

# Newsletter

ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLS

Vol. 35 Number 1

Fall 2009

## Desire to Aspire - the Reiffton School Mission

Dr. Gregory Fries, Principal

As is the custom in our school, last year's outgoing sixth grade class chose a theme to leave behind at Reiffton to guide the next wave of fifth and sixth grade students. They set the stage for an inspiring year here with the theme "Desire to Aspire," an apt mission for our school. Our goal is to provide a quality education for our students and challenge them to utilize the knowledge and skills learned here, applying them throughout their lives at school and beyond.

Our Morning Reading Club is one example of kids putting in extra time and effort to get the most out of each day at school. Each morning before

school starts our students have the option of reporting to the Morning Reading Club which meets in the lower fifth grade commons. When the club first began, some 20 to 30 students came to the program. Now, seven years later, between 100 and 200 students volunteer to come and quietly read. The Morning Reading Club offers many opportunities for students to become interested in reading. One of the many highlights of the club is the Reader's Theatre. Kathryn Fuller, one of our reading aides, works with the students to present reader's theatre plays for students and faculty members. Last

*(continued on page X)*

## Nominate Someone to be Inducted into the 2010 Academic Hall of Fame

Five persons were inducted in the 2009 Exeter Academic Hall of Fame. They were David Eschelman, M.D.; Christopher Faber, M.D.; Roger Schropp; Clarence Swoyer, and Amy Unger Morton. 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 2010 awards. There are three different categories of awards: (1) student category – a successful ETSD alumnus who graduated at least 15 years

*(continued on page 2)*

## 2009 Homecoming Queen, King and Court



Homecoming festivities were held in conjunction with the October 9 home football game. The homecoming court (left to right) Matt Berman; Tyler Blood; Andrew Green; Austin Jermacans; LeQuan Chapman, king; Elle Burkert, queen; Colleen Mackey; Victoria Scheirer; Alyssa Gobar; and Rachel Lutz.

## Senior Citizens Tax Rebate Program

The Volunteer Tax Rebate Program for senior citizens is designed to provide assistance for senior citizens in paying real estate taxes and to provide the district with citizens' skills and time. 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.

In exchange for a tax credit, senior citizens can volunteer to work in a classroom, library, cafeteria, office, playground, or outside groundskeeping. Interested senior citizens should submit completed "Senior Volunteer Application" and "Financial Needs Assessment

*(continued on page 2)*

## From the Desk of Dr. Beverly Martin, Superintendent “New and Exciting Happenings in 2009-2010”



**Dr. Beverly Martin**

Greetings and welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year! As we begin this term, we have a number of new faces in our classrooms and offices to greet and welcome into the Exeter family. Lorane Elementary School has a new principal, Ms. Pam Kiskaddon, as former Lorane Principal Deborah Dawson joins our central office staff as Professional Development Coach. In her new position, Ms. Dawson will apply her knowledge of instruction and assessment to assist teachers in becoming even better at helping our students learn. While we're on the topic of new administrators, our retiring teachers have kept our new Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Betty Weber, extremely busy filling a variety of teaching and support positions. With Betty's help and experience in human resource management, we are confident that we have hired the best and the brightest to lead our schools and our classrooms in the new school year and into the future.

I would be remiss if I did not say that we are also eagerly anticipating the start of construction on our new elementary school at 5000 Boyertown Pike Road. We hope to bid the project in November so that we can begin construction in early spring of 2010, and

complete the school at the end of the 2010-11 school year. We are proud to say that it will be a “green” school, and expect to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification at the silver level. Our plan is that the new elementary school will open its doors to students in grades K-4 in August of 2011. As construction progresses later this term, we plan to post pictures and information about the new school on the district webpage at [www.exeter.k12.pa.us](http://www.exeter.k12.pa.us).

We have also been exploring opportunities to keep costs down by funding special projects and classroom technologies through alternate funding sources, such as the Exeter Community Education Foundation. The Foundation, although still in its infancy, is already funding resources for our schools and scholarships for graduating seniors. Last year the Foundation donated a new interactive whiteboard to Reiffon School, a distance learning camera to be shared throughout the district, and two scholarships to deserving graduates from the class of 2009. This year the group is funding four interactive whiteboards for our elementary schools and two scholarships for 2010 graduates. We are grateful to the many volunteers who work hard to make the Exeter Community Education Foundation a success, and hope that members of our community will consider becoming volunteers in this organization or supporting one or more of the group's fundraisers. For more information, investigate the organization's website at [exetereducationfoundation.org](http://exetereducationfoundation.org).

Together, the staff and administration believe that we will accomplish many great things in the 2009-2010 school year. We are proud of our staff, our programs, and most importantly, our students. We look forward to a fruitful and exciting school year!

## Nominate Someone to be Inducted into the 2010 Academic Hall of Fame

*(continued from page 1)*

ago and brought credit to Exeter in his/her career; (2) faculty/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 2010 inductees will be honored in a ceremony on April 18.

To submit a name for nomination to the Hall of Fame, a Nomination Form must be completed. To obtain one, contact Don Cramer at [dwcramer@exeter.k12.pa.us](mailto:dwcramer@exeter.k12.pa.us) or 610-779-0700 ext. 1027. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Senior High School Office or to Don Cramer in the Administration Building no later than December 1.

## Senior Citizens Tax Rebate Program

*(continued from page 1)*

Information” forms to the business office at 3650 Perkiomen Avenue. The law requires that new volunteers must also submit the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check, the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, and the Federal Criminal History (FBI fingerprint).

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 service provided to the district (maximum 100 hours from January 2010 to June 2010), \$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 (e.g. end of June 2009), 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 volunteer has paid his/her next fiscal year property tax bill (e.g. issued in July 2010).

## Reiffton School's Desire to Aspire *(continued from page 1)*

April a group of students read a play titled "Pipi Goes to School" for our school board members. Other opportunities include: "Reado" (bingo with book titles); participation in the Literacy Council's "Reader Win" program; Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club; Women's History Month Trivia; the Hot-hot-hot Reader's Club in which students must read five books in order to earn a Subway kid's meal; Scholastic Classrooms Care; Grow Your Mind; and poetry read alouds.

In order to inspire our students to enjoy reading, several guests have stopped by the Morning Reading Club. Guest readers have included staff members Lori Bignotti, Tim Dewalt, Theresa Wentling, Paul McCracken, Karen Timura, and Julie Kugler, school board member Ken Smith, Superintendent Beverly Martin, musician Eric Cawalla, Reading Supervisor Julie

Kline, Principals Marc Bellettiere and Eric Flamm, and Exeter Community Library children's librarian Laura Kauffman. Our thanks go to Dave Myers, Sheila Violand, Janice Rothbard, Autumn Rheaume, and Cathy Fuller for their work with the Morning Reading Club. I would also like to thank the Reiffton teachers for all that they do every day to encourage the love of reading.

At Reiffton we work hard to emphasize to students that they are all part of the Reiffton Team. Our Team Building days that took place on the Reiffton campus during the early fall encouraged just that sort of attitude. Fifth grade had their Team Building Day on October 23 and sixth grade had their day on October 29. These one-day programs focused on respect, responsibility, relationships, trust, and community building. Craig Erb and his

Experiential Dynamics team were here to lead activities that included discussions on ground rules for success, goals for the day, cooperative games, trust building activities, and group problem solving. The day concluded with a debriefing of what the students learned from the day and how that information could be used during their time at Reiffton School. It was a pleasure to see all of the students working together as a team to solve problems. It is our hope that the students will take what they learned from these days and apply it to the classroom.

In January we will be starting another highlight of the year for many of our students, the sixth Artist in Residence program at Reiffton School. The Artist in Residence program has been extremely beneficial for all of our students. This year's artist is Tina Davidson. Ms. Davidson has taken part in over 30 residencies in the Philadelphia area, Central Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. During her time at Reiffton Ms. Davidson will teach the students the process behind composing musical pieces and how to develop their own skills as young composers. Sixth grade students will also have the opportunity to create their own "original" instruments out of materials that they have found, and they will be composing original songs for those instruments.

Our holiday concerts will set the spirit for December at Reiffton. Music teachers Heather Claus, Patricia Kline, and Dawn Keebler have been working very hard to prepare their students for the first concerts of the school year. This year's grade five concert will take place on December 8 at 4:15 p.m. The grade six holiday concert will be held on December 10 at 4:15 p.m. The doors will open at 3:45 p.m. with both concerts being held in the Reiffton cafeteria.

At Reiffton we are committed to providing the best education possible for our students. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 610-779-7640.

## New 2009-2010 Secondary Instructional Staff



The new instructional staff was officially welcomed to the district on August 18. New secondary instructional staff includes (front row, left to right) Kelsey Billie, SHS Spanish; Courtney Lutz, SHS Family & Consumer Science; Alisha DiMarzio, SHS Health & Physical Education; Lisa McCoy, SHS English; (middle row, left to right) Zachary Potter, JHS Tech Ed; Megan Casey, JHS Special Education; Jennifer Hildebrand, JHS Family & Consumer Science; Amanda Kardoley, JHS English; Rebecca Lopic, SHS French; John White, SHS Art; (back row, left to right) Jim Mills, SHS Math; Sophie Guzowski, JHS English; Brian Witkowski, SHS Social Studies; Ashleigh Huffman, SHS Social Studies; and Rebeka Shumock, SHS Chemistry (Missing from the photo are: Matthew Burkhart, SHS Social Studies; Rebecca Harrison, SHS Social Studies; Heather Kelly, JHS Special Education; Kelly McKinney, SHS Special Education; Therese Knabb, JHS Nurse; Peter Clark, SHS Math; and Beth Conley, SHS Special Education)

## Introducing the New Lorane Principal

Pamela Kiskaddon was appointed Lorane Principal this past summer replacing Deborah Dawson, who moved to a new district position as the Professional Development Coach. Mrs. Kiskaddon comes to Lorane from the School District of Lancaster where she served as the principal of Price Elementary for six years. Prior to assuming the principalship in Lancaster, Mrs. Kiskaddon taught kindergarten, transitional first, first, and second grades in the Lebanon School District.

Mrs. Kiskaddon earned her B.S. in elementary and early childhood education from Millersville University, a M.Ed. in Teaching and Curriculum from Penn State at the Capital Campus, and Administrative Certification from Penn State at the Great Valley Campus. She has completed all the course work in the doctoral program at Widener

University.

Pamela and her husband, Robert, reside in Lititz and are the proud parents of Troy, Amy, Rachel and Laura. They were blessed by Troy with a grandson, Trenten. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family hiking, biking and watching movies. They enjoy traveling to Pittsburgh to visit with Troy and his family. When she is not studying, Mrs. Kiskaddon also enjoys reading, playing piano and going to dinner with friends.

After the first several months in her new position, Pamela said, "Exeter Township is a wonderful school district. I am so glad to be here. I have enjoyed getting to know the Lorane staff, parents and students. I look forward to working with them to continue the excellent educational experience that is provided to all students."



**Pamela Kiskaddon**

## District Acquires \$1.2 Million Through Grant Funding

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 2009-10 which total over \$1.2 million.

| <u>Program or Grant</u>                          | <u>Purpose</u>   | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|--|---------------|
| <b>Title I</b>                                   | Reading support for elementary students  | \$314,346     |
| <b>Title I Supplement</b>                        | Professional development of teachers and non-public allocation   | \$77,103      |
| <b>Distinguished Title I Awards</b>              | Awards for significant PSSA improvement at Reiffton and the JHS  | \$10,000      |
| <b>Title II</b>                                  | Increase achievement by improving teacher and principal quality  | \$86,431      |
| <b>Increase in Basic Education Funding</b>       | Math coaching, class-size reduction, English as a Second Language, and educational support services                                | \$144,213     |
| <b>Accountability Block Grant</b>                | Supports student achievement through full-day kdg, class size reduction in kdg - third grade classrooms, and after-school tutoring | \$490,989     |
| <b>Educational Assistance Program</b>            | Portions of math teachers' salaries at the secondary levels  | \$109,540     |
| <b>Title III: Improving Language Instruction</b> | Help for Limited English Proficiency & immigration students attain English proficiency   | \$10,005      |
| <b>Safe and Drug Free Schools</b>                | Supports efforts in prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse and partially funds the Student Assistance Program | \$10,264      |

**TOTAL**

**\$1,252,891**

## New Elementary Instructional Staff



*New elementary instructional staff includes (front row, left to right) Danielle Jupina, Jacksonwald first grade; Beth Kreischer, Reiffton Special Education; (back row, left to right) Emily Preite, MLL Guidance Counselor; Jacqueline Antolic, Jacksonwald first grade; and Melissa Boyer, Reiffton Special Education. (Missing from the photo are: Carol Bagoly and Krista Gilham, both Reiffton sixth grade.)*

## ETJHS and Reiffton Earn Distinguished Recognition as Title I Schools

In recognition of the academic achievement occurring within the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania Department of Education's Division of Federal Programs named 154 schools as Distinguished Title I Schools for the 2009-10 term. We're proud to report that the Reiffton School and Exeter Junior High are among the award recipients.

The first-ever Distinguished Title I School awards were given to 123 schools for the 2008-09 term. To be eligible, schools must administer Title I programs. (Title I designation is based on the socio-economic profile of the enrolled students.) Eligible schools must also make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in previous school terms and make significant improvements in PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) scores for whole groups or subgroups.

As Distinguished Title I Schools, Reiffton and ETJHS will each receive \$5,000 grant funding and be invited to make presentations at the Title I Improving Schools' Performance Conference.

# Congratulations

# Reiffton and ETJHS

## Who's Who in the Associations of Parents and Teachers

The APT (Association of Parents and Teachers) in each Exeter school provides valuable support for the students and educational programs/activities throughout the school term. Without the many tireless efforts of these groups, many of the enriching activities would not be possible. While all parents, teachers, and administrators are part of each school's organization, there are numerous individuals at each school who devote many hours leading and organizing the array of activities from late August through June. The district extends a sincere thanks to the persons who are serving as APT officers during the 2009-10 term.

Senior High: President – Anne Thomas; Treasurer – Elyse Miller

Junior High: President – Kim Ericke; Treasurer – Elyse Miller

Reiffton: President – Sherrie Torres; Vice President – Tricia Rocktasel-Walborn; Secretary – Heather Saboori; and Treasurer – Shelly Hinkle

Jacksonwald: Co-Presidents – Robin Berger and Jennifer Sciple; Vice President – Jackie Smith; Secretary – Lisa Boyer; and Treasurer – Raylin Ritenour

Lorane: Co-Presidents – Becky Speicher and Alicia Ettele; Vice President – Eileen Malone; Secretary – Tania Diershiede; and Treasurer – Dee Narvaez

MLLausch: Co-Presidents – Jen Seelig and Peggy Kershner; Vice President – Mimi Leinbach; Secretary – Patty Sturz; and Treasurer – Beth Kistler

See your copy of the 2009-10 Activities Calendar, also available on the district website, for meetings and activities planned throughout the school term. Please support the work and projects of the district's APTs.



## Upcoming Events for Your Enjoyment

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Nov 20-21 | SHS Fall Play<br>"The Male Animal"<br>SHS aud 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec 3     | SHS Choral Winter Concert<br>SHS aud 7:30 p.m.          |
| Dec 7     | SHS Orch Winter Concert<br>SHS aud 7:30 p.m.            |
| Dec 8     | 5th Gr Holiday Concert<br>Reiffton café 4:15 p.m.       |
| Dec 10    | 6th Gr Holiday Concert<br>Reiffton café 4:15 p.m.       |
| Dec 15    | 7th Gr Winter Concert<br>SHS aud 7:30 p.m.              |
| Dec 17    | 8th Gr Winter Concert<br>SHS aud 7:30 p.m.              |

## Inclement Weather & Emergency 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, if provided to the district.

Closing, late starts, and early dismissal announcements will also 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](http://Cancellations.com) (it can also be accessed from the district's website) or [www.wfmz.com](http://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.).

The NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the  
**Exeter Township School District**

3650 Perkiomen Avenue Reading, PA 19606  
Telephone: 610-779-0700 FAX: 610-779-7104  
[www.exeter.k12.pa.us](http://www.exeter.k12.pa.us)

Beverly A. Martin, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Warren Mata, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent

### BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Jack A. Linton, President  
Russell J. Diesinger, Vice President  
Dr. David S. Bender - J. Ken Hart  
Carole A. Kutscher - Robert H. Quinter, Jr.  
Andrea Sandusky - Kenneth A. Smith - Joseph Staub  
Appointees: Anne C. Guydish, Secretary  
Kathlene M. Tschudy, Treasurer  
Questions, suggestions, and/or information concerning  
the NEWSLETTER should be directed to Don W. Cramer,  
Editor, in the Instructional Support Services Office.

**EXETER TOWNSHIP  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Carrier Route Presort  
Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Reading, PA  
Permit No. 810

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**

The Exeter Township School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and in compliance with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The district will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, disability, or handicap. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Don W. Cramer, Compliance Officer, 3650 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, PA 19606.

## WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

**Grant Funding Totaling \$1.2 Million** ♦ **What's Happening at the Reiffton School**  
**Reiffton & JHS Earn Awards** ♦ **Meet the New Lorane Principal** ♦ **Who's Who in the APTs**  
**New Instructional Staff** ♦ **Superintendent's Message** ♦ **Senior Citizens' Tax Rebate**