



INSIDE WEST ALLEGHENY

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

Winter 2005-2006

District Welcomes Three New Board Members



Patrick Konieczny
Oakdale Region 1
Serving first term
Term expires 2009
Resident 11 years,

B.S. Bus. Adm. Thiel College, graduate Pgh. Inst. Mortuary Science, licensed funeral director, supervisor, bus. mgr. Thomas-Little Funeral Service, past president McDonald Lions, member Oakdale Cemetery Board and St. Alphonsus Church, former member McDonald Council; married, wife (Kristen), daughters (Mya and Allie); 209 Butternut Dr., McDonald, 724-926-2800



Tracy Kosis
Findlay Region 3
Serving first term
Term expires 2009
Resident 16 years,

accountant, honors graduate Bradford School of Business 1985, established Sunrise Accounting LLC in Imperial with husband in 1989, active in Wilson PTA serving 2 years as treasurer, married, husband (Edward), son (Garrett) and daughter (Savannah); 20 Colins Drive, Clinton 724-899-2906



Robert Ostrander
Oakdale Region 1
Serving first term
(appointed 1/06 to fill seat vacated by

death of Carl DeCarlo)
Term expires 2007
Resident 25 Years, Manager Anderson Equipment Company in Bridgeville, Member Oakdale Zoning Board, involved in local community and school sports activities; married, wife (Dawn), son (Patrick), daughter (Nicole); 576 Highland Avenue, Oakdale, 724-693-0121

January In-Service Theme: Response to Intervention

Focusing on the needs of struggling learners, the District Act 48 Committee, chaired by Dr. Chris Assetta, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, chose the theme, Response to Intervention, for the January 16 staff in-service program. Among the speakers were Dr. William Englert, Jr., Assistant to the Superintendent for Personnel and Student Support Services (right), reviewing the Professional Code of Conduct.



In the morning, secondary teachers attended the "Response to Intervention" presentation by Meredith Gillo, school psychologist. This topic was discussed with elementary teachers in the afternoon by Elaine Fitzgerald, Coordinator of Pupil Services, at Donaldson; Eric Palmer, psychology intern, at Wilson; and Gillo at McKee. To plan the program, the Committee utilized data from the Professional Staff Survey administered in November.

*This newsletter brings
best wishes for a
successful second semester for 2005-2006*



*to all employees
of the
West Allegheny School District*

Visit West Allegheny online: www.westallegheny.k12.pa.us

West Allegheny Education Association Wins Two Awards



West Allegheny Education Association (WAEA) Communications Committee members (sitting) Karen Meyers, Debbie Turici, Colleen Kinevey (standing) Mary Lococo, Mariann Winning, Beth Schultz, Laurie Cole, and Tanya Sekelik display two awards received from the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), for outstanding communication efforts with WAEA members and the community. Missing from the photo are Karen Horwatt and Denise Cartisser.

At the PSEA House of Delegates on December 9-10, 2005, WAEA was honored with two plaques--one for Internal Communications and one for

External Communications--making it the only local in the state to receive both awards. This brings the total awards won by the association to 19, the highest

number received by any school district in Pennsylvania.

Some activities provided by WAEA are the Read Across America program, American Education Week, Elementary Orientations, Friend of Education Award, Gold Card Breakfast, Adopt-A-Highway, Shadow-A-Teacher, and Scholarship. To help fund these initiatives, WAEA secures PSEA grants and spends approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 annually to benefit West Allegheny students and the community. Colleen Kinevey, McKee and Donaldson instructional support teacher, serves as the Chairperson of the WAEA Communications Committee.

English Teacher Gives Presentation at Convention



High School English teacher Beth Voltz presented at the

National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE), an annual national convention held in Pittsburgh on November 17-21. She served on a panel with Dr. Nick Coles and Jerry Halpern from the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project. Their topic was Building a School Wide Writing Program. This presentation was one of four Writing Project strands included in the program.



DVDs Needed For Soldiers

The Wilson Elementary Student Council has launched a service project--Take a Soldier to the Movies-- to benefit American military personnel. Students are assembling movie popcorn boxes to send to U. S. Army soldiers serving with Josh Cooke, a 2005 West Allegheny graduate currently stationed in Iraq.

To support the project, staff members are asked to donate new or used DVDs (no children's movies) by sending them to

Wilson Student Council faculty sponsors Nancy Sale and Laurie Cole by Monday, January 30. If anyone would prefer to make a monetary donation, the money will be used to purchase DVDs.

Students will provide popcorn, candy, and drink packets like Crystal Light and Gatorade. The student council will pack the boxes and include a letter from a Wilson student along with the DVDs and other items for individual soldiers.



Family Support Committee Offers Needed 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. 5063; and Meredith Gillo, District Office, 724-695-5219. Recommendations for help may be anonymous and will remain confidential.

New Assistant Joins Middle School Staff

With the new semester comes a new middle school administrator. Effective January 30, 2006, Jeffrey Lesko will assume the position of West Allegheny Middle School assistant principal. An educator for seven years, Lesko taught social studies at both Deer Lakes and Chartiers Houston School Districts.



Thinking of You

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

Sara Augustin (grandson, Mason Joshua)
Lauren Coward (engagement)
Barb Liberto (granddaughter, Callie Droe)
Katie Scott (engagement)
Leah Vestal (adoption: baby girl, Katelyn Joy)
Frank Washabaugh (grandson, Brendan Christopher)

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

Chuck Battelle, Shirley Chadish, Bobbi Clapperton, Susie Dorman, Greg Henry, Carla Prevade, Carol Rozum, Bonnie Scears, and Becky Schroeder

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

Chrisanne DeCarlo on the deaths of her father and her grandfather
Mary Ann DeCarlo on the death of her husband and her father
Sandra Huling on the death of her mother
Beth Koraido on the death of her granddaughter
Lynanne Mickle on the death of her father
Leda Niccolai on the death of her grandmother
Robin Polen on the death of her mother-in-law
Dan Smith on the death of his uncle
Linda Spotskey on the death of her father-in-law
Kathy Wilkinson on the death of her mother

Based on information provided by employees for the period beginning November 2005 through January 19, 2006



Call the NEWSLINE

724-695-5205



for news and weekly listings

School Closings and Delays

Tune in to

KDKA Radio 1020 AM

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.



*Published by the
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Communications Office*

Web Option Streamlines Facilities Scheduling, Maintenance Requests

The Maintenance Department hopes to streamline procedures for facilities scheduling and maintenance work orders with the implementation of a web-based solution. Building administrators now have the capability to send work orders and submit and approve schedule requests for events at any of the district school locations online using School Dude software.

Effective immediately, all employees may submit requests for facilities use and maintenance work online. To initiate the process, users must first select the activities/programs tab on the district home page at www.westallegheny.k12.pa.us and then choose either the WA Facilities Request or the WA Maintenance Request link. The program will prompt the user for a school e-mail address the first

time he or she uses the system. Once the e-mail address is recognized, the user follows the directions to either submit requests for either the event scheduling or maintenance work order component. To submit the request, the user must supply a password, which is actually the word "password."

While being maintained off-site, the system has the capability to track both time and expenses and reduce paperwork. Its around-the-clock accessibility will help maximize after-hours facility usage while managing and recovering cost. Another benefit is the program's tracking feature, which identifies particular locations where problems exist and service is required. For more information contact Glenn Franceschina, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, 724-695-5223.

Employees Coordinate Festival

On October 22, 2005, about 50 children and their families attended a Fall Festival sponsored by West Allegheny Education Association (WAEA) and West Allegheny Education Support Professional Association (WAESPA) at Donaldson. Activities included apple bobbing, mummy wrapping, face painting, tattoos, cookie decorating, various crafts, and a pumpkin patch.

Donaldson staff members Lisa

Barr and Carol Thomas coordinated the event. Volunteers included WAEA members Claire March, Kat Rickenback, and Erin McGowan along with retiree Herman Thomas and WAESPA representative Susan McKissick. West Allegheny High School student volunteers included Lauren McKissick, Ross Zankle, Amy Amper, Danielle Schrecengost, Nadia Moore, Bria Battocchi, and Sherry Shen.