



# INSIDE WEST ALLEGHENY

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

November 2004

*This newsletter brings warmest wishes for a*

***Happy Thanksgiving***



*to all employees of the West Allegheny School District.*

*Editor's Note: Pictured is Donaldson first grader Andrew Denes, who guessed the correct weight of the 120-pound pumpkin beside him.*

## Middle School Joins McDonald's in Flood Relief Fundraising Effort



*West Allegheny Middle School staff members helped raise money for local flood victims by participating in McTeachers' Night at McDonald's Restaurant in Imperial on October 18, 2004. Pictured is the work crew for the 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. shift: (front) Janet Walsh, Kristen Martin, Bonnie Trucco and Mary Damratoski; (back) Valerie Prevade, Renee Treonze, Sue Martin, and Tom Burke.*

### West Allegheny 2004 Holiday Concert Schedule

❖ **McKee Band & Chorus**

December 2, 7:00 p.m.

McKee Elementary School

❖ **Grade 6 Band & Chorus**

December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Stewart Morgan Auditorium

❖ **Wilson Band & Chorus**

December 7, 7:00 p.m.

Wilson Elementary School

❖ **Donaldson Band & Chorus**

December 9, 7:00 p.m.

Donaldson Elementary School

❖ **Pittsburgh Concert Chorale\***

December 11, 2004, 8:00 p.m.

Stewart Morgan Auditorium

*\*See page 4*



❖ **Grade 7 Band & Chorus**

December 14, 7:00 p.m.

Stewart Morgan Auditorium

❖ **High School Choruses**

December 17 & 18, 7:00 p.m.

Stewart Morgan Auditorium

❖ **Grade 8 Band & Chorus**

December 21, 7:00 p.m.

Stewart Morgan Auditorium

## Educator Serves on TVT Board

Jennifer Gryck, high school English/videography teacher, was selected as a member of the board of Television and Video Teachers (TVT) for the 2004-05 school year. Founded in 1991, TVT has members in more than five states. Its goal is to provide a forum where those who teach television and video at the secondary level can network and exchange ideas and resources. TVT hosts an annual Video Competition every spring for students interested in the field of television production.



## Employees Attend In-service Training

*Kathleen Sites, Wilson Elementary principal (right), discusses the use of the teacher evaluation forms required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education during the staff in-service training program held in August 2004.*

Call the NEWSLINE



**724-695-5205**  
for news and  
weekly listings

## Teacher Awarded MAC Grant

West Allegheny Middle School physical education teacher Mary Lococo received a \$500 MAC grant from McDonald's to use for hands-on learning activities in the classroom. The funding was provided by the McDonald's MAC Grant program, which supports teacher initiative in the classroom. Lococo was also part of a group of middle school staff members who participated in McTeachers' Night at McDonalds in Imperial on October 18 to raise money for local flood victims.

## District Staff Members Appear in Musical Production "Annie"

Several West Allegheny music staff members participated in Stage 62's production of "Annie," which opened on November 5. Andrew Peters was the music director, and Toni Baldanzi and Darren Humbert played in the orchestra.

Meagan Bruno had a featured role in the cast. Additional performances were held on November 6-7, 12-14, and 19-20 at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall at 300 Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

## Magazine Publishes Librarian's Idea

McKee librarian Lin Nalesnick had an idea she submitted published in the December 2004/January 2005 issue of Bookbag Magazine's "Literacy Ideas for Teachers" column. To help students keep track of research information, Nalesnick suggested that teachers provide a supply of CAT slips for use in conjunction with the computer CAT-alog. When students visit the library, they

simply complete a CAT slip for each book they select from the online CAT-alog. The magazine article calls it a "purr-fect" way to avoid lengthy searches due to lost information.

**School Closings and Delays**  
Tune in to  
**KDKA Radio 1020 AM**

# District Welcomes New Employees for 2004-05

Joining the district staff for the 2004-05 school year are:

## Teachers

—Kristen Newell, half-time elementary home and school visitor and half-time Donaldson guidance counselor

—Jennifer Gryck, high school English/communications teacher

—Claire March, elementary art teacher

—Scott Meehan, part-time (four-sixths) elementary gym teacher

—Tina Seybold, McKee fourth grade teacher

—Melissa Nalli, McKee fourth grade teacher

—Katie Scott, middle school language arts resource teacher

—Valerie Prevade, middle school mathematics teacher

—Lynanne Mickle, half-time McKee/Wilson reading specialist and half-time McKee/Donaldson ESL teacher, assigned to Donaldson fourth grade

## Long-Term Substitutes:

—Tammy Chicarello, half-time reading teacher, McKee and Donaldson

—Deanna Mack, McKee fourth grade teacher

—Erin McGowan, half-time ESL Specialist, McKee and Donaldson

—Christopher Muti, first semester, high school math teacher

—Jan Schade, McKee second grade teacher

—Holly Smith, Wilson life skills teacher

—Josh Bears, boys basketball head coach

## Staff Shares Teaching Experience

Three West Allegheny teachers Carol Rozum, RayeAnn Sklarsky, and Rita Wilson are sharing their teaching experience with college students this year. Rozum and Sklarsky are working with student

teachers Jamie Yost and April Egal from Robert Morris University, respectively. Wilson is mentoring Alison McBee, an intern in a masters program at the University of Pittsburgh.

## Proceeds Target Cancer Research

On October 8, members of the West Allegheny School District staff raised a total of \$1,200 by participating in Lee National Denim Day, a fundraising effort to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Employees were permitted to wear denim to work that day in exchange for a \$5 donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for breast cancer research. Becky Schroeder, Wilson Elementary School nurse, coordinated the project as part of the observance of the month of October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

## Board Honors Retiring Secretary for Fifteen Years of Service

Ruth Snatchko, Secretary to Superintendent Charles Hughey, was honored at the Board Recognition Night program on November 15 for “meritorious service to the School Board members, staff, and especially to the students within the West Alle-



*Ruth Snatchko, secretary and Charles Hughey, superintendent*

gheny School District.” Snatchko, who usually prepares the award certificates for the honorees, was surprised by a certificate bearing her name presented to her by Superintendent Charles Hughey. She is retiring on January 14, 2005, after 15 years of service.



## Around the District:

## Snapshots of the Buildings

### High School

❖ High school students will host a Thanksgiving dinner for a group of students, parents, and staff members on November 23. The students will handle the preparations for the meal, including designing and sending invitations, planning the menu, and cooking the food. High school life skills teacher Tony Castelluci is coordinating the celebration.

### Middle School

❖ The middle school student government created a giant-sized (5-foot by 11-foot) American flag to remember veterans during November. Students wrote the names of veterans in their families on cards and placed the cards on the flag displayed near the main entrance. Debbie Kazar is the student government faculty advisor.

### Donaldson

❖ Donaldson fifth graders attended an environmental program entitled “A Fresh Look at Ecosystems” at the Regional Environmental Education Center in Boyce Mayview Park, Upper St. Clair on October 28. There they participated in activities related to classroom units in environmental science, social studies, and language arts. Fifth grade teachers Tiffany Mangan, Tonya Zang, and Vince Bianco coordinated the trip.

### McKee

❖ McKee third graders took advantage of the seasonal abundance of pumpkins to compare estimates with actual numbers on October 28-29. They focused on the circumference, height, and weight of the pumpkins as well as the number of seeds inside and

displayed the results on Excel graphs. Third grade teachers Michelle Bateman, Julie Bragg, Renae Castelluci, and Terry Petrick coordinated the lesson, which integrated math, reading, writing, science, and computer technology.

### Wilson

❖ Wilson first graders in Carol Rozum’s class presented a Veterans’ Day program on November 9 to welcome Lance Corporal Brad Ferrie back from the war and thank him for his service to the country. Ferrie is a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Unit near Erie, Pennsylvania and the brother of first grader Madeline Neel. He was stationed outside of Fallujah, Iraq, where he was a driver in the Truck Company responsible for troop movements in Iraq as part of the insertion and extraction team.

## Pittsburgh Concert Chorale Performs at West Allegheny

The West Allegheny Arts Connection will sponsor a return engagement of the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale (PCC) for a special holiday concert on Saturday, December 11, at 8:00 p.m. at West Allegheny High School. The show entitled “Old Friends and New Traditions” features a program designed to warm the heart and reflect the holiday spirit.

Specifically, the program lists the glorious oratorio, Handel’s *Sing Unto God* (from Judas Macca-baeus), *Et Incarnatus est* from Bach’s B Minor Mass, and holiday

carols that include *The Bell Carol*, *Sleigh Ride* and a touch of gospel. Other songs include a “rockin” version of *Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town*. Entertainers like George Furlow on soprano saxophone and Nicholas Cappula, “a teenage tap dancing wizard” will also appear.

Tickets are available through ProArts (412) 394-3353; at [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org); or the PCC office, (412) 635-7654 or by downloading an order form at [www.pghconcertchorale.org](http://www.pghconcertchorale.org). Prices are \$20 for adult reserved, \$16 for adult general admission, \$8

for students and \$5 for children 11 and under. Discounts for groups are available.



Visit West Allegheny  
online at: [www.westallegheny.k12.pa.us](http://www.westallegheny.k12.pa.us)

## Family Support Committee Offers Assistance

In the past the West Allegheny School District has administered a program coordinated by Superintendent Charles Hughey and Wilson Elementary teacher Karen Cain to provide assistance to district families with school-age children who are identified as “in need.” While the district intends to continue this service, these two individuals will no longer be available to coordinate the effort. Therefore, a new Family Support Committee has been formed with representatives in each of the five schools and the district office.

The district is asking residents who are aware of any family with school-age children living in the district, who may be in need of support services to contact the following: Lynn Birnie, high school, 724-695-5252; Kristen Martin, middle school, 724-695-8979, Ext. 2233; Kristen Newell, Donaldson, 724-213-1014; JoAnn Biscan, McKee, 724-695-5267; Karen Tracy, Wilson, 724-695-3300, Ext. 5304, and Meredith Gillo, district office, 724-695-5219. Recommendations for assistance may be made anonymously and will remain confidential.



## Thinking of You

**Best wishes** to the following staff members on their “good news” events...

Judy Aloi (granddaughter, Morgan Danielle)  
Carol Bonnar (grandson, Jameson Robert)  
Lorraine Burns (engagement)  
Beth (Koraido) Bromley (baby boy, Clark Jamison (C.J.))  
Meagan Bruno (baby girl, Madison Grace)  
Denise (Mary) Cartisser (marriage)  
Jason Cheskawich (baby girl, Lillian Rose)  
Sally Davis (granddaughter, Macy)  
Kim Dawson (baby boy, Brock Michael)  
Glenn Franceschina (granddaughter, Deianira)  
Julie Hahka (baby girl, Samantha Rae)  
Suzanne Lambert (baby boy, Brayden Walker)  
Carol McCullough (grandson, Cole Scott)  
Mindy Partyka (baby girl, Macy)  
Sandy Pittinaro (granddaughter, Cassidy Joan)  
Chris Pratt (baby girl, Zoe Marie)  
Carla Prevade (baby girl, Calie Ann)  
Valerie Prevade (engagement)  
Curt Russell (marriage)  
Aimee Schaltenbrand (baby boy, Chase Ryan)  
Tanya Sekelik (baby girl, Ella Ryan)  
Joanne Short (grandson, Austin Joseph)  
Julie (Arrowsmith) Vukovcan (marriage)  
Art Walker (baby boy, Casey Arthur)  
Tawnya Weidinger (baby girl, Grace Margaret)  
Bryan Wilson (engagement)  
Stephanie and Andy Wischmann (baby boy, Austin Joseph)  
Dorothy Wright (granddaughter, Callie Louise)

**Best wishes** to the following staff members who are recovering or have recovered from illness, injury, surgery, or other hospitalization...

Sharon Emling, Joan Phillips, Debbie Scott, Ralph Shattuck, Earl-Bradford Smith, Leah Vestal, and Linda Yothers

*(continued on page 6)*



It is the policy of the District not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age or handicap in its educational programs, services, facilities, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 Regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 204 Regulations of the 1984 Carl D. Perkins Act or any applicable federal statute. For information regarding this policy, contact Compliance Officer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, West Allegheny School District, P. O. Box 55, 105 Pine Street, Imperial, PA 15126, 724-695-3422, or the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, DC 20201. The school district shall not discriminate in the operations/ functions of the district on the basis of sex, color, national origin, religion, marital status, or handicap.



*Published by the  
West Allegheny School District  
Communications Office*



## Thinking of You

*(continued from page 5)*

**Sympathy** is extended to the family of Margaret (Marge) Gillen, former high school secretary, who died in July

**Sympathy** is extended to the following staff members on the recent loss of their loved ones...

- Mary Buhman on the death of her mother
- Denise Cartisser on the death of her grandmother
- Becky Claus on the death of her grandmother
- Dana Hannah on the death of her uncle
- Jennifer Hart on the death of her father
- Kim Jones on the death of her mother-in-law
- Suzanne Lambert on the death of her grandmother
- Mary Lococo on the death of her father
- Carol Lowry on the deaths of her aunt and her uncle
- Kristen Martin on the death of her mother
- Mike Quinn on the death of his father-in-law
- Beth Schultz on the death of her uncle
- Katie Scott on the death of her grandmother
- Jean Shaw on the death of her mother-in-law
- Pat Short on the death of her brother-in-law
- Melissa Taranto on the death of her grandmother

*Based on information provided by employees for the period beginning April 12 through November 19, 2004*



✧ Special thanks to all ✧  
staff members who serve on the  
Communications Advisory Committee

WAEA

### For Your Information

WAESPA

West Allegheny Education  
Association  
Officers

West Allegheny Education  
Support Professional  
Association Officers

*Tom Donnelly, President*  
*Debbie Turici, Vice President*  
*Karen Evans Meyers, Secretary*  
*Mike Vattimo, Treasurer*

*Pat Cornelius, President*  
*Vice President (to be announced)*  
*Joyce Anderson, Secretary*  
*Sandy Pittinaro, Treasurer*