



INSIDE WEST ALLEGHENY

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

Spring 2006

This newsletter brings warmest wishes for a

Productive Spring Season



to all employees of the West Allegheny School District.

Employee Recognition Program Emphasizes Appreciation for Service



West Allegheny School Board Approves 2006-2007 School Calendar

- ❖ Staff reports August 28
- ❖ Classes begin August 30 and end June 6
- ❖ Winter Break - December 25 through January 2
- ❖ Spring Break - April 5 through April 9
- ❖ Graduation - June 1
- ❖ Kennywood - June 14

Pictured are some of the attendees at the fifth annual Employee Recognition Dinner at Celebrations & More on March 29, 2006: (top) Nancy Howell, presenter; Jan Morris, 25-year honoree; Kathleen Sites, 15-year honoree and presenter; Suzan Braun, 30-year honoree; Trish Nolan, presenter, and Debbie Turici, 25-year honoree; (bottom, left) Mary Beth Kramer, 10-year honoree; Cheryl Kokoskie and Veva Tessmer, 15-year honorees; (bottom, right) Phyllis Hajos, 15-year honoree; and Dana Hannah, 10-year honoree.

Honorees with 25 or more years of service were acknowledged with personal comments from a colleague while those with 20 years or less were featured in a

video presentation. Board president John Scott and Superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti congratulated the employees and presented them with a gift and a certificate.

Middle States Process Enters Implementation Stage

After the Middle States Validation Team oral presentation on March 30, 2006, the following steering committee members met for a photograph: (front) Elizabeth Shannon, Sara Ferko, Marsha Herring, Jennifer Fox, and Munaii Franjione; (back) Tony Castelluci, Dr. Earl Bradford Smith, Martin Lestander, Pam Volakis, and Carol Bonnar. On April 20, 2006, this committee and other department representatives began planning the implementation phase of the accreditation process. Objectives focus on student improvement in academic performance and acquisition of technological skills.



Cafeteria Expands Milk Options, Earns Dairy Association Grant

The West Allegheny School District qualified for a \$6,000 grant provided by the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association by expanding its milk offerings through the New Look of School Milk program. This program provided the district with milk in contemporary, plastic, resealable containers and added strawberry-flavored milk as a choice for students. As an added benefit, West Allegheny Schools are experiencing increases in milk sales and milk consumption.

“Serving ice-cold milk in plastic bottles and in a variety of great flavors is more appealing to the students,” said James Sheridan, school food service coordinator. “We are pleased to be pioneers in the area of milk merchandising at schools, which allows the district’s

food service program to provide healthier options for students.” Schneider’s Dairy of Pittsburgh furnishes West Allegheny Schools with the plastic milk containers.

The New Look of School Milk program was started in response to the 2001 School Milk Pilot Test, cosponsored by the National Dairy Council and the American School Foodservice Association. “The test showed that enhancing milk in four key areas, including packaging, flavor, temperature and availability, increases milk consumption, as well as school meal participation,” said Ellen Fuller, vice president of school marketing for Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association.

Sheridan said, “The grant money will be used to purchase a large beverage display case and two large milk coolers.”

District Offers Items for Sale

1. JIG SAWS: Two Delta - Rockwell table jig saws (seem to be complete and run well)
2. STEAM CLEANER: Steam cleaner of unknown origin
3. STEAM CLEANER: Steam Jenny (Coil needs repaired.)

Anyone interested in these items is asked to submit a sealed bid, including telephone number, to the District Office by May 8, 2006. These bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. that day.

For more information, call Glenn Franceschina, 724-695-5223.

District Educators Win PMSA Awards



West Allegheny Middle School Principal Janet Walsh, Ed.D. was honored with the Distinguished Educator Service Award at the Pennsylvania Middle School Association (PMSA) Conference, March 19-21, at Penn State University. She received a framed picture of the middle school with a dedication reflecting her years of service for PMSA and her achievements as an advocate for middle level learners. Pictured with Dr. Walsh is Gail Heinemeyer of the state executive board.



Three middle school teachers Nancy Watkins, Dana Burrows, and Valerie Prevade also received certificates at the conference honoring them as “promising practitioners.” This is an award for teachers in their first three years of teaching who use effective middle level practices to make a positive difference in their school.



Thinking of You

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

Carol Bonnar (grandson, Jacob Peter)
 Diane Boustead (grandson, Benjamin Daniel)
 Linda Groznik (grandson, Robert John)
 Curt Johnson (grandson, John Henry)
 Claire March (baby girl, Fiona Darragh)
 Eric Palmer (baby boy, Ethan Anderson)
 Melissa Pratt (baby girl, Julia Rose)
 Rebecca Sabin (baby girl, Kelsie Raye)
 Bonnie Scears (engagement and grandson, Jonathon Christopher)
 Holly Smith (baby boy, Benjamin Thomas)
 Veva Tessmer (granddaughter, Kelsie Raye)
 Dina Tsambis (baby girl, Georgia)
 Sandy Walsh (grandson, Quinlan Kai)
 Dorothy Wright (granddaughter, Ava Lynn)
 Katie Zanella (baby girl, Torri Reagan)
 Nicole Zdinak (baby girl, Averi Nicole)

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

Paul Goodwin, Scott Meehan, Roger Reynolds, Carol Thomas, and June Walker

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

Michelle Baird on the death of her grandmother
 Toni Baldanzi on the death of her grandmother
 Renee Caruso on the death of her father-in-law
 Carol Lowry on the death of her father-in-law
 Tami Derrick on the deaths of her grandmother and grandfather
 Cindy Hensler on the death of her father
 Jeff Kiser on the death of his grandfather
 Barb Martincic on the death of her father-in-law
 Andrew Peters on the death of his grandmother
 Walter Schollaert on the death of his father
 Dave Sedlock on the death of his mother-in-law

Based on information provided by employees for the period beginning January 20, 2006, through April 26, 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, 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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Target Program Benefits School



On March 29, 2006, West Allegheny High School Principal Dan Smith accepted a check from Kristin Wilharm of Target in the amount of \$666.44 as part of the retail chain's Take Charge of Education program. Through the program the store donates a percentage of charge purchases to schools designated by its customers.

Cookbook Sales Support Historic Landmark

Realizing that history sometimes repeats itself, the staff, friends, and families of Wilson Elementary School revisited a fundraiser used decades ago to support the upkeep of the historic McAdow-McAdams Wilson Log House located on the Wilson school grounds. They created the second edition of the Wilson Log House

Cookbook (Elementary Edibles II), which is on sale for \$12.

Contact Debbie Ireland at Wilson (5273) to purchase one. Checks are payable to Wilson School. Proceeds help defray the cost of maintaining the log house for student and community activities like Thanksgiving celebrations and colonial demonstrations.

Outdoor Classroom Available at High School

The grass-covered courtyard near the high school guidance suite has been transformed into an outdoor classroom. Begun in 2004 as a National Honor Society (NHS) project, the room is now a reality. During the 2004-05 school year, students in the Computer-Assisted Design and Drafting (CADD) class designed and began building and staining wooden benches for the

area. Last summer trees, shrubs, and perennials were planted as the second phase of the project. Since then, chalkboards prepared and painted by NHS students have been added, and life skills students have weeded the gardens.

High school staff and students wishing to reserve the facility are asked to contact Laurie Rosso, high school secretary, at 5242.