



Newsletter ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLS

Greetings from the Roost . . . Senior High School Report

Marc Bellettiere, Principal

Time goes by so very quickly! Can you believe that we are more than half-way through the school term already? The 2008-2009 school year has been a very rewarding and exciting one thus far and we look forward to the remainder of the term with optimism. This brief narrative report will highlight some of the activities that keep our school moving!

We cannot say enough about the class, generosity, and accomplishments of our student body. Below are just a few things (to date) that we are most proud.

- Exeter Music students qualified for Districts in all 3 areas (chorus,

band, and orchestra).

- Girls Volleyball Pink Out Game raised nearly \$3,000 for Breast Cancer Research.
- 4th Annual Talent Show raised \$2,200 to benefit Children's Hospital.
- Fundraiser for Greater Reading Food Bank resulted in \$14,000 in food for the needy.
- Over 30,000 food items were collected for the Salvation Army.
- Boys Soccer wins the Berks County and District III Championships.
- Vocational and Technical students continue to achieve honorary status

at BCTC.

- Our Quiz Bowl team is both state and nationally ranked.

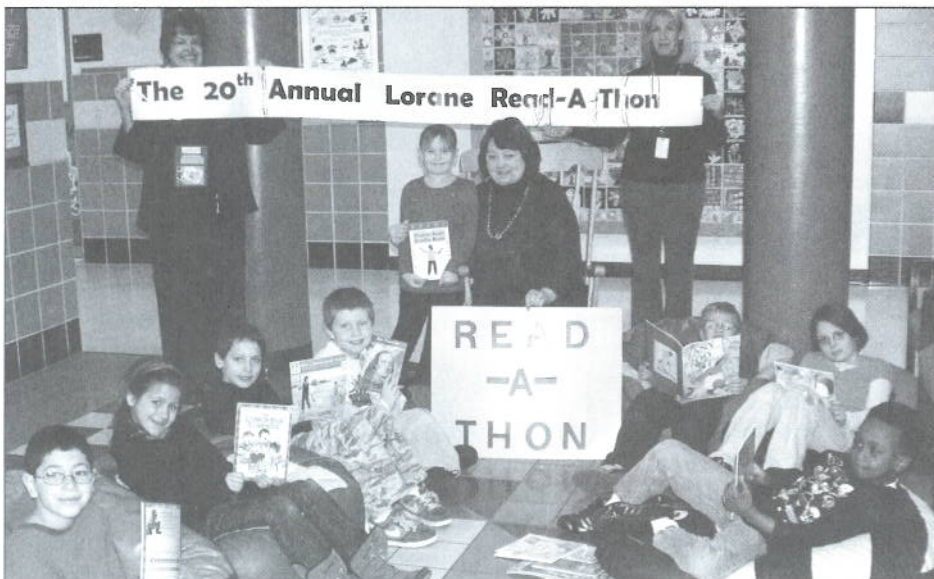
As we begin to finalize our budget for next school year, every attempt is being made to cut spending wherever possible, without sacrificing the many programs that make an Exeter education a top notch learning experience. Taxpayers of this township can count on us to propose a building budget that has been carefully constructed with frugality and attention to detail.

The addition of the Skyward student management package has been both a challenge and a delight. We are just starting to learn much about its functionality and the many ways that it can help us further improve home-school communications. Look for many new applications to appear as we familiarize ourselves with this valuable tool.

Call it a sign of the times, but unfortunately we spend a portion of each day dealing with those individuals who cannot seem to follow the rules and do what is expected of them. Dealing with student behavior and conduct is an opportunity for us to show our students the merit in acting appropriately in school, and (hopefully) in their personal lives. It is our goal that all who graduate from EHS be prepared for what lies ahead of them both academically and socially. When the need arises to discipline students and levy consequences, it is done so with fairness and dignity. If the infractions are of a more serious nature, we have tremendous support from the Exeter Township Police in addressing unlawful behavior. Whether these actions are minor or major offenses, parental in-

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Lorane Celebrates 20th Annual Read-A-Thon



Displaying the "20th Annual Lorane Read-A-Thon" sign is Principal Deborah Dawson (left) and Barbara Mengle, reading aide (right). The event was held the week of February 23 and has been organized since 1989 by Reading Specialist Barbara Szablowski (center). These students enjoyed the opportunity to read in a comfortable spot in the lobby. Special guest readers visited the school throughout the week.

Senior High Report

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volvement in the development of acceptable school citizenship is a must as parents are a very important part of this development process. In short, everyone must be held accountable for the choices they make.

So, what lies ahead?

The Classrooms for the Future Initiative put forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education has helped us to outfit all of our math and science classrooms with interactive whiteboards. If you have not yet had the opportunity to witness this technological advancement in action, it is really something! It is changing the way teachers present material to their students and engaging kids in learning at a new level.

Although we do not wish to allow this to drive what we do, we are focusing our attention on the performance of our students on the PSSA. Much work has already been done behind the scenes and in the classroom to address the needs and deficiencies of all students and to provide additional support to those falling short of proficiency. We feel the implementation of common formative assessments and constant progress monitoring are positive steps in the right direction and all will benefit from this.

Here's what we are looking forward to in the months to come!

- The buzz over our spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, is amazing!
- NHS and EHS Hall of Fame Inductions
- Junior/Senior Prom at the Shady Maple Banquet Hall
- Senior Academic and Athletic Awards Night
- Baccalaureate (June 8) & Graduation (June 9)

We appreciate all that our community does to support this school and are grateful for the opportunity to teach young people each and every day. If at any time you would have any comments or questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact the Senior High School either by phone or e-mail.

Being a Parent Is NOT Easy - Here's Some Help!

Did you know that parents do more to shape the views of their children than any other influence in their lives? It's absolutely true.

The district, through Parent Forum and Caron Counseling, is offering a "Transition Instruction for Parents Program" or TIPP for four sessions in April. The 1.5 hour sessions are scheduled for April 2, 16, 23, and 30 at the Reiffon School beginning each night at 7 p.m. The sessions are primarily designed for parents of students who will be "transitioning" from grade 4 to 5, grade 6 to 7, or grade 8 to 9, but any parent is welcome. It is recommended that parents attend all four sessions.

Some of the topics that will be covered are: empowering parents with effective communication skills, helping parents establish clear rules and consequences for adolescents, and learning protective factors that help parents protect young people from substance use/abuse.

For more information or to register contact Don Cramer by e-mail dcramer@exeter.k12.pa.us or phone 610-779-0700 ext 1027.

Surrogate Parents Needed

The Berks County Intermediate Unit oversees support for students with special needs who may require advocacy and representation in the educational process. Students are provided with a variety of services, including support through the special education process, advocacy, and progress monitoring.

For the recruitment of surrogate parents, the BCIU utilizes the United Way of Berks County's "Volunteer Solutions" Web-based software. If you would like to volunteer as a surrogate parent or would like to know more about the opportunity to do so, you can begin by visiting the Volunteer Solutions Web site at www.volunteersolutions.org/uwberks. Using the search feature, select the social group of "children" and the category of "education" to view information about how you might help children with special needs by serving as a volunteer surrogate parent. You can also contact Tom Engelman by e-mail thoeng@berksiu.org or phone 610-987-8512.

Looking Ahead to the 2009-10 School Calendar



The board approved the school calendar for the 2009-2010 school term. School will again begin the week before Labor Day. These are the beginning and ending dates for the term and dates when school will not be in session for students. The complete Activities Calendar, including early dismissals, will be mailed to households in August and available on the district website this summer.

Sept 1	First student day
Sept 4-7	Labor Day vacation for students
Oct 12	Inservice - schools closed
Nov 25	Inservice & Elem. P. Conf. - no school for students
Nov 26-30	Thanksgiving vacation for students
Dec 24-Jan 3	Winter Holiday
Jan 18	Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb 12	Inservice - schools closed
Feb 15	Presidents' Holiday
March 12	Inservice & Elem. P. Conf. - no school for students
March 31*-	
April 5	Spring vacation for students
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday
June 11*	Last student day

*Days that could be used as inclement weather make-up days if needed are (in this order): March 31, April 1, June 14, June 15.

Three Exciting Initiatives at the Junior High School

Eric Flamm, Principal

Though our students continue to perform very well, we always are looking for ways in which we can improve our programs and offer students opportunities to better themselves. With this in mind, we have a number of initiatives for this year at the junior high school.

One of the initiatives focuses on helping students to see the big picture. Frequently, students become caught up with details – quickly scribbling notes and attempting to memorize everything discussed in class – and fail to see how concepts/ideas fit together on a larger scale. Using the Understanding by Design model, our teachers are making a conscious effort to begin with the end in mind by targeting and stating several essential questions for each unit, identifying desired results and acceptable evidence of learning, and planning instruction and activities that will prepare students to demonstrate their learning successfully. At the end of each unit, students should be prepared to answer the essential questions with “big ideas” or “enduring understandings.” In addition, we have asked our teachers to develop common assessments to measure student progress on state anchors and to adjust instruction accordingly.

Another initiative targets teaching literacy in the content areas. With the help of district language arts coordinator, Mrs. Julie Kline, and the work of special education teacher, Mrs. Valerie Bolick, a number of junior high teachers from a variety of content areas formed a study group to read and discuss *Yellow Brick Roads*, a book written by noted literacy researcher Janet Allen. In addition, several faculty members have attended seminars at the Berks County Intermediate Unit that focus on improving content-area literacy. The goal of this project is to identify and employ research-based methods to help students become competent and confident readers, particularly with non-fiction text.

A third major initiative is the inception of the Olweus anti-bullying

program, the most researched and best known bullying prevention program available. The program is funded primarily through a Safe Schools Grant with the help of the Junior High APT. In order for students to perform at their best academically, they must feel safe and secure at school; therefore, Mr. John Arty and a core committee of teachers have spent many hours researching, planning, and preparing faculty members and students to recognize and respond to episodes of bullying, regardless of the form, in a strategic manner. All faculty and staff members including teachers, secretaries, food service employees, classroom aides, and bus drivers have been trained. Based on the work of Norwegian researcher, author, and psychology professor Dr. Dan Olweus, the program stresses empathy among the student body and encourages bystanders to take an active role in reporting episodes of bullying and helping those who are victims of a bully. The program at the junior high began with a kick-off assembly on Monday, January 26 followed by the first classroom meeting on

Wednesday, January 28. Students will meet in their homerooms for 25 minutes bimonthly for the remainder of the year to discuss scenarios and to review strategies to combat bullying.

Our goal is to prepare students both academically and socially, and we believe the three initiatives noted here will help us to do so successfully. We are looking forward to a terrific second semester and to watching our students continue to progress and excel.

Please note this change!
On April 8 school will be in session for a full day and on April 9 school will be in session with early dismissal.

This change is the result of the use of one inclement weather day (as of February 23). Any additional inclement weather closures after February 23 will result in make-up days being scheduled at the end of the term.

JHS Program Designed to Curb Bullying



JHS Assistant Principal John Arty and two staff members who serve on the Core Committee, Health Teacher Karen Hartranft (center) and Cathy Hennemuth, technology aide, meet with eighth graders Lindsay Diamond, Kayla Arantowicz, and Jared Hostrander to discuss the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program which was implemented in January.

March Happenings

- 10 School Board Workshop mtg., 7 p.m., Adm. Bldg.
 11 Sr. Citizen Breakfast and Show, 8:15 a.m., SHS café/aud.
 11 Elem Parent Conferences
 12 Early Dismissal/Secondary Inservice, sec. @ 11:30, Gr 5-6 @ 12:15, K-4 @ 1 p.m.
 12 SHS All School Musical, 7:30 p.m.
 12 Elem Parent Conferences
 13 Morning Elem. Parent Conference/ Secondary Inservice (A.M.) No school for students
 13 SHS All School Musical, 7:30 p.m.
 14 SHS All School Musical, 2 & 7:30 p.m.
 16 PSSA Reading & Math Assessment, Gr. 3-8 & 11 through March 27
 17 School Board Voting mtg., 7 p.m., Adm. Bldg.
 25 Marching Band Benefit Concert #2, 7:30 p.m., SHS aud.
 30 7th grade Curriculum Overview for Parents of 6th graders, 7 p.m., JHS aud.

A Reminder to Exeter Township School District Residents: Your Local Earned Income Tax Return for 2008 Must Be Filed by April 15, 2009

Anyone who has earned income, regardless of age, for the year 2008, 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, 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 372-8439, faxing 372-1102 or visiting the website: berkseit.com

SHS All-School Musical

Beauty and the Beast

Thurs., March 12 7:30 p.m.
 Fri., March 13 7:30 p.m.
 Sat., March 14 2 p.m. *
 Sat., March 14 7:30 p.m.

*special matinee price of \$5 for children 12 and under

Order your reserved seat tickets by

- obtaining an order form in the SHS office
- e-mailing afreese@exeter.k12.pa.us or
- phoning 610-779-3060

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