



INSIDE WEST ALLEGHENY

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

Spring 2008

District Recognizes Employees for Loyal Service



Employee Recognition 2008 Honorees

35 years: Marsha Herring

25 years: Earl Wiechelt

20 years: Elaine Fitzgerald,
Michael Quinn, and Rebecca
Schroeder

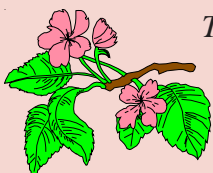
15 years: Rebecca Claus, Beth
Koraido, Kristen Martin, Leda
Niccolai, Andrew Peters, Daniel
Smith, Kathy Stalling, Sherry
Tisdale, Beth Voltz and Sandra
Walsh

10 years: Ronald Cornelius,
Bryan Cornell, Donna Elliott,
Bonnie Harbaugh, Barbara Kelly,
Pamela Pearce, Daniel Prevade,
Linda Spotskey, Betty Stawiarski,
Melissa Taranto, Linda Thompson,
Karen Tracy, and Rose Vettorel

Pictured are some of the attendees at the Employee Recognition Dinner at Celebrations & More on February 27, 2008: (top left) Jeff Marshall, retiree; Marsha Herring, 35-year honoree; and Curt Johnson, retiree; (top right) Dan Smith, 15-year honoree; (bottom left) Linda Spotskey and Barb Kelly, 10-year honorees; (bottom right) sitting: Karen Tracy, 10-year honoree and Rebecca Schroeder, 20-year honoree; standing: Elaine Fitzgerald, 20-year honoree. (See page 4 for more Employee Recognition Dinner photographs.)

Board Approves 2008-09 Calendar

- ❖ Staff reports August 25
 - ❖ Classes begin August 27 and end June 5*
 - ❖ Winter Break - December 24 through January 2
 - ❖ Spring Break - April 9 through April 13
 - ❖ Graduation - June 5*
 - ❖ Kennywood - June 11
- *depending on the need for snow make-up days*



This newsletter brings warmest wishes for a

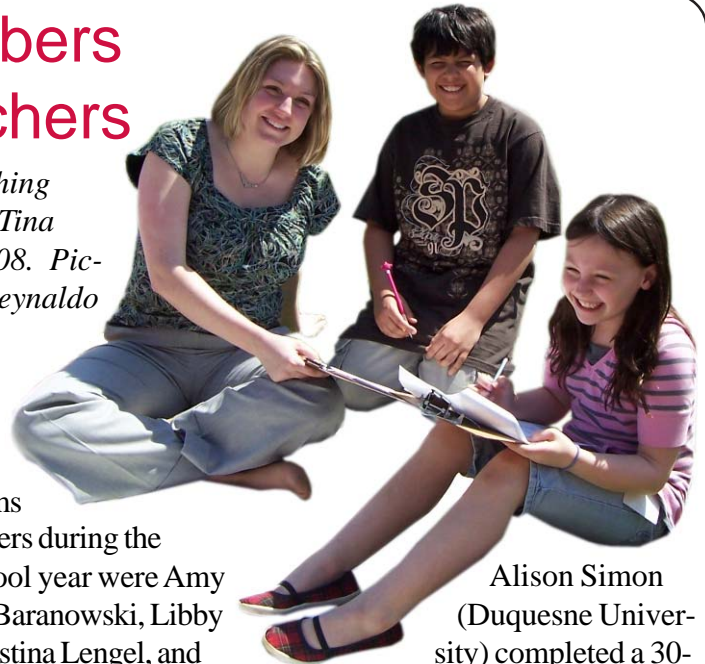
Happy Spring Season

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



District Faculty Members Mentor Student Teachers

Christina Lengel (left) fulfilled her student teaching requirements with McKee fourth grade teacher Tina Seybold from September 2007 through April 2008. Pictured is Lengel helping McKee fourth graders Reynaldo Morales and Danielle Unger brainstorm for the writing assessment.



The following 18 West Allegheny School District faculty members have shared or are sharing their educational knowledge, skills, and abilities with student teachers and other college students this year: Mariann Winning, Tiffany Mangan, Pam Volakis, Tony Castelluci, Jennifer Hart, Tania Garofoli, Bob DeMario, Tina Seybold, Tami Derrick, Tom Hamm, Suzanne Lambert, Rita Wilson, Claire March, Carol DeWitt, Karen Horwatt, Josh Bears, JoAnn Biscan, and Beth Voltz.

Welcomed into West Allegheny classrooms as student teachers during the 2007-2008 school year were Amy Mansour, Beth Baranowski, Libby Haussener, Christina Lengel, and Kim Lesk (University of Pittsburgh); Amanda Shiel, William Bacu, Kristina Gonzalez, Jennifer Charles, and Nick Wilson (Robert Morris University); Erica Buhler (Slippery Rock University), Beth McCollum, Mike Short, and Marylynn White (Carlow College); and Bethany Greenlee (Duquesne University).

Alison Simon (Duquesne University) completed a 30-hour field placement at West Allegheny. Lindsey Stefanski (Geneva College) also earned her field experience at West Allegheny, and Melissa (Hoskins) Richmond (California University) is working as a guidance intern. Stefanski and Richmond are West Allegheny alumni along with student teachers William Bacu and Mike Short.

Employees Attend PMSA Conference

West Allegheny Middle School Principal Rick Smith and teachers Valerie Prevade-Meehan, Megan Huchko, Todd Rasbach, and Bill Britton represented West Allegheny at the Pennsylvania Middle School Association (PMSA) Professional Development Institute at Penn State in March 2008. As PMSA board members, Prevade-Meehan and Huchko helped in the planning and delivery of the conference.

Paris Seminar Prepares Teacher for Student Trip to Germany

West Allegheny High School German teacher Karen Estermeyer traveled to Paris, France for a leadership seminar and tour held from February 15 through 18, 2008, for leaders of upcoming tours with Education

First Tours. The seminar was in preparation for a ten-day trip through Southern Germany and the Alps this summer. Estermeyer and 18 West Allegheny High School students leave for the trip on June 18 and return on June 26, 2008.

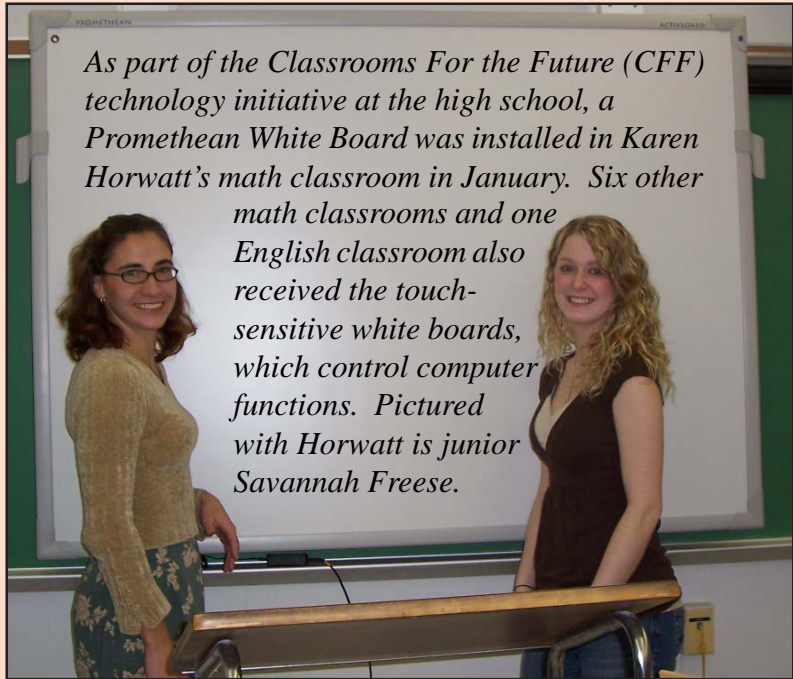
For Employees only: Staff Bulletin Board on District Web site

Teacher Directs Summer Camp

Donaldson Librarian and Computer Facilitator Beth Schultz will serve as the director for Camp Invention, a one-week summer camp for students entering grades one through six. Camp is scheduled for July 21 through 25, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Donaldson. Hands-on enrichment activities in math, science, history, and the arts will reflect this year's theme, Camp Imagine.

While this national program is not sponsored by the West Allegheny School District, Donaldson Elementary School is a host site for the event. For more information call 1-800-968-4332, e-mail bschultz@westallegheny.k12.pa.us, or visit the camp Web site at www.campinvention.org.

CFF Technology Enhances Math, English Instruction



Wilson Team Claims Teachers' Cup Trophy



Winning the April 17, 2008, Teachers' Cup was the team from Wilson Elementary School: (front: Laura Zuraski, Kathy Taylor, Holly Smith, (back) Kelly Britton, Rebecca Kropf, Bob Meehan, Celina Farabaugh, Kim Fredericks, Amie Schwartzmiller, and Nikki Zdinak. McKee Elementary School won the spirit award. Employees from each building competed in events, including an obstacle course, a basketball shoot-out, and a relay race. The West Allegheny Foundation sponsored the program to raise money for educational and community grants.

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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Employee Recognition Dinner (continued from page 1)



*Dan Prevade, 10-year honoree,
and Beth Voltz, 15-year honoree*



*Sherry Tisdale and Andrew
Peters, both 15-year honorees*

High School Renovations Resume

The West Allegheny School Board awarded bids for the third phase of the high school renovation project on March 28, 2008. Construction is expected to begin in April with the addition of a two-story, 22-classroom wing extending from the back of the building displacing the current tennis courts. To accommodate this project, the home spring tennis matches were

moved to Settlers' Cabin Park.

Besides classrooms, the new wing will include art studios and a technological education suite. Renovations will also be made in the existing building, including expansion of the auditorium and athletic areas. Superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti presented an overview of the project to the high school staff on April 17, 2008.

Teacher Doubles as Author

Donaldson fourth grade teacher Beth Koraido is the author of a children's intermediate (grades 4-6) realistic fiction book entitled *On the Farm with Grandma Gert*. The setting for the story is the Northeast region of the United States. Recently published, it is available online through Publish America and Barnes and Noble.

As part of the fourth grade social studies curriculum,

Koraido teaches about the five regions of the United States: Northeast, Middle Atlantic, Southeast, Central, and Pacific/Mountain West. She plans to write a book for each region and expects two more in the series to be available in the near future: *Summers with Grandpa Gus*, which focuses on the Middle Atlantic region and *On the Base with the Chief*, set in the Southeast region.