



INSIDE WEST ALLEGHENY

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

Fall 2006

*This newsletter brings warmest wishes for a **Happy Halloween***



to all employees of the West Allegheny School District.

Pictured are Mary Beth Hill, McKee School Nurse, with fifth graders Jamie Williams and Kaylee Cerny

Second Graders Experience Biology



While Donaldson second graders in Cindy Hensler's class didn't dissect frogs as their high school counterparts do, they did get a chance to hear the authentic sounds of frogs and toads during a presentation by high school biology teacher Suzanne Lambert. On October 2, Lambert visited her daughter Brianna's class, using an audio tape, books, pictures, and group discussion to reinforce what the students had learned in language arts about the amphibians.

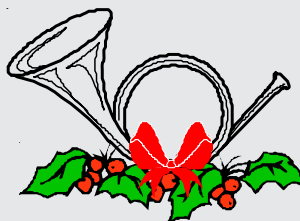


West Allegheny 2006 Holiday Concert Schedule



- ❖ **McKee Band & Chorus**
November 30, 7:00 p.m.
McKee Elementary School
- ❖ **Donaldson Band & Chorus**
December 5, 7:00 p.m.
Donaldson Elementary School
- ❖ **Wilson Band & Chorus**
December 7, 7:00 p.m.
Wilson Elementary School

- ❖ **Grade 6 Band & Chorus**
December 12, 7:00 p.m.
Stewart Morgan Auditorium



- ❖ **Grade 7 Band & Chorus**
December 13, 7:00 p.m.
Stewart Morgan Auditorium
- ❖ **High School Choruses**
December 21 & 22, 7:00 p.m.
Stewart Morgan Auditorium
- ❖ **Grade 8 Band & Chorus**
December 19, 7:00 p.m.
Stewart Morgan Auditorium

District Welcomes New Employees for 2006-07

The district welcomes the following new employees for 2006-07.

Administration:

- Thomas Orr, McKee Elementary Principal
- Richard Smith, Middle School Principal (*While not new to the staff, Mr. Smith has a new assignment this year, having been promoted from his former position as High School Assistant Principal.*)

Faculty:

- Rachel Beresford, middle school gifted teacher
- Dana Danzuso, halftime middle school special education teacher
- Robert Dowd, high school learning support

Staff Donations Exceed \$9,000

On October 6, 2006, West Allegheny School District staff members raised a total of \$1,295 by participating in Lee National Denim Day. The event was a fundraising effort to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Employees were encouraged to lend support by wearing denim and/or the color pink in exchange for a \$5 donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Becky Schroeder, Wilson Elementary School nurse, has coordinated the drive at West Allegheny for 7 years with proceeds exceeding \$9,000.

- Courtney Fodor, Donaldson second grade teacher
- Karen Frech, McKee first grade teacher
- Jessica Henry, middle school learning support teacher
- Matthew Kropf, high school social studies teacher
- Barb Lecker, high school nurse
- Karen Machusko, speech and language teacher
- Ryan Madonna, high school math teacher
- Richard Mathieu, 4/6-time Wilson health and physical education teacher
- Carrie Morgan, middle school technology facilitator
- Angie Morrison, Wilson third grade teacher
- Shara Moss, McKee reading specialist
- Todd Rasbach, middle school social studies teacher
- Patricia Schafer, high school learning support teacher

- Rebecca Simko, Wilson learning support teacher
- Debbie Stockhausen, Donaldson kindergarten teacher assigned to McKee third grade
- Kathy Taylor, Wilson guidance counselor
- Kristen Wagner, high school family and consumer science teacher

Long-Term Substitutes:

- Bob Meehan, McKee second grade teacher
- Brandie Short, Donaldson fourth grade teacher
- Kimberly Will, Donaldson kindergarten teacher

Mid year hires - 2005-2006:

- Bob Coulter, high school math teacher
- Kim Patterson, middle school halftime German and halftime ESL teacher
- Tracy Pflug, District Office fiscal specialist

January In-service Stresses Wellness

The Act 48 Committee announces the following plans for the January 15, 2007, Staff In-Service Program:

Morning: Keynote Speakers on Heart Disease and Nutrition
Afternoon: Workshop Rotation including "10,000 Steps,"
stress management and vendor displays

Call the NEWSLINE

724-695-5205

for news and
weekly listings



School Closings and Delays

Tune in to

KDKA Radio 1020 AM

Family Support Committee Offers Assistance

The West Allegheny Family Support Committee was formed to help district families with school-age children. If you are aware of any family with school-age children living in the district, who may be in need of support services, please contact the following: Lynn Birnie, high school, 724-695-5252; Pearl Hellman, middle school, 724-695-8979, Ext. 5233; 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. Anonymous and confidential recommendations may be submitted.



Technology Support Center

Questeq, the district's technology services provider, has the following staff members available on site for 2006-2007:
Thomas Aldrich, Nathan Watt,
Ron Foster, Sam Fiorante.

❖ Access Methods:

Phone: Ext. 1007

Web: support.questeq.com

E-mail: support@questeq.com



Thinking of You

❖ **Best wishes** to the following staff members on their "good news" events...

Angie Gradek (grandson, Kyle Richard)
Tom Hamm (marriage)
Bonnie Scears Harbaugh (marriage)
Pat Hoskins (grandson, Tyler Dean)
Jennifer Gryck Jones (marriage)
Matthew Kropf (engagement)
Bob Meehan (marriage)
Valerie Prevade Meehan (marriage)
Todd Rasbach (marriage)
Lisa Gamble Rukas (marriage)
Ken Scott (grandson, Avery Allen)
Lynanne Mickle Shaffer (marriage)
Robin Silveira (granddaughter, Eden Grace)
Rebecca Simko (engagement)
Debbie Klug Stockhausen (marriage)
Virginia Zang (granddaughter, Addison Lilly)

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

Valerie Meehan

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

Bernard Baker on the death of his father
Chris Bielecki on the death of his mother
Kathie Brookman on the death of her grandmother
Barb Eberle on the death of her father
Bernadette Goodwin on the death of her grandmother
Bonnie Harbaugh on the death of her father
Mary Beth Hill on the death of her grandmother
Megan Huchko on the death of her mother
Charles Metro on the death of his wife
Karen Tracy on the death of her father-in-law
Michele Vezzi on the death of her mother
Carla Williams on the death of her grandmother
Lisa Wilson on the death of her uncle
Andrew Wischmann on the death of his father
Stephanie Wischmann on the death of her father-in-law

*Based on information provided by employees
for the period beginning May 2006 through
October 2006*



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.



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Wilson Welcomes U.S. Secretary



Wilson teachers Mardelle Walk (left photo) and Nancy Sale (right photo) taught classes observed by U. S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings on September 14.

WA Employees Present Workshops

Four West Allegheny staff members presented workshops at the second annual County-wide Professional Development Day facilitated by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit on October 9, 2006. Based on the Building on Student Success (BOSS) initiative developed by Allegheny County Superintendents, the program aims to prepare teachers to increase student achievement.

Chris Shattuck, Wilson Elementary teacher, discussed the Journey Math program and Meagan Bruno, middle school teacher, production of a successful high school musical. Dr. Earl Bradford Smith, high school assistant principal, addressed human diversity issues in education and Sandra Huling, Donaldson Elementary teacher, software applications in the classroom.

Staff, Students Perform in Musical

Several West Allegheny music staff members and high school students will participate in Stage 62's production of "The Sound of Music," which opens on November 3-5, 2006. Meagan Bruno plays the role of Maria, and junior Kyle Helliar is also in the cast. Andrew Peters will direct the orchestra, which includes Toni Baldanzi, Darren Humbert, Steve

Groba, and students Ryan Karr, Michael Oswalt, and Kurtis Lutz. Additional performances will be held on November 10-12 and 17-18 at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library Music Hall. Shows begin at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Information is available by phone at 412-429-6262 and online at www.stage62.com.