

# Newsletter

ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLS

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## Once Upon a Mattress

This year's SHS Spring Musical Show is *Once Upon a Mattress*. It's a farcical telling of the fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*. The music was written by Mary Rodgers, daughter of Richard Rodgers of Rodgers and Hammerstein fame (*Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music*). The performances are scheduled for March 18, 19, and 20 at 7:30 in the ETSHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens. The ticket order form will be posted on the district web site in the near future and be available in the SHS office and Admin. Bldg. The completed form and payment may be dropped off at the SHS office and tickets will be at the will-call table the night of the performance.



## Board Reorganizes for 2010

The Exeter Township School Board reorganization meeting was held on Tuesday, December 8. Pennsylvania law requires school boards to reorganize during the first full week in December. A total of six incumbents were sworn into office for new terms. They were Russell Diesinger, J. Ken Hart, Carole Kutscher, and Robert Quinter, Jr. for four-year terms and Andrea Sandusky and Joseph Staub for two-year terms. Mr. Staub was appointed to the board in June to fill the unexpired term of Mary Walker. He is the parent of three ETSHS students, and as a board member hopes to help the district continue to exceed its educational goals in as fiscally responsible manner as possible. He said, "I became involved with the Exeter Community Education Foundation, recognized the importance

of community involvement, and chose to extend my work with the school district."

During the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting Kenneth Smith resigned to assume his newly elected township supervisor position. Ken faithfully served on the school board for six years. The district extends a sincere "thank you" to Mr. Smith for his dedicated years of service to the district.

James Brady, Jr. was appointed to fill Mr. Smith's position. Mr. Brady has been a resident of the district for over 17 years and is the parent of an 11<sup>th</sup> grader and a 2009 graduate. He became interested in a board seat because he feels his children benefited from the education they have received, and he believes the quality of education is very competitive and exceeds that of many other similar districts. "The opportunities that students have to participate in extracurricular activities including sports and music allow students to grow personally as well as intellectually," Mr. Brady said.

During the reorganization meeting Jack Linton was elected president and Russell Diesinger was elected vice president. Mr. Linton is beginning his eleventh year on the board and third year as president. Previously he served as vice president for eight years. Mr. Diesinger is beginning his ninth year as a board member and third year as vice president.

The board is organized to utilize eight committees. The committees are as follows: **Business Functions** - Mr. Hart chairperson and members Mr. Staub and Mr. Brady; **Personnel** - Dr. Bender chairperson and members Mr.

## Reiffton Morning Reading Club Engages Students



Reiffton School's Morning Reading Club promotes a love of learning and engages students in a variety of reading activities and experiences. These students hold some of the boxes filled with collected items to be sent to children in more than 100 countries. See the article on page 5.

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## Board Reorganizes

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Quinter and Mr. Brady; **Student Functions** - Mrs. Kutscher chairperson and members Mrs. Sandusky, Mr. Quinter, and Mr. Diesinger; **Technology** - Mr. Quinter chairperson and members Mr. Hart and Dr. Bender; **Athletic\*** - Mr. Staub chairperson and members Mrs. Sandusky and Mr. Quinter; **Curriculum** - Mr. Diesinger chairperson and members Mrs. Kutscher and Mrs. Sandusky; **Growth and Development** - Mr. Quinter chairperson and members Dr. Bender and Mr. Brady; **Audit\*** - Mr. Staub chairperson and Mr. Hart.

\*Non-board members Bonnie Lutz and Kenneth Smith serve on the Athletic Committee and Barry Ewald, Daniel Fanelli, and Todd Tomczyk serve on the Audit Committee.

Several board members have been selected to represent the district in various county committees. Robert Quinter, Jr. continues to serve as the representative to the Berks County Intermediate Unit Board and Russell Diesinger continues as the representative to the Berks Career and Technology Joint Operating Committee. J. Ken Hart represents the district on the Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau.

The public is welcome to attend board meetings, which begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the district administration building. In most months, the first Tuesday is dedicated to committee meetings, the second Tuesday is a workshop session, and the third Tuesday is the voting meeting.



## From the Desk of Dr. Beverly Martin, Superintendent “Greetings and Happy New Year”



**Dr. Beverly Martin**

As we welcome in 2010, we are excited that this year will finally lead us to the beginning of construction of our new elementary school. This school has been long-needed and has been in the planning stages for years. It will be our fourth building to house students in grades kindergarten through four, and will alleviate overcrowding issues due to enrollment and program growth in our other three K-4 buildings. The new building will be located on Boyertown Pike (Route 562) across from St. Catharine’s Church. We are hoping that we can begin construction in March of this year and plan to open for business in August of 2011!

In addition, we are thrilled to have worked with our architects and engineers to design a “green” school that will be LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The environmentally-friendly design will allow the building and its surrounding grounds to be used as a teaching tool to support our science curriculum, and will focus on different concepts and skills at each grade level. The interior of the building is also designed to complement an outdoor nature theme. Different sections of the building will complement each of the four seasons, and the nature theme will be carried out in the colors, textures

and materials that are used throughout the building.

We expect construction bids to be awarded to various contractors by the time this newsletter goes to press, and we anticipate having needed permits in hand in a timely manner to remain on schedule and maintain our budget for the new building. As we progress in the construction process, we will be posting new information and photographs on the district web page. Follow our progress at [www.exeter.k12.pa.us/](http://www.exeter.k12.pa.us/)

We are also ready to take the important step of deciding on a name for our new school. To that end, we are asking for assistance from our community members. If you have a suggestion for a name for our new elementary school, please email me at [bamartin@exeter.k12.pa.us](mailto:bamartin@exeter.k12.pa.us) or phone 610-779-0700 ext 1022.

### Help Us Name the New School

Perhaps you know some significant historical information about the land on which the school will be built or perhaps you have a clever idea. Consider sharing it with us!  
E-mail Superintendent Martin at [bamartin@exeter.k12.pa.us](mailto:bamartin@exeter.k12.pa.us) or phone 610-779-0700 ext. 1022.

### You Can Share Your College Experience

The district is seeking individuals who are willing to speak to small groups of juniors and seniors about their experiences at specific colleges and universities. If you are willing to serve as a resource speaker, contact Linda Miskiewicz at [lmiskiewicz@exeter.k12.pa.us](mailto:lmiskiewicz@exeter.k12.pa.us) or phone her at 610-779-0700 ext. 1307.

## Who or What is a Professional Development Coach?

Deb Dawson

I am the new professional development coach in the Exeter Township School District. Many of you know me as the former principal of Lorane Elementary School. Serving the Lorane community for ten years has helped to prepare me for the challenges of this new position which offers me the opportunity to work with teachers and administrators in all six of our schools.

My mission as the professional development coach is to support teachers as they provide engaging learning opportunities for the students in the Exeter Schools. On a day-to-day basis, I work side by side with teachers to find the best practices in teaching and learning to meet the needs of all of our students. Depending on the situation, I plan, coach or model effective teaching and learning.

During the month of January, all district students will be taking assessments to see how their learning is progressing. With the results, I will be assisting teams of teachers to look at just how their students are doing and what are some next steps in their learning. Specifically, we will be looking at the results of the 4Sight and DIBELS assessments to make instructional decisions leading to the April PSSA testing and beyond.

The most rewarding part of being the professional development coach is watching students learn and grow under the guidance of the talented teachers and administrators in our district. I am continually reminded of the high standards we have set for our students. Our teachers work tirelessly to create engaging learning opportunities for our students.

The Exeter Township School District is dedicated to providing quality learning opportunities for our students and staff. Check the district website under Curriculum and Programs, Professional Learning to learn more about professional learning in ETSD.



Two ETSHS students were winners in the Berks Photographic Society's Annual SHS Print Competition. They are junior Lauren Williams (right) who placed second and senior Meredith Bassler (center) who received an honorable mention. Stan Okuniewski is their technology education teacher.

## Jacksonwald's Walk for Diabetes

On Tuesday, November 24, all Jacksonwald Elementary students participated in the Third Annual School Walk for Diabetes. Despite the uncooperative weather, students thoroughly enjoyed walking the designated course inside the school. Additionally, students learned about diabetes and the importance of making healthy choices including eating nutritional foods and exercising every day.

Parent volunteers and building specialists helped Physical Education Teacher Diana Bogust make the event a success by monitoring the halls, giving students hole punches on their wrist bands to keep track of laps, and cheering the students on! Through this collaborative effort of students, parents, teachers and community members, Jacksonwald Elementary raised \$4,560 for the American Diabetes Association. The money raised will help fund diabetes research, education and advocacy in support of the mission of the American Diabetes Association.

An assembly in early November, which functioned as the kick-off event, provided students with hands-on learning experiences about diabetes. School Walk for Diabetes is an educational school fund-raising program that promotes healthy living and school spirit.

## Facility Facts: Keeping Our Schools Clean

Kenneth Pitts, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

During the holidays many of us had overnight guests and we always want to put our best foot forward with clean, inviting homes. When we hear someone will be staying for the weekend on short notice we all go into frantic cleaning mode. Coining an old advertising phrase, our efforts "clean like a white tornado." A few hours later, we look around and our three-bedroom home is ready for *Better Homes and Gardens*. Just don't look in the closets!

Could you imagine having to do this with about ten homes every day in just eight hours? The custodial staff in the district covers on average about 27,000 square feet of living space per custodian. For most of us that would equal ten to twelve of our homes, and with kitchens, cafeterias and the number of restrooms, it may be more than what our homes have. If you think it's tough vacuuming the living room around all the furniture, imagine the challenge of an elementary classroom with 30 desks and chairs, and as many activities and crafts as a birthday party every day. Fortunately this can be accomplished with the right people and the right tools and systems. We invest in many labor saving tools that aren't practical for homes, and use the most effective cleaners to make things spic and span. The real key to success, however, are the custodians who learn their area and apply those tools efficiently and effectively because they know about 4,400 "guests" are coming over the next day and we want to welcome them to a clean home.

## BCCF Scholarship Opportunities

Berks County Community Foundation administers more than 100 scholarship funds for Berks County students. Most of the scholarships have very specific eligibility criteria. The complete list of scholarships administered by Berks County Community Foundation is available online at [www.bccf.org](http://www.bccf.org). Interested students should review available scholarships online now. With a few exceptions, most applications will be accepted beginning January 15th through April 1st.



*A technician from St. Joseph Medical Center checks a student using pulse oximetry at the Health Fair held this past November. Over 500 students, parents, and senior citizens attended the event which is organized*

## Help Make May & June Safer!

With the prom and graduation, the spring months of May and June are exciting times for many young people. The accompanying celebrations, however, can become particularly dangerous to the teens and the communities in which they live. While the law has not changed and the legal drinking age in Pennsylvania is still 21 years of age, alcohol is part of the celebrations of many young people under the age of 21. What's even more disturbing is that many parents condone or just "look the other way" when this happens.

We've all heard it many times and know that drinking and driving is a deadly combination. This is true for all ages, but especially for teens. There are multiple skills necessary to drive a car and they include coordination, balance, concentration, reflexes, vision, reason, and judgment. Alcohol slows down all of these skills and when combined with a driver that doesn't have a lot of experience, there is nothing but danger.

The statistics tell the story!

- A total of 2,641 youths (aged 20 or younger) were killed in alcohol-related accidents in the U.S. in 2006.
- In Pennsylvania, 1,535 underage drinking drivers were involved in crashes. This is a decrease of 6% from the year 2000, but is still an average of more than four a day!
- In 2006, 24% of youth driver deaths (aged 16-20) in Pennsylvania were the result of drinking drivers.
- More than half of all fatal traffic crashes on prom and graduation weekends involve alcohol, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In many cases the person killed in the accident is not the drunken driver, but someone innocent.

Everyone hopes that Exeter students never add to these tragic statistics. Yet each year we learn about private after-prom and graduation parties in which alcohol is consumed by minors. It's against the law and it's dangerous!

For many years, the Exeter Community Prevention Partnership spent hours and substantial funding to sponsor and organize post prom parties at a variety of locations, including Ozzy's Sports Fun Center and Hillcrest Racquet Club. Attendance was never great, but in 2006 the attendance dropped significantly and ECPP decided that it could no longer focus their limited resources to hold parties. Now several parents and teachers of ETSHS students are attempting to organize a post prom party for this May. However, without many more volunteers, hours of work, and funding, it will not become a reality. Whether you are a parent of a junior or senior, have younger children, or whether you don't have children in school, consider getting involved. Without a safe activity, students and the entire Exeter community are at risk.

If you are interested in helping organize a safe post prom event, please contact Anne Thomas at [bertiesinn@verizon.net](mailto:bertiesinn@verizon.net) or phone her at 610-370-9191.



## Commitment to Wellness

Gloria Clay, SNS, PRSBS,  
Food Services Supervisor

The Exeter Township School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are essential to a student's physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. All ESTD schools serve nutritious meals which follow the National School Programs regulations and are under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Nutrition Services.

Meal prices are the same as they were in the 2008-09 school term. An elementary breakfast remains at \$1.00 and lunch is \$1.75. A secondary breakfast costs \$1.55, the lunch value meal is \$1.95 and the food court (salad meal, deli sandwich, and pizza) is \$2.40. Costing out a homemade balanced meal will readily prove that student school meals are still a great buy!

The district menus are full of selections. Marketing the menu choices introduces students to new entrees and a variety of fruits and vegetables. Participation in the food service program assures parents that students can choose nutritionally balanced meals. Although food costs have increased, as well as repair and labor costs, the quality value of the foods served has not diminished.

## Reiffton Morning Reading Club Engages Students

Reiffton School's Morning Reading Club (MRC) promotes a love of learning and engages students in a variety of reading activities and experiences. In his fall newsletter article, Principal Gregory Fries reported on some of the many activities of the MRC. The club under the supervision of David Myers, Janice Rothbard, Autumn Rheume, and Sheila Violand meets daily before school and encourages students to become involved in efforts to help others through their reading. Notification has been received that last year's MRC members read 3,197 minutes for Scholastic's Read for the Summer World Reading Record.

Students in Reiffton's Morning Reading Club recently participated in Exeter Chick-Fil-A's gift collection program. In one week students filled 19 shoeboxes with toys, books, art supplies, and other miscellaneous items. Chick-Fil-A will send these shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries suffering from natural disaster, war, terrorism, disease, famine, and poverty.

The fifth and sixth graders also participated in Scholastic Book Clubs' *ClassroomsCare* program, a philanthropy-based literacy campaign de-

signed to teach children about the joys and importance of reading and giving. This year Scholastic teamed with Super Bowl MVP's Eli and Peyton Manning and this fall MRC members read 427 books. In turn, Scholastic Book Clubs, a division of Scholastic, Inc., will donate 400 new books to one of the Mannings' seven charities.

Future plans for MRC include participation in The Literacy Council of Reading's "Readers Win" fundraiser and Six Flags "Read to Succeed" Program.

### A Reminder to Exeter Township School District Residents: Your Local Earned Income Tax Return for 2009 Must Be Filed by April 15, 2010

Anyone who has earned income, regardless of age, for the year 2009, must file a tax return if you lived in the Exeter Township School District. Even if your employer has withheld and paid your tax, this return must be completed. This obligation is incurred by anyone who is a wage earner, farmer, unincorporated business (including partnership and individual proprietorship), and ALL OTHERS who received earned income or profits for services rendered.

Failure to file on time will result in a penalty and interest charge of 12% per annum and additional costs of collection. Regulations also provide a \$500 fine for refusal to file or other violations.

Residents of the ETSD are required to file a tax return, EVEN IF THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED A FORM THROUGH THE MAIL. Forms can be acquired by contacting the Berks Earned Income Tax Collection Bureau at 920 Van Reed Road in Wyomissing, phoning 610-372-8439, faxing 610-372-1102 or visiting the website: [berkseit.com](http://berkseit.com)

## Food Service Efforts Inspire 2009 Graduate to Write Essay That Earns Her a Nutrition Scholarship



2009 graduate Jenna Giorgio was awarded the Lebanon United Jobbers Scholarship for her winning essay highlighting the contributions of the ETSD Food Services Department to help students achieve healthy lifestyles. Participating in the presentation are (left to right) Food Service Supervisor Gloria Clay, Scott Schaffner and Patricia Siegrist from United Jobbers, Jenna Giorgio, and SHS Principal Marc Bellettiere.

## Preregistration for 2010-11 Kindergarten

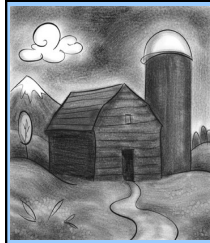
In order to plan for the 2010-2011 school term, the district needs to determine an accurate number of incoming kindergartners. Initial information and registration packets will be mailed to all families that the district is aware of who have preschoolers turning age 5 before September 1, 2010. If you have a child who is age appropriate for kindergarten and do not receive this information before mid-February, please phone Charlene Benner at 610-779-0700 (ext. 1029) or e-mail her at: [CMBenner@exeter.k12.pa.us](mailto:CMBenner@exeter.k12.pa.us)

Completed forms are turned in at Preregistration which is scheduled for **Wed., Feb. 17 and Thurs., Feb. 18** at the K-4 schools from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The average time necessary to preregister is 15 minutes and it is not necessary for a preschooler to accompany his/her parent.

## Homestead/Farmstead Applications

The Homestead/Farmstead application is a requirement of the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1) of 2006. Approved homestead/farmstead owners may be eligible for property tax relief on the July 1, 2010 school real estate tax bill if the Secretary of the Budget authorizes the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide school districts with property tax reduction allocations.

In December, the 2009 Homestead/Farmstead applications were mailed to those district taxpayers who did not have an approved application on file, according to the Berks County Homestead Office's database as of November 1, 2009. If your property has already been approved, no further action is required. If you received an application, it must be completed and returned to the Berks County Assessment Office by the March 1, 2010 due date. If you did not receive an application by mail and your property has not been approved, you can stop in at the Exeter Township School District Business Office, 3650 Perkiomen Avenue, Reading, PA, 19606 to get a form or call the Business Office at 610-779-0700, ext. 1001 and request an application be mailed. Any questions regarding whether your property has been approved can be addressed by the Berks County Homestead Office at 610-478-6262.



## Family Math Night for Grades K-6

**Theme: Old "Math" Donald Had a Farm**

**Thursday, February 4th 6:30 – 8 p.m. Reiffton School**

**Snow Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

Last year over 400 people attended and enjoyed math games, puzzles, and activities designed for families with children in grades K-6.

Children must be accompanied by a parent.

The NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the  
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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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