were selected as Gold Key winners from more than 165,000 pieces submitted. Those entries honored with Gold Key Award status were forwarded to the national level of judging with artwork from regional competitions throughout the country. High school art teachers Susan Carretta and Carol DeWitt coordinated the students' involvement in the program.

❖ West Allegheny High School sophomore Josi Sinagoga placed 5th out of 79 participants at the Forensics States Tournament held March 11 to 13, 2010, at Susquehanna University. Senior Sarah Stasik and junior Grace Shields also qualified to compete at the tournament. High school teachers Mike Shaffer, Mike Quinn, Mike Vattimo, and Dan Marshall are the team coaches.

❖ West Allegheny High School junior Neeti Bhatte entered an essay contest for the Microsoft Minority Student Day and won third place for the Pittsburgh Office. Applicants were required to write and submit a two page essay online. Neeti was honored at the Minority Student Day on February 26, 2010, at the Microsoft Headquarters in Pittsburgh. Her prize consisted of a laptop, a PC mouse, and a PC camera. Kyle Chapman, a West Allegheny ninth grader, was also selected to attend the Minority Student Day.

❖ Two West Allegheny High School band members were selected by live audition to participate in the PMEA Region/State Band festival. Seniors Kurtis Lutz and Ron Radovich will rehearse on March 25 and 26, 2010, and will conclude the experience with a concert at Waynesburg Central High School on March 26, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

❖ Three students from the McKee Elementary fifth grade choir were selected to participate in the PMEA Singfest West Festival. Sarah Behr, Gabriella Hatch, and Chloe Kehm will rehearse on March 19, 2010, and will conclude the experience with a concert in the West Jefferson Hills School District the same evening.

❖ Two students from the McKee Elementary fifth grade band Sarah Behr and Hannah Salvucci were selected to participate in the PMEA Band Fest West Festival to be held at Keystone Oaks High School on May 14 and 15, 2010. The students will participate in a rehearsal with other band members and perform in a concert on May 15, 2010, at 2:00 p.m.

❖ Three West Allegheny High School Students enrolled in programs at Parkway West Career & Technology Center placed in the Skills USA competition. Greg Ross took a first place in auto refinishing and

-continued-

Carol Bonnar, Communications Coordinator • P. O. Box 55 • Imperial PA 15126

Phone: (724) 695-5274 Fax: (724) 695-3788

Online: www.westallegheny.k12.pa.us E-mail: cbonnar@westallegheny.k12.pa.us

qualified to compete at the state competition on April 14-16, 2010, at the Hershey Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Bryce Jobkar placed second in collision repair, and Alexis Valenti, second in professional portfolio.

❖The West Allegheny High School girls' swimming and diving team claimed a WPIAL gold medal with the first place finish by the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Emily Pia, Ashley Niznik, Kara Kaulius, and Nadiya Wahl at the WPIAL Championships held on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. Their finishing time also earned them consideration for All-American status and a first-place seed at PIAA finals. Both the boys' and girls' swimming teams will compete at the PIAA finals at Bucknell University on March 19 and 20, 2010. Members of the team who have qualified for the finals in either a relay or an individual event are Kellie Gervas, Amanda Gannon, Emily Pia, Ashley Niznik, Kara Kaulius, Nadiya Wahl, Sydney Mangis, TJ Mangis, Tyler Vaughn, Anthony Sinagoga and Chris Hughes. This is the highest number of individual swimmers West Allegheny has ever sent to the finals for combined individual and relay events. West Allegheny diver Logan Irvine qualified to compete at the PIAA level on March 18, 2010. Bob Miller is the coach.

❖West Allegheny High School wrestlers Aaron McKinney and Troy Reaghard for won WPIAL Championship titles at Canon-McMillan High School in the 145-pound and 160-pound weight classes, respectively. Reaghard is the first West Allegheny wrestler in school history to win three WPIAL titles. Both athletes competed in the PIAA finals in Hershey. Both Troy and Aaron advanced to the finals and finished in second place. This is only the second time that a West Allegheny wrestler finished this far and never two in the same season. The coach is Mike Johnson.

❖The West Allegheny High School boys' basketball team defeated Hickory 42-41 in the first round of the PIAA Tournament on March 12, 2010. The team will play section foe Chartiers-Valley on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at North Allegheny High School for the second round of the tournament. The coach is Josh Bears.

❖The West Allegheny ice hockey team entered the PIHL playoffs on March 15, 2010, and beat Montour with a score of 4-1. The team will advance to Mellon Arena for the semi-finals on either March 22 or 23, 2010. The semi-finalist will then play for the Penguin Cup on March 27, 2010, also at Mellon. The Championship game will feature the Penguin Cup winner versus the Flyers Cup winner at Mellon Arena on April 1, 2010. Tyler Webb is the coach.

❖The West Allegheny High School girls' bowling team, consisting of Laura Mink, Samantha Cherin, Meghan Gilley, Michelle Leszunov, Brittney Aston, Jessica Geisler and Alexandra McDowell, competed in the WPIBL Western Conference Championships on March 12 and 13, 2010, at the North Versailles Lanes. Laura and Samantha also qualified in the tournament as individuals. The coach is Virginia Mitchell.

❖For the 2009-10 year so far, West Allegheny athletes have garnered two team WPIAL titles (football and volleyball) and one individual state golf title from the fall. To date in the winter post-season, West Allegheny athletes have earned one WPIAL swim relay gold medal and two WPIAL individual gold medals in wrestling with two second place finishes at the PIAA finals.

-continued-

❖The following West Allegheny High School students enrolled in the Marine Corps Junior ROTC (MCJROTC) program will participate in the MCJROTC Region One Championships Academics and Physical Fitness Test (one mile run, push-ups, crunches) scheduled for March 19-21, 2010, at Gloucester High School near Boston, Massachusetts: Barbara Lesko, Taylor Schultz, Rachael Wilson, Brittany Aston, Meghan Boocks, Tom Bruni, Mark Thomson, Logan Irvine, William Shaw, and Zach Roland. MCJROTC instructor Sgt. Maj. Robert Word and science/biology teacher Suzanne Lambert will escort the students.

❖The West Allegheny High School Art Club is sponsoring a community service project to help make safe the lead-contaminated soil that puts thousands of children in U.S. cities at risk for severe learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Entitled “The Fundred Dollar Bill Project,” the effort invites students to submit designs for a one-hundred dollar bill. Artist Mel Chin has arranged for a truck to pick up the entries at the high school and have them delivered to Congress to request funding to address the soil problem. West Allegheny High School and Carnegie Mellon University are the collection centers for the Pittsburgh area. Art club staff advisers are Carol DeWitt and Susan Carretta.

❖Wilson Elementary School third grade student Hannah Lindemuth collected over \$425 to benefit the earthquake victims in Haiti. She raised the money by selling wrist bands at school as part of the “Wilson has a Heart for Haiti” project.

❖Members of the Wilson Elementary School Student Council sponsored a drive to collect food, toys, and litter for Animal Friends during the month of February 2010. Nancy Sale and Laurie Cole are the student council staff advisers.

❖Eighth grade girls at West Allegheny Middle School will have an opportunity to participate in a Girls Overnight Leadership Development (GOLD) program on Friday, March 19, 2010, from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. at the school. The purpose of the event is to promote self-esteem, develop leadership qualities, and address the various challenges that teen girls face as they leave the middle school and prepare for high school. West Allegheny senior Maggie Conosciuto is helping to coordinate the overnight event as her senior project. She has recruited the following 13 high school seniors to help with various details, both before and during the event: Brianna Bayly, Maggie Columbus, Amanda Formosa, Haley Hanczar, Chelsea Katkich, Olivia Londino, Christine Marshall, Marissa Mianzo, Jenna Placha, Alexa Seybold, Glenne Thompson, Kristina Tissue, and Kasey Walls. Middle school teacher Dana Burrows and middle school counselor Melissa MacNeil serve as the staff advisers for the event.

❖West Allegheny High School math teacher Colleen Barnes was chosen to present at the Promethean ActivEducator Conference on March 6, 2010, at Keystone Oaks Middle School/High School. This year’s conference welcomed over 190 educators from across 3 states, 50 school districts, and 3 institutions of higher education. In her session entitled “Formative Assessment in the Math ActivClassroom,” Barnes demonstrated how to use ActivExpressions, an electronic device which allows students to respond to teacher prompts, for formative assessment in the math classroom.

❖McKee Elementary teachers Mariann Winning and Chris Pratt won an \$800 “Take Education on the Road” field trip grant from Target. The funding will provide morning kindergarten students with an op-

-continued-

portunity to see “The Frog Prince” at Penn State Beaver Campus on April 13, 2010. Afternoon classes will see the show on April 15, 2010.

❖Wilson Elementary School Principal Kathleen Sites was presented with a check for \$500 on March 12, 2010, by Lloyd and Patricia Faux to assist with the preservation and maintenance of the Wilson Log House as an educational and historic resource for students and residents of the West Allegheny community. The money was raised from donations collected at the 2009-10 Findlay Township Celebration of Lights display, which is coordinated annually by Mr. and Mrs. Faux as a service to the West Allegheny community and beyond.

❖West Allegheny employees donated a total of \$2,352 to support cancer research through the American Cancer Society’s Daffodil Days fundraiser this year. The American Cancer Society uses the daffodil, the first flower of spring, as the symbol of hope for a cancer cure. Beth Bauer, Diane Boustead, Mary Beth Hill, Debbie Elicker, and Becky Schroeder coordinated the collection in their buildings.

Carol Bonnar, Communications Coordinator
West Allegheny School District
724-695-5274