



INSIDE WEST ALLEGHENY

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

Winter 2006-2007

January Staff In-Service Program Emphasizes Wellness



Donaldson reading specialist Amy Mackey has her blood pressure checked by Pat Malcolm of Retail Health Network prior to taking advantage of the free blood test offered to employees.



High school physical education teacher Munaii Franjione (right) opts for an osteoporosis risk assessment by the Washington Hospital Women's Health Center.

With its focus on employee wellness, the January 2007 staff in-service program took the form of a health fair. Thanks to the efforts of the Act 48 Committee, chaired by Dr. Christine Assetta, employees received information on reversing heart disease, maximizing nutrition, achieving fitness through exercise, and managing stress. Free blood pressure monitoring and blood tests were available as well as yoga and kick boxing instruction, hearing tests, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training, and chiropractic evaluations.

Act 1: Referendum Question on May Ballot

Under Act 1 of 2006, school districts are required to place a referendum question on the ballot in the May 2007 primary election regarding property tax relief. Boards must ask voters if they want to increase Earned Income Tax (EIT) or Personal Income Tax (PIT) to reduce property tax. The following excerpt from Superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti's message in the January WA

TODAY newsletter summarizes the impact of Act 1 on the district and its residents: "Act 1 will not bring any new revenues into our district but rather shift the burden of who pays how much. It will be up to local taxpayers to examine their own circumstances to determine if any savings realized through property tax reduction will be offset by increases in personal or earned income tax."

*This newsletter brings
best wishes for a
successful second semester for 2006-2007*



*to all employees
of the
West Allegheny School District*

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

West Allegheny Educator Assumes Administrative Post



Chris Shattuck
High School Dean

On January 17, 2007, the West Allegheny School Board approved the transfer of Christopher Shattuck from

role Mr. Shattuck will concentrate on strengthening communications between students and staff and assist High School Principal Daniel Smith and Assistant Principal Dr. Earl Bradford Smith with discipline, attendance, and student monitoring.

Joining the West Allegheny School District staff as an elementary educator in 1999, he has taught fifth grade at Wilson Elementary School for eight years. His experience at both the district and building levels includes serving on the Math Curriculum Committee, the Math Textbook Committee and the Grading Committee. He has been involved with students at the high school level for ten years as an assistant football coach and for two years as a wrestling coach.

Before being hired by West Allegheny in a full-time teaching position, Mr. Shattuck worked as

a substitute teacher in the district for several years. He received a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education from Grove City College and has been accepted to the University of Pittsburgh principal certification program. Mr. Shattuck is a 1993 West Allegheny graduate and currently resides in Primrose with his wife Callie.

fifth grade teacher at Wilson Elementary School to Dean of Students at the high school. Shattuck began serving in his new position on January 22, 2007.

While experienced in the classroom setting, the new dean will interact with students on a wider scope since his duties will be similar to those performed by the principal and assistant principal. He replaces Richard Smith, the former high school assistant principal, who was promoted last September to the position of middle school principal. In his new

District Hires Interim Donaldson Principal

The district welcomes David McDougal as the interim principal for Donaldson Elementary. Effective February 5, 2007, he will fill in

for Donaldson Principal Patricia Nolan while she is on leave. He has worked recently as an administrator in several school districts.



Staff Honored as Role Models

While most students chose family members as their role models and the subjects of a recent Honors English 10 biography writing assignment, the following three teachers were also selected for this honor: Marsha Herring (high school

science, James Hamilton (high school science and cross-country and track coach) and Steve Groba (middle school music). They were honored at a reception on January 24 coordinated by Jessica Conforti, Lynn Ann DeBor, and Elizabeth Shannon.

District Continues to Welcome New Employees

The following were hired at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year but were inadvertently omitted from the list of new staff members in the fall issue of this newsletter:

❖ **Beth Bayly**

Wilson Cafeteria Aide

❖ **Ruth Bowers**

McKee/Wilson Reading Teacher

❖ **Dee Cronin**

McKee Cafeteria Aide

❖ **Denise Scott**

Wilson Cafeteria Aide

Others hired during the first semester include:

❖ **Deborah Faux**

Wilson Classroom Aide

❖ **Diane Godleski**

Bus Aide

❖ **Tim Long**

High School Math Teacher

❖ **Allison McLaren**

Elementary Spanish Teacher

❖ **Amie Schwartzmiller**

Middle School
Special Education Teacher



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 Hellmann, 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.

Parent Appreciates Teacher's Efforts

McKee music teacher Mark Hoffman received the following compliment from the parent of one of his former fourth grade band students, Lisa Pegher, now 28 and an accomplished professional percussionist. Lisa's mother Christine Sinagoga said in her recent e-mail to the district "He [Hoffman] gets all the credit for firing up the passion that has turned into her life."



Thinking of You

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

Chrisanne DeCarlo Canovali (marriage)
Tami Derrek, (baby boy, Tyler Robert)
Sara Ferko (baby girl, Elizabeth)
Gabrielle Monti (baby boy, Lucas Rocco)
Shara Moss (baby boy, Brient William)
Kristen Newell (engagement)
Kim Patterson (baby girl, Holly Ann)
Ken Scott (grandson, Avery Allen)
Courtney Fodor Stone (marriage)

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

Alana Banaszak on the death of her mother
Michelle Bateman on the death of her grandmother
Jeanne Brahm on the death of her mother-in-law
Bart Ingram on the death of his father
Joanne Short on the death of her mother-in-law
Pat Short on the death of her mother-in-law
Debbie Turici on the death of her uncle
Andrew Wischmann on the death of his grandmother
Stephanie Wischmann on the death of her grandmother
Dorothy Wright on the death of her father

Based on information provided by employees for the period from November 2006 through January 2007



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
West Allegheny School District
Communications Office*

WA Teachers Offer Career Advice



West Allegheny teachers Debbie Turici, Wilson/Donaldson art (above), and Tom Donnelly, high school math (right), were among approximately 60 presenters who shared career advice with students at the high school Career Awareness Day in November. The presenters spoke to small groups of students throughout the day on the type of preparation needed for

a teaching career, the job responsibilities, and the opportunities for advancement in the field of education.

Sponsored by the high school Guidance Department, the program is designed to provide the students with firsthand career information from adults in the community and expose the students to the work-place environment.



✧ Special thanks to the following for their help with the Employee Recognition Dinner scheduled for February 28, 2007:
Kim Dawson, Ellen Campbell, Bobbi Clapperton, Andrew Peters, Glenn Franceschina, and Tom Aldrich

McKee Staff Enjoys Casual Breakfast

McKee staff members met for breakfast in the cafeteria before starting work on December 15, 2006. A change from the regular routine, the event allowed the staff to relax and enjoy each other's company. McKee Principal Thomas Orr feels the informal setting, casual conversation, and good food combined to boost morale and energize the staff.



Terry Petrick, third grade, and Bob Meehan, second grade