



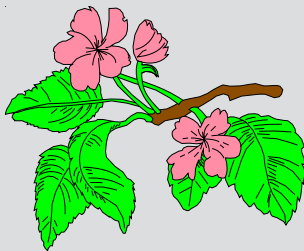
# INSIDE WEST ALLEGHENY

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

Spring 2007

*This newsletter brings warmest wishes for a*

*Happy  
Spring Season*



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

## School Board Honors Employees



### District Calendar Approved for 2007-2008 School Year

- ❖ Staff reports August 27
  - ❖ Classes begin August 29 and end June 4\*
  - ❖ Winter Break - December 24 through December 31
  - ❖ Spring Break - March 20 through March 24
  - ❖ Graduation - May 30\*
  - ❖ Kennywood - June 12
- \*depending on the need for snow make-up days*

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

*Pictured are some of the attendees at the sixth annual Employee Recognition Dinner at Celebrations & More on February 28, 2007: (top) Angie Gradek, 15-year honoree; Kathy Van Winkle, guest; Lisa Rukas, 10-year honoree; Bill Gamble, board member; (bottom left) Virginia Zang, 25-year honoree and Donna McCrory, 15-year honoree; (bottom right) Paul Goodwin, 15-year honoree, Bernadette Goodwin, guest; and Richard Hughes, 15-year honoree.*

### Employee Recognition Program - 2007 Honorees

**35 years:** Alana Banaszak, Susan Carretta, Thomas Donnelly, Patricia Matvey, Donna Shutok;  
**30 years:** Mary Alice Desiderio,  
**25 years:** Jean Opfermann, Joseph Szyjko, Bonnie Trucco, Virginia Zang; **20 years:** Dr.

Christine Assetta, Virginia Belko, Danice Brinkley, Cynthia Hensler, Terry Petrick; **15 years:** Laurie Cole, Jennifer Fox, Paul Goodwin, Angie Gradek, James Hamilton, Richard Hughes, Margaret Long,  
*-continued on page 3-*

## Complimentary Luncheon Reflects Gratitude for Help

Former McKee Elementary kindergarten teacher Kim Jones treated the McKee staff members to a pizza lunch on April 5, 2007, to express her appreciation for their support of her family since November 2005 when her granddaughter Nicole Lipinski, then an eighth grader at West Allegheny Middle School, was diagnosed with Leukemia.

Besides providing meals for the family on a rotating basis for months, the McKee staff members orchestrated various fundraisers throughout the district to help defray Nikki's medical expenses. Besides cash collections like "Nickels for Nikki," specific events included a benefit basket raffle, a McDonald's Night fundraiser, and a blood drive. Nikki, who attended McKee from kindergarten through fifth grade has returned to class as a freshman at the high school.



*McKee staff members Kim Bartley, Brandie Short, and Scott Meehan stop by for a complimentary pizza lunch provided by former McKee kindergarten teacher Kim Jones (right).*

## Grant Project Engages Volunteers to Build Children's Reading Skills



*Community Volunteers Pat Gerney and Ralph Bonnar discuss ways to help their grandchildren become better readers with West Allegheny Foundation President John Bates and Donaldson teachers Karen Tracy and Colleen Kinevey. This reading project was funded by a grant awarded through the West Allegheny Foundation Grants for Teachers program.*

### **Needed:** Old Cell Phones Used Inkjet Cartridges

The Middle School Physical Education Department is collecting old cell phones and used inkjet cartridges for recycling. Please send them to Mary Lococo. The money from recycling will go towards physical education equipment purchases.

# WA Employees Acknowledged by School Board

*-continued from page 1-*

Amy Mackey, Donna McCrory, Patricia Short, Arlene Wiedmann; **10 years:** Christopher Bielecki, Lynn Birnie, Bobbi Buggey, Chrisanne Canovali, Lisa Carter, Mark Davis, Kimberly Dawson, Rich Druga, Deborah Elicker, Richard Heron, Nancy Isenberg, Catherine Leonard, Elizabeth Marshall, Claire McNally, Anna Merhaut, Mary Jo Neigh, Patricia Nolan, Linda Nolfi, Timothy Opfermann, Laurie Rosso, Lisa Rukas, David Sedlock, Eric Shephard, Robin Silveira, Dennis Sypien, Leah Vestal, Andrew Wischmann, Stephanie Wischmann, Wanda Wright

## Daffodil Sales Support Cancer Research



West Allegheny employees donated approximately \$1,400 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. The school nurses coordinated the collection in their buildings.



## Thinking of You

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

Pat and Ron Cornelius (granddaughter, Addison Margo)  
Joe Cyprych (grandson, Cesare Alexander)  
Meredith Gillo (baby boy, Jack William)  
Amy Krek (twin baby boys, Parker and Tanner)  
Suzanne Lambert (baby boy, Logan William)  
Deanna Mack (baby girl, Addison Jada)  
Patricia Nolan (baby girl, Karalyn Kaye)  
Kathy Van Winkle (granddaughter Katherine Ella)

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

Bill Britton on the death of his grandmother  
Bob DeMario on the death of his grandfather  
Sharon Harn on the death of her mother  
Carol and Gary Lowry on the death of their mother/mother-in-law)  
Tiffany Mangan on the death of her grandmother  
Gabrielle Monte on the death of her grandfather  
Lisa Nauman on the death of her mother-in-law  
Erin Rakoci on the death of her grandfather  
Carol Rozum on the death of her father  
Dennis Sypien on the death of his grandmother  
Karen Tracy on the death of her father

*Based on information provided by employees for the period beginning February 2007 through April 23, 2007*



Would you or someone you know like to receive school news at home by e-mail?

**If so, please provide an e-mail address and a phone number to Carol Bonnar, Communications Coordinator by e-mail to [cbonnar@westallegheny.k12.pa.us](mailto:cbonnar@westallegheny.k12.pa.us) or call 724-695-5274**

*In March 2007 the district expanded its communications network by adding an e-news service "West Allegheny Updates."*

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.



*Published by the  
West Allegheny School District  
Communications Office  
724-695-5274*

## Teacher's Cup Benefits Foundation



*Teacher's Cup Champions: (front) Renee Treonze, Bobbi Jo Buggiey, Todd Rasbach, Bill Britton, (middle) Mary Lococo, Tom Burke, Valerie Prevade Meehan, Kristen Martin, Rick Mason, (back) Scott McCracken*

West Allegheny staff members, parents and students helped raise a total of \$2,600 at the recent Teacher's Cup sponsored by the West Allegheny Foundation on April 12, 2007.

The program consisted of a series of competitions requiring strength, skill, or speed in some instances, but more important were a sense of humor and the willingness to

support a good cause. Events included a tug of war, an obstacle course, a basketball shoot-out, and a relay race.

Proceeds from the event will be used to help fund educational grants for West Allegheny teachers. The Foundation's Grants for Teachers Program encourages the development of innovative instructional strategies.

**Visit the on-line Staff Bulletin Board for West Allegheny Foundation grant applications for 2007-08**

## Retiree Receives Education Award

Former Wilson teacher Paul DeBor was recognized by the Pennsylvania State Education Association on April 17, 2007, as the winner of the West Allegheny Education Association (WAEA) Friend of Education award.

Among the 32 people representing West Allegheny School District at the event were seven of DeBor's family members and three former WAEA Friend of Education award

winners: Pat Jennette, Joan Strawser, and Herman Thomas.

PSEA member associations from the following school districts also participated: Moon, Pine-Richland, South Allegheny, Baldwin-Whitehall, Northgate, Hampton, Brentwood and North Hills. The event is held annually to honor individuals throughout Allegheny County for their dedication and service to public education.