



Newsletter

ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLS

2008 Academic Hall of Fame Nominations

Last spring five members were inducted into the Exeter Academic Hall of Fame. They were: Derrick Acker (Class of 1983), Dr. Christie Ganas (Class of 1987), Margaret Hart, and Dr. Edward and Phyllis Gilbert. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to honor people who have performed outstanding service or have brought credit to the school district.

The selection committee is eager to receive names of nominees for the 2008 awards. There are three different categories of awards: (1) student category – a successful ETSD student who graduated at least 15 years ago and brought credit to Exeter in his/her career; (2) faculty/

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Dr. Warren F. Mata

New Asst. Superintendent Welcomed to the District

Dr. Warren F. Mata was appointed assistant superintendent this past summer for a three-year term that extends through 2010.

Before coming to Exeter, Dr. Mata served as principal of the Springfield Township Middle School and prior to that, the Hanover Elementary School in the Bethlehem Area School District. He was also an assistant principal of Belvidere Elementary/Middle School in New Jersey. Prior to his work in administration, Dr. Mata taught music in New Jersey and Montana.

After earning a B.S. in music education from Lebanon Valley College, Warren received a M.S. from Bowling Green State University. He earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 1999 and a Letter of Eligibility in 2000 from Lehigh University.

Dr. Mata serves as an instructor in the Aspiring Principal's Program and Field Seminar for Student Teachers at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a presenter at the 84th Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago and in December will present on the topic of math instruction at the 2007 Annual Conference of the National Staff Development Council in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Mata has authored/co-authored a number of professional articles on the topics of principal training, teacher evaluation, math instruction, and the role of the assistant principal. He has enjoyed his first several months in the ETSD and said, "It is a great privilege to serve as the assistant superintendent here in Exeter. We have a fine school district and I find great joy in

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Reiffton's "Kids Are Authors" National Award Recipients



Eighteen (2006-07) Reiffton sixth graders received their Scholastic "Kids Are Authors" awards at a special assembly on October 5. Their book, *Growing: Farm, School and Me!*, was the top award winner in the national non-fiction competition. With the students are Dr. Gregory Fries, principal and Senator Michael O'Pake, who presented them with a PA Senate Citation.

Superintendent's Page "Pride in Accomplishments & Challenges for the Future"



Dr. Beverly A. Martin

Dear Members of the Exeter Township School District Community,

As I begin my first year as superintendent of the Exeter Township School District, may I first tell you how proud and excited I am to have the opportunity to provide support and leadership in our collaborative effort to make a difference in the futures of the students we serve. It is both an opportunity that inspires me and a challenge that awes me in its magnitude.

There are many exciting things happening in Exeter this year, as well as many challenges that face us. We continue to struggle to secure a suitable location to build a much-needed elementary school, and overcoming this challenge is a central focus for the Board and for me in the months ahead. I am amazed at the many accomplishments of our students and the talents of our teachers, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter. They truly make us proud. Our state test scores are on the rise, and we currently rank second in the county in reading and fourth in math. More than 83% of the graduates in the Class of 2007 indicate that they are furthering their education in post-secondary institutions, many of them planning to

pursue a four-year degree. However, our successes are but a springboard to further our determination to soar to greater heights next year!

Another goal I have as the new superintendent is to become acquainted with the people in our community and the issues that are important to you. To that end, with the approval of our School Board, I have developed an entry plan that will allow me to gather data from a variety of different sources: students, parents, teachers, administrators, board members, community members and others who can provide insights on what they value about the district and identify areas where we can improve. I will be meeting with stakeholders individually, in small groups, and asking people to complete brief surveys. There will be a parent and community survey that will be available to you in the near future and I hope you will take a few moments of your time to participate. Further infor-

mation will be presented in the next newsletter. I plan to use the data to help develop future goals and to guide me in leading the district into the future.

I would like to thank you for all you do to support our schools. We could not achieve our successes without the help of so many! I am honored to be here and be a part of a community, rich in beauty and tradition, yet embracing and welcoming diversity and change!

New Asst. Superintendent

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working with our administrators and teachers in bringing about the district's vision of enabling all students to fully develop their minds and character."

Warren currently resides in Blue Bell and is the father of two sons, Chris and Joe. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, teaching, and trying to stay fit.

2007-2008 New Instructional Staff



New elementary instructional staff includes (front row, left to right) Karen Wolfe, Lorane grade 3; Amanda Delbo, J-wald music; Wendy Warchol, J-wald grade 1; Kristen Derr, Reiffton grade 5; Devon Fennelly, Lorane librarian; (middle row) Brett Diamond, J-wald grade 4; Karen DeNunzio, Lorane grade 2; Autumn Rheaume, Reiffton guidance counselor; Dana Wurtz, Lorane special education; Brian Matijasich, Lausch grade 4; David Fick, Lorane grade 2; (back row) Christine Winslow, Lausch grade 3; Drew Schaeffer, Reiffton grade 5; Jonathan Bell, Lorane art; Cara Lobb, Reiffton special education; and Deborah Carl, Reiffton special education. (Rachael Gierlach - missing from photo)

New secondary instructional staff (not photographed)

At the SHS: Matthew Bauer, chemistry; Joe Opalenick, special education; Michelle Klusewitz, special education; Rebecca Seidel, social studies; Jill Rudy, biology and Brian Mishler, music. At the JHS: Kate Sowers, English; Gretchen Kunkel, science; Shannon Bott, physical education; and Hillary Arndt, reading.

Why the Ritter Road Site?

Robert H. Quinter, Jr., Board Member

In 2001, bids were opened for construction of what would ultimately be the Reiffton School. The building was to be an *elementary* facility that would give us classrooms for our increasing enrollment, decrease the student load at Jacksonwald, and allow us to close the M. Luther Lausch School for renovation or replacement. Before Reiffton was complete, the number of students enrolled exceeded any estimates, and we faced classroom shortages at all grade levels. Immediate, short-term solutions were to designate the Reiffton building as a fifth and sixth grade building and keep the Lausch building in service.

While the planning for an addition to the high school was well under way, the space shortage at the junior high building was addressed by including spaces for ninth grade students in the senior high school addition.

A New Perch for the Eagle



The large metal eagle, initially acquired in 1995 from the former Wanamaker's Department Stores, needed a new home after the construction for the last addition to the senior high school forced it to be removed from its perch close to the main entrance. The adopted "Exeter Eagle," which is now perched at the front corner of the senior high auditorium, was originally a "Wanamaker Eagle" in the Lehigh Valley Mall. Technology teacher Terry Lorah planned and organized this project.

Since the state's projections of student population growth were consistently unreliable, the Board contracted a commercial demographic study to get a second opinion. The new study concluded that we needed an elementary school immediately, closely followed by another middle school and, potentially, another secondary school within 13 to 15 years. The Board then began a search for suitable property to build the elementary school. It was soon obvious that the same residential building boom that was increasing our student population so dramatically was also depriving us of suitable sites for schools. The average house has a footprint of 1500 to 2000 square feet; a school building requires many times that area. While a residential developer may retain some of the existing topography in a community and make dips and curves an acceptable or even attractive part of a community design, a school requires large flat areas for the building and supporting areas such as parking lots if costs are to be contained. As people opposed to additional growth so often point out, such plots of land are becoming rare in Exeter Township.

Many sites were considered but found wanting. We could not justify or afford paying the premium prices associated with commercial or industrial property, or increase the tax burden on residential property owners by displacing businesses that paid taxes equivalent to many home owners. The concept of condemning private homes, disrupting the dynamics of existing communities, and forcing families from their homes was repugnant. Township property was either space limited or access limited or would have exposed students to undesirable environmental factors. Thus, our choices became limited to more rural areas in our township. Our initial choice was the property where Central Catholic is building its new high school, but we contacted the owners days after a private agreement of sale had been signed with a developer. When that potential development fell through, we contacted the owners again, but Central had already entered into an agreement. We looked at the Lausch campus, but our potential need for additional high school class-

rooms had to be considered. By preserving the Lausch land for future high school space, we would avoid duplication of some of the more expensive requirements like athletic fields and gymnasiums by sharing existing assets. The savings would represent millions of dollars today and even more in 13 to 15 years, if Exeter has to build another secondary school.

A suggestion was made that we might look across Ritter Road from the Central High School property. The site was evaluated and found to satisfy our criteria. Land preparation would be minimal. There were no significant environmental safety concerns for the students. It is located between two communities that are a source of many of our students and would allow reduced bus time for those students who would continue to be bused. Soon after contacting the owners, we were presented a plot plan for a residential development by the owners of the property that seemed to reinforce the wisdom of our decision to acquire the property for school use.

But a new complication surfaced. A change in composition of the Board of Supervisors caused a reversal of Township zoning regulations that allowed the District to use the land. In the haste to prepare an application prior to the enactment of the new zoning rules, minor errors were made that would normally have been resolved during the approval process. The Board of Supervisors voted to allow the request as submitted with very strict application of all existing rules. Unfortunately, the approval was taken to court by several citizens who opposed building the school. The court decision that reversed the Supervisors' approval made no provision for the District to resubmit the application. Therefore, because the building was not precisely placed on the drawings, the handicapped parking places were not specifically identified, and the road frontage of the homestead property cut out by the district was inadequate, construction of a school that has been a recognized need has not yet begun.

So where are we now in the process? Our schools are filled. While maximum occupancy restrictions have not yet been exceeded, state and federal require-

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District Acquires Funding Through Numerous Grants

Each year the district applies for and receives numerous grants that provide valuable revenue to enhance programs and services for ETSD students. Most grants are very specific in their purpose and dictate how the funding can be used. The district is pleased to inform residents about the grants received for 2007-08 which total over one million dollars.

Program	Purpose	Amount
Title I	Reading support for elementary students	\$283,694
Title IIA	Improving teacher quality and class size reduction in primary grades	\$85,402
Title V	Innovation Education – science and math programs, teacher training	\$3,970
Accountability Block Grant	Supports student achievement through district Adequate Yearly Progress	\$497,456
Educational Assistance Program	Tutoring programs in math and reading for secondary students	\$122,242
Dual Enrollment Program Support	Student achievement through cooperative programs with local colleges	\$27,563
Safe and Drug Free Schools & Communities	Supports efforts in prevention of violence and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs	\$11,987
TOTAL		\$1,032,314

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ments for conducting special classes have created a classroom shortage in all buildings. Some classes at Jacksonwald are in modular classrooms. Considering the time it takes to actually build a school, there is no relief in sight for several years. We are looking at redistricting the Township to spread the load, but, because none of the buildings has additional space available, additional modular classrooms, staggered scheduling, and leasing space in or outside the township are all being considered. Of course, staggered or off-site classes will have a negative impact on non-core subject availability, and extra-curricular activities would not be possible to those students or teachers who are scheduled for class during practice times. Plans for all-day kindergarten might have to be deferred, and many other threats to our established academic standards will have to be addressed.

Our architect has advised us that there will not be adequate space for an additional building on the Lausch cam-

pus if we build an elementary facility now, so we will, in effect, be leaving the problem of finding future sites for middle and high school buildings to future boards to solve. In short, we have investigated the feasibility of all sites identified by the Board, the Township, and citizens. Township zoning will not allow building on the Ritter Road property. For the first time in the history of this Township, there is no property available for public education unless we destroy existing facilities or build in environmentally suspect areas.

Community Help Needed

The district would like to extend an invitation to members of the Exeter community to provide shadowing and/or co-op opportunities for high school students as part of the School-To-Career Program. Interested parties should contact Linda M. Misterkiewicz, Coordinator of Student Services, at (610)779-7640 ext. 7406 for more information.

Academic Hall of Fame

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staff category – must have had a positive impact on the lives of students and retired or moved to another position; and (3) community member – an individual who is providing outstanding volunteer service to ETSD or has provided it in the past. The 2008 inductees will be honored in a ceremony as part of the National Honor Society Induction on April 13.

To submit a name for nomination to the Hall of Fame, a Nomination Form must be completed. To obtain a form, contact Don Cramer at 610-779-0700 ext. 1027 or dcramer@exeter.k12.pa.us. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Senior High School Office or to Don Cramer in the Administration Building no later than December 3, 2007.

Senior Citizens Can Earn a Tax Rebate

The Volunteer Tax Rebate Program for senior citizens is beginning for the second year. It is designed to provide assistance for community senior citizens in paying real estate taxes and to provide the district with citizens' skills, time, and caring.

The program is open to residents of Exeter Township School District, 60 years of age or older, who have a household income of less than \$35,000 and are owners of residential property. Those seniors not in financial difficulty may volunteer services and earn credits to be passed on to a named beneficiary.

In exchange for tax credit, seniors can volunteer to work in a classroom, library, cafeteria, office, or outside groundskeeping. An attempt will be made to match the talents and skills of the senior volunteer to the assigned task.

Interested senior citizens should submit completed "Senior Volunteer Application" and "Financial Needs Assessment Information" forms at 3650 Perkiomen Avenue. The law requires that new volunteers submit the PA State Police Criminal Record Check, the PA Child Abuse Clearance, and the Federal

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Colorful Mosaics Add Color and Flair to Don Thomas Stadium

If you visit Don Thomas Stadium this fall you will see the addition of two large brightly-colored glass mosaics on the exterior stadium walls. One near the center of the stadium building is appropriately proclaiming the stadium as the home of the Exeter Eagles. The second completed mosaic is an image of a field hockey player. The next phase of the project to incorporate art in the nine block-arched sections of the stadium will start in the spring. Some of these will be visible from the playing field and others from the main stadium entrance. It is the intent to include mosaic representations of many of the athletic and musical activities that take place in Don Thomas Stadium.

The idea of adding the colorful mosaics to the new stadium was the brain child of former board member and Exeter grad Bonnie Lutz. Shortly after the stadium was completed in the fall of 2004, Bonnie suggested the glass mosaic project as a way of combining sports and the arts and involve students and teachers. She recently said "We live in a visual world and I am happy to volunteer and give back to the school. Hopefully the project will allow young people to see what can be done." After several years in the planning stage, the project started this past

spring when Bonnie created the Exeter Eagles mosaic.

Each mosaic begins with a picture that a computer software program breaks down into pixels or what will eventually become ¼ inch squares of colored glass. Each mosaic utilizes approximately 17,000 individual squares of glass. The block wall for each mosaic needs to be pargeted or made smooth before the glass pieces can be affixed.

The field hockey player mosaic was created this summer under the direction and work of SHS art teacher Christina Pinkerton. Scenes and images for future mosaics will be planned and organized by art teacher Michelle Miskovitz and incorporate the artistic talents of ETSHS students. Plans also include the addition of lighting for each scene. Several businesses and individuals have donated materials, talents, and time to this project. They are B&G Glass; Malsnee Tile; Lutz Masonry; Mark Pufnock, electrician and electrical engineer Steve Gribb.

2007 Study Tour of Spain

Karen McElhattan, ETSHS Spanish Teacher

Fifteen Exeter SHS Spanish students and six adults enjoyed an educational tour of Spain this past spring. The adventure began with a flight from New York City to Madrid and continued in the other cities of Segovia, Toledo, Córdoba, Sevilla, Granada, Ronda, and Torremolinos. Some highlights of the trip were: seeing the Roman aqueducts and the Alcázar in Segovia, walking through the Valley of the Fallen, visiting the cathedrals of Toledo and Sevilla, visiting the Royal Palace in Madrid, learning the art of Spanish cuisine in Madrid, taking a flamenco dance lesson in Sevilla, witnessing the incredible Holy Week processions in Sevilla, seeing the Arab mosque in Córdoba, and visiting the Alhambra palace in Granada. Most importantly, all students practiced listening to and speaking the Spanish language and learned that to truly appreciate another language, one must understand the culture of its people and the history of the country.

The students who participated in the study tour were: Christopher Care, Arielle Distasio, James Hennessy, Elizabeth Kramer, Ashley Long, Margaret Morgan, Joshua Peters, Kristen Portland, Lauren Powell, Andrew Prijs, Brian Ramsey, Rachael Stein, Montana Tamny, Trey Vermeer, and Abigail Wolfe. The trip was organized by Señora Karen McElhattan, senior high school Spanish teacher. The head chaperones were Señora McElhattan and Mr. Robert Fleck, senior high school social studies teacher. Other adult chaperones were Terry McElhattan, Peggy Fleck, Cynthia Sica and Cathleen Peters. The group motto was "Somos familia" or "We are family." All agreed that it was an unforgettable opportunity to learn and experience together in the mother country of the Spanish language.



On a very hot day in August, the "field hockey" mosaic was added to one of the block-arched sections of Don Thomas Stadium. Left to right are Bonnie Lutz, Christina Pinkerton, Derek Pinkerton, and Michelle Miskovitz.



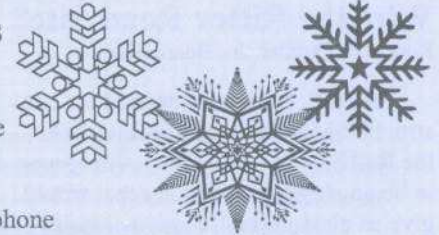
Senior Citizen Tax Rebate

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Criminal History (fingerprints).

After a senior is approved for the program, a record of volunteered time must be kept by the volunteer and the department/building office. Every hour of volunteer service provided to the district (maximum 100 hours from January 2008 to June 2008), \$5.99 of credit will be set aside towards a rebate on the next fiscal year's property tax bill (maximum \$599.00 or the amount of property tax if less than \$599.00). At the end of the district's fiscal year (June 30, 2008), the business office will calculate the dollars earned during that fiscal year, review the amounts with the superintendent, present the total list to the Board of School Directors for approval, and issue a rebate check after the senior volunteer has paid his/her next fiscal year property tax bill (e.g. issued in July 2008).

Inclement Weather Reminders



A decision to close school or have a late start due to inclement weather is usually made by 6 a.m. As soon as the decision is made, information will be disseminated to students, parents, and staff using Connect-ED, the telephone messaging service. Messages for late starts and closings are forwarded to home phone numbers. Emergency communications, including early dismissals, will be forwarded to all phone numbers listed for each student. This includes a parent's home, cell, and work phone.

Closing, late starts, and early dismissal announcements will also still be broadcast on local television and radio. The following television stations will air the message: WFMZ Channel 69, WCAU Channel 10, and WPVI Channel 6. Radio stations that will announce the message are: 830 AM, 1340 AM, 107.5 FM, 96 FM, 99.9 FM, Y-102 FM, and 100.7 FM. The information is also available on the Internet at: Cancellations.com (it can also be accessed from the district's website) or www.wfmz.com.

It is imperative that young children know where they should go and what they should do if a parent is not at home and there is a need for an unexpected early dismissal. In order to avoid a problem, please prepare children for this potential circumstance.

If there is a need to delay the opening of school for two hours, a modified schedule will be used for kindergarten. The adjusted schedule will be: AM kindergarten (11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.) and PM kindergarten (1:50 to 3:40 p.m.).

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Beverly A. Martin, Ed.D., Superintendent
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Questions, suggestions, and/or information concerning the NEWSLETTER should be directed to Don W. Cramer, Editor, in the Instructional Support Services Office.

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