



Wilson Staff Skit Delivers Drug-Free Message

Wilson students and staff wore red ribbons with the anti-drug message, "I Believe in Me...I'm Drug Free," to celebrate Red Ribbon Week October 26-30. The program urged students to make good lifestyle choices, like being drug free. It also paid tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena, who was killed by drug dealers in 1985.

An assembly on October 26 launched the week's activities with a video starring Wilson students. It focused on the origin of Red Ribbon Week and the consequences of using drugs and alcohol. Next, a group of faculty members presented a skit stressing the importance of a drug-free lifestyle.

The week's activities included classroom presentations on drug and alcohol prevention. Each



Wilson faculty members (kneeling) Lisa Meehan, Kathryn Taylor, Kim Eater, (standing) Matt DeChicko, Laura Jack, Angie Morrison, Nicole Zdinak, Holly Smith, Renee Caruso, and Amie Schwartzmiller sing "We are drug free" to the tune of "We Will Rock You."

day of the week featured a dress-up theme with an anti-drug message: Monday, red day; Tuesday, crazy socks day (Sock it to Drugs), Wednesday, pajamas/robes/slippers day (Follow

your dreams...Don't do drugs); Thursday, Hawaiian day ("Lei" off drugs); and Friday, sunglasses day (Too cool for drugs). Kathryn Taylor, guidance counselor, coordinated the program.



West Allegheny 2009 Holiday Concert Schedule



- ❖ **Donaldson Band & Chorus**
December 7, 7:00 p.m.
Donaldson Elementary School
- ❖ **Wilson Band & Chorus**
December 8, 7:00 p.m.
Wilson Elementary School
- ❖ **McKee Band & Chorus**
December 10, 7:00 p.m.
McKee Elementary School

- ❖ **Grade 6 Band & Chorus**
December 14, 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Gym
- ❖ **High School Show Choir**
Holiday Performance Schedule
to be announced



- ❖ **Grade 7 Band & Chorus**
December 16, 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Gym
- ❖ **Grade 8 Band & Chorus**
December 17, 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Gym
- ❖ **High School Chorus**
December 22, 7:00 p.m.
to be announced

New Assistant Principal Joins High School Staff

Kevin McKiernan was hired at the October 21, 2009, West Allegheny School Board meeting to fill the position of high school assistant principal replacing Dr. Earl Bradford Smith who resigned in July to take a teaching position in Florida.

Superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti said, "Mr. McKiernan will be an excellent addition to our leadership team. All of us look forward to working with him."

An educator for seven years, McKiernan brings a variety of teaching experience at both the middle school and high school

level to the district. Along with Principal Dan Smith and Assistant Principal Christopher Shattuck, he is responsible for the daily operations of the high school. As such, he will attend to student behavior, budgeting, and the evaluation of teachers and serve as an instructional leader and problem solver for students, teachers, and parents.

Regarding his interactions with students, McKiernan said, "Interacting with students is the heart and soul of what we do. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the students in the West Allegheny

School District, where it is clear that there is a commitment to success both academically and athletically, as well as to the many other facets included in developing well-rounded young adults."

McKiernan taught Social Studies at Northgate Middle/High School for the last seven years. Involved with students outside the classroom as well, he served for four years as the head basketball coach for Northgate's varsity program.

He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Washington and Jefferson College, a Masters of Education in School Administration from California University of Pennsylvania, and a Pennsylvania Teaching Certification. He holds certifications in Social Studies, grades 7-12, and Principal, grades K-12.

McKiernan resides in Ross Township with his wife Lauren and their twin children Keelin and Finnegan.



Kevin McKiernan

Principal Reads Log House Proclamation



The authentic log house at Wilson Elementary School provided the theme for a historical program in October with classroom visits from Principal Kathleen Sites. Dressed as an early American headmistress, Sites read a proclamation declaring October 19-23 as Wilson Log House Week. Pictured also are fourth graders Mackenzie Walters, Alexis Vogt, and Stephanie Berhosky.

Congratulations to Jennifer Jones
High School English teacher!

She will receive a PSEA Communications Award at the PSEA House of Delegates meeting on December 4, 2009.

District Welcomes New Employees for 2009-10

New employees for the 2009-10 school year are as follows:

•*Administration:*

--Kevin McKiernan, high school assistant principal

•*Faculty:*

--Amy Boesenberg, Donaldson second grade teacher

--Emily Grata, high school Biology teacher

--Susan Kriznik, middle school /high school career/transition counselor

--Lisa Mitchell, Wilson life skills teacher

--Lisa Meehan, half-time Wilson kindergarten teacher

--Ron Neurohr, high school technology education teacher

--Kristin Shadish, McKee learning support teacher

--Brandie Short, half-time McKee kindergarten teacher

--Julie Sitko, high school guidance counselor

--Gwen Tate - McKee fifth grade teacher

•*Long-term Substitute:*

--Margaret Fodse, middle school life skills teacher

•*Other:*

--Steve Nicola - high school physics intern

•*Support Staff:*

--Leandra Block, Wilson dishwasher

--Lisa Hufnagel, Wilson server

--Anita Krisovenski, Wilson lunchroom aide

--Sandra Lewis, middle school lunchroom aide

--Andy Miller, Wilson instructional aide

--Michele Nolte, half-time high school library aide

--Lisa Rippole, Wilson lunchroom aide

--Jean Ann Staub, Wilson lunchroom aide

--Cheryl Stroud, McKee instructional aide

--Joseph Szyjko, general maintenance worker

Employees Perform in Musical Theater

Middle School teachers Meagan Bruno and Andrew Peters, along with eighth grader Haley Joyce, will appear in the cast of the musical *Titanic* at Stage 62, a local theater group based in Carnegie at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall. Middle School Assistant Principal Toni Baldanzi will play in the orchestra. Show dates are November 6-8, 13-15 and 20-21, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.stage62.com or reserved at 412-429-6262.



Joining the faculty for the 2009-10 school year are (front) Kristin Shadish, McKee learning support; Susan Kriznik, high school/middle school career/transition; Emily Grata, high school biology; (back) Ron Neurohr, high school technology education; Margaret Fodse, middle school life skills long-term substitute; Julie Sitko, high school guidance; and Steve Nicola, high school physics intern. Missing from the photograph are Amy Boesenberg, Donaldson second grade; Lisa Meehan, half-time Wilson kindergarten; Lisa Mitchell, Wilson life skills, Brandie Short, half-time McKee kindergarten; and Gwen Tate, McKee fifth grade.

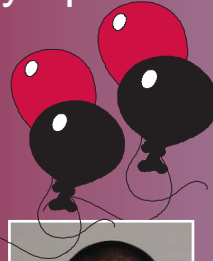
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Coaches Help “Light the Night” for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Walk

West Allegheny High School football coach Bob Palko and cheerleading coach Kristin Coates traveled to Heinz Field in Pittsburgh on October 1, 2009, with 35 members of the school’s football team and 13 members of its cheerleading squad--but not for a football game. Instead, they came to support 21-month-old leukemia survivor Connor Behr at the Light the Night Walk sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. (LLS).



Bob Palko



Kristen Coates

The coaches and students had responded to an invitation from Connor’s family to join his fund-raising team for the 1 1/2 mile walk. The family recruited the 75-member team to thank LLS for helping Connor win his battle against Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Besides those who walked with Connor that evening, many other donors, including family, friends, and a number of West Allegheny employees helped raise over \$2,500 for research and patient care.

Aides Attend Crisis Prevention Training



Carrie Frohnappfel (second from left) conducted a crisis prevention training session for staff members, including instructional aides Susan McKissick (Donaldson), Judy Kubatka (McKee), and Kate Hanczar (Wilson) prior to the start of the 2009-10 school year.