



Inside West Allegheny

A publication for West Allegheny School District employees

Winter 2009-2010

Art Education Collaborative Incorporates Art into Social Studies, Reading, History Lessons

Elementary art teacher Claire March created The Art Education Collaborative as a professional development project to give students more art time by integrating art with other subjects. It extends the class period to between 45 minutes and one hour and allows the art teacher and the regular classroom teacher to facilitate the lesson together. Thus students experience art enrichment beyond the regular art curriculum. March has plans to do future projects with McKee teachers, Susie Dorman and Tina Seybold. Mrs. Dorman's fourth graders will learn potato printing to coincide with their reading of the book *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner set on a potato farm.

Students in Mrs. Seybold's class will create a collage/silhouette art piece while studying the life of Romear Bearden, a former Pittsburgh African American



McKee third graders in Lorraine Burns's class Fadzayi Sambana, Jeanna Jessup, and Ethyn Benning watch as Claire March incorporates an art activity into a social studies unit on Egypt.

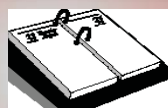
collage artist, as part of the observation of February as Black History Month. McKee teachers

Lorraine Burns, Michelle Bateman, and Kathy Stalling have also participated.

Web Site Address to Change

The district has decided to shorten its domain name from westallegheny.k12.pa.us to westasd.org. The transition to the new web address will coincide with the launch of the district's new Web site at a date to be announced once the current web content has been reorganized and moved to the new site.

This newsletter brings best wishes for a successful second semester for 2009-10



to all employees of the West Allegheny School District

Wilson Staff Member Provides Disaster Relief



Phyllis Hajos

Wilson Elementary School cafeteria/van aide Phyllis Hajos will be traveling to Houma, Louisiana on February 13, 2010, with a group from the United Presbyterian Church in Mt. Jackson, Pennsylvania to assist in Hurricane Rita disaster relief. The nine-day trip will be her third experience in provid-

ing aid to hurricane victims in the United States. The last two years, Phyllis volunteered her time to participate in mission trips to Pearlinton, Mississippi as part of the disaster relief effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The church group provides the hurricane victims with both physical and financial assistance.

District Committee Offers Assistance

The West Allegheny School District Family Support Committee was formed to help district families with school-age children. If you are aware of any family with school-age children in the district, who may need assistance, please contact the following: Lynn Birnie, high school, 724-695-5252; Pearl Hellman, middle school, 724-695-8979, Ext. 5233; Kristen Tracy, Donaldson, 724-213-1014; JoAnn Biscan, McKee, 724-695-5267; Kathy Taylor, Wilson, 724-695-3300, Ext. 5276; and Meredith Gillo, District Office, 724-695-5219. Recommendations for help may be anonymous and will remain confidential.

Board Welcomes New Member



Eugene Sciulli

Eugene Sciulli is the newest member of the West Allegheny School District Board of Directors. Representing North Fayette Region 2, he took his seat on December 9, 2010. His term expires in 2013. A 15-year resident of

the district, he is the owner of Direct Settlement, the owner/partner of Bella Capelli Beauty Academy, and owner/partner of Novus Staffing Group. His volunteer activities include serving as a trustee for the West Allegheny Foundation and coaching youth baseball, soccer, and basketball. He is a member of the Football Boosters, Donaldson PTA, and West Allegheny Middle School PTA. He is married and lives at 103 Brickbarn Court in North Fayette Township with his wife Kristin and their two children. Their son Tyler is in the seventh grade, and their daughter Natalie, in the fifth grade.



Call the NEWSLINE: **724-695-5205**
for schedule changes, special announcements,
and weekly listings of school activities

Teacher Honored by U.S. Army



Jessica Conforti

West Allegheny High School English teacher Jessica Conforti received the U.S. Freedom Team Salute presented by American veteran Kenneth Elliott on behalf of the U.S. Army on December 21, 2009. This honor given to citizens who contribute to the U.S. Army, was the result of Conforti's Voices for Veterans project. Through this project, her students are writing the biographies of veterans participating in the program.

WA Musicians Celebrate the Season



Instrumental music teacher Jason Cheskawich led a group of Donaldson Elementary band students, including Mitchell Fullard and Daniel Shemon, in a surprise medley of Christmas carols to entertain the district office staff.

Automated System Provides Paperless Alternative for Requesting Time Off

The district implemented an automated system (Aesop) for scheduling substitute teachers starting with the 2008-2009 school year.

Many employees have already been using Aesop to register their absences. Beginning in February 2010, all requests for

leave are to be submitted via Aesop. This paperless alternative is expected to improve efficiency, simplify the process, and save time, space, and paper. However, employees should continue to submit an "Absence from Duty" form for payroll purposes following each absence.

Charities Benefit from Wilson Team Spirit

Wilson staff members are raising money for charity by paying a fee to wear their favorite sports team shirts on Fridays.

New Employees Join Staff

New employees for the 2009-10 school year not listed in the fall issue of this newsletter include the following individuals:

❖ **Michelle Beauchat**
McKee Elementary
Cafeteria Aide

❖ **Andrea Bagnell**
Middle School
Long-Term Substitute

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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Highmark Grant Expands Bullying Prevention Program

McKee Elementary School was awarded a PA CARES (Creating an Atmosphere of Respect and Environment for Success) Grant through the Highmark Foundation's Healthy High 5 initiative. This funding will enable the school to implement the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) model. Staff members will be trained this year to activate the program next year. McKee Principal

Thomas Orr applied for and received the grant. This program underscores the district's commitment to assure a safe learning environment for all students.

Donaldson Elementary School will also introduce the program next year. Wilson Elementary School and West Allegheny Middle School launched the program this year after receiving the funding from Highmark last year.

Teacher Performs in Local Concert

West Allegheny Middle School social studies teacher Dan Hanczar plays the guitar in a "big band" orchestra called the Trinity Jazz Orchestra. The



Dan Hanczar

group presented a free holiday concert entitled "In the Swing of Christmas" at The Rock Youth and Family Center in Oakdale in December of 2009.

Faculty Members Attend Conferences

Three middle school teachers presented at the Western Region Middle School Conference at Seneca Valley on January 18, 2010. Valerie Meehan and Todd Rasbach focused on Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligence in the math and social studies classroom. Megan

Huchko discussed the effect of gender biases and stereotypes on student achievement.

Valerie Meehan and Megan Huchko also attended the PMSA Board Leadership Conference on January 9, 2010. This conference is for all PMSA board members across the state.