



# Newsletter

ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLS

Vol. 33 Number 2

Winter 2008

## Children Turning Age 5 Before September 1, 2008

In order to plan for the 2008-2009 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, 2008. If you have a child who is age appropriate for kindergarten and do not receive this information before mid-February, please phone Thelo Thomas at 610-779-0700 (ext. 1029) or e-mail her at: [tthomas@exeter.k12.pa.us](mailto:tthomas@exeter.k12.pa.us)

Completed forms are turned in at Preregistration which is scheduled for Wed., Feb. 20 and Thurs., Feb. 21 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.

## School Board Reorganizes and Welcomes a New Member

The Exeter Township School Board reorganization meeting was held on Tuesday, December 4. Pennsylvania law requires school boards to reorganize during the first week in December. A total of five members were sworn into office for new terms. Four were incumbents and one was newly elected. Incumbents beginning new terms were Dr. David Bender, Jack Linton, Kenneth Smith, and Mary Walker. Sworn into office for his first term on the ETSD board was Dr. Michael Gambone.

Michael D. Gambone, a resident for six years, is a professor of history at Kutztown University. Dr. Gambone decided to run for a board seat because he believes that everyone has a duty to actively participate in their community and service on the school board places that

effort at the most fundamental function of the community and its government. He recently said: "Exeter is a fine district because of the intense interest that the community has demonstrated for quality education." He hopes to actively seek out the needs of students and faculty in shaping his board decisions.

During the reorganization meeting Jack Linton was elected president and Russell Diesinger was elected vice president. Mr. Linton is beginning his ninth year on the board and has served the last seven years as vice president. He has also been chairperson of the Curriculum Committee and served on the Student Functions and Athletic Committees. Mr. Diesinger is beginning his seventh year as a board member. He has served as the board's representative on the Berks Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Board and also is a member of the Business Functions, Personnel, and Curriculum Committees.

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

In November the district thanked and said farewell to board member Kenneth P. Levan who was a board member for 12 years. Ken served as board president for the last eight years. The district extends a sincere thank you to Mr. Levan for his dedicated years of service to the district.

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## NHS Pilgrim Pride Project Raises Money for Food Bank



The ETSHS National Honor Society participated in the Greater Berks Food Bank Pilgrim Fundraiser. For every dollar raised by NHS, the food bank would be able to acquire \$20 worth of food. NHS members asked Exeter students and staff to purchase paper pilgrims for one dollar each. In several days 655 paper pilgrims were sold, which completely exceeded the initial goal of selling 250! With the \$655 collected at ETSHS, the food bank was able to purchase more than \$13,000 worth of food for families in the Berks County area. Marijo Steffy and Ann Rockowitz serve as advisors to Exeter's NHS.

## Superintendent's Page

### "Celebrating Test Scores and Developing Caring, Responsible Citizens"

The beginning of a new year gives all of us a fresh opportunity to set new goals, both personally and professionally. It is a time for reflection on the past and a renewal of hope for the future.

In this issue of our newsletter is an insert that summarizes the performance of our students on the PA System of School Assessment (PSSA) in reading and mathematics for 2007. I am proud of the work that our students and teachers have accomplished throughout the last school year to demonstrate mastery of academic state standards. The Exeter Township School District scores rank second in reading and fourth in math among all of the school districts in Berks County. We have cause to celebrate these results and many other accomplishments over the past year!

Are test scores the ultimate barometer of our success as a school district and as a learning organization? Definitely not! While academic preparation is at the heart of our mission, it is not the only thing that defines us. Let me explain why. First of all, the state test, though very important, is one test given at one point in time and measuring some very specific skills and concepts. Anyone who is an expert in assessment can tell you that good educators look at a number of indicators of performance to get a more valid and reliable picture of the academic progress that each student is making. Over-reliance on a single indicator flies in the face of what we know about sound educational assessment. On the other hand, we are accountable to the public for the achievement of our youth, and we wouldn't have it any other way. Holding schools responsible for meeting standards is a good idea; using one measure to judge the success or failure of schools is not.

Last year, the Exeter Township School District began a process of developing a long range plan for the next six years, called a Strategic Plan, which involved over 80 teachers, administrators, parents, board members, and com-

munity members. In those discussions one of the requests that came through with resounding clarity is that our community believes district goals should encompass more than the academics. People want their children to be knowledgeable in their subject areas, but just as importantly, they want their children to become responsible citizens who demonstrate universally accepted values such as respect, kindness, empathy, teamwork, integrity, embrace diversity, have a strong work ethic, and value learning as a lifelong endeavor. We, in the Exeter Township School District, heartily agree! Education without character creates a void that no amount of knowledge can fill. If you read the newspapers and watch local television, you can see that our staff and students demonstrate qualities that far surpass the important knowledge and skills they gain from their textbooks and academic lessons. They show charity to those in need, they exhibit community and school spirit, and they empathize with those who experience loss and tragedy, both in word and in deed. They work together and support one another for the

purpose of achieving common goals and for the benefit of others. Knowledge resides in the mind, but true wisdom is borne of the human spirit. As educators, we seek to develop both their minds and their hearts because they will need to use both to be successful in life.

Yes, I am very proud of the staff and the students in the Exeter Township School District, and the PSSA scores are just one reason why.

Happy New Year!

*Dr. Beverly A. Martin*

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## School Board

(continued from page 1)

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 (except July, August and December), the second Tuesday is a workshop session (except July and December), and the third Tuesday is a voting meeting.

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## 2008 Board of Education



(Seated left to right) Vice President Russell Diesinger; President Jack Linton; Superintendent Beverly Martin, Ed.D.; Asst. Superintendent Warren Mata, Ed.D.; (standing left to right) Dr. David Bender; Carole Kutscher; Mary Walker; Dr. Michael Gambone; Robert Quinter, Jr.; J. Ken Hart; and Kenneth Smith

## Introducing Three New Assistant Principals

Three new assistant principals were welcomed to the district this past summer. Each brings to the district varied experiences and many years of work in education. William Cain and Joseph Hepp joined the senior high administration and Julie Kline became the assistant principal at Reiffton.

With the retirement of Dr. James Smith as the senior high principal, several changes took place in the senior high administration. Marc Bellettiere, who served as assistant principal at the senior high for two years, was named principal. Prior to that Mr. Bellettiere was the junior high assistant principal and he taught social studies in the district for eight years. Dennis Iezzi, who also was an assistant senior high principal, retired this past June.

William Cain comes to ETSHS after working in the neighboring Daniel Boone School District where he served as an assistant principal and dean of students for two and a half years and an English teacher at the senior high school for four years. He also taught English in the Downingtown Area District for eight years. Mr. Cain has experience working in the corporate world, including the ABT Corporation as the Director of Education Services and as a Curriculum Manager, and for AGS Management Services as a manager of publication

services. Bill earned a B.A. in English from Lehigh University, a Pennsylvania teaching certificate from Immaculata University, a M.A. in theatre from the University of Illinois, and a M.S. in educational leadership from Wilkes University. Mr. Cain and his wife, Marian, have served as the co-directors of the senior high fall play for many years, and they are the parents of three daughters.

Joseph Hepp also comes to ETSHS from a neighboring school district. He served as the assistant principal of the Antietam Middle-Senior High School for three years. Prior to that he taught physics and the principles of technology at Hazleton Area High School and Hazleton Area Career Center. Mr. Hepp also taught physics at Mt. St. Joseph's Academy in Flourtown, Pennsylvania and math and physical science at Audubon Junior-Senior High School in Audubon, New Jersey. Joe earned a B.S. from Mansfield University and a M.S. and principal's certificate from Wilkes University. Mr. Hepp and his wife, Melissa, are the parents of a son and daughter.

In a recent interview with both senior high assistants, Mr. Hepp said, "Bill and I are very honored and excited to be working in the Exeter Township School District. Each day we see clear evidence of why we chose to be a part of this community and that is the district's com-



Reiffton Asst. Principal Julie Kline

mitment to the success of each student who walks through our doors each day." Mr. Cain added, "The support and guidance of all members of this learning community are second to none."

Julie Hetrich Kline became the Reiffton Assistant Principal after serving as an intern principal at West Reading Elementary School. For 19 years she worked in the Boyertown Area School District as a gifted education teacher, a reading specialist, and a sixth grade teacher. Prior to that she taught special education for the Berks County Intermediate Unit, Lincoln Intermediate Unit, and Delsea Regional Junior/Senior High School. Ms. Kline said, "After twenty-four years in the classroom, I am excited to begin my administrative career in the Reiffton School, working with such an exemplary staff and such wonderful children."

Julie earned a B.S. in elementary and special education, a M.S., and reading specialist certificate from Kutztown University. She was awarded her principal's certificate through studies and work at Alvernia College. Ms. Kline and her husband, Gregory, are the parents of a son and daughter.



Senior High Assistant Principals William Cain (right) and Joseph Hepp

## Upcoming Happenings

- Jan. 31 SHS 2nd Semester Overview, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 5 Strategic Plan mtg. and Parent Forum, SHS, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 7 Family Math Night, J-wald School, 6:30-8 p.m. (inclement weather date - Feb. 12)
- Feb. 11-22 PSSA Writing Assessment for grades 5, 8, and 11
- Feb. 12 Board Workshop mtg., 7 p.m.
- Feb. 15 Teacher Inservice - no school for students
- Feb. 18 Presidents' Day Holiday - schools closed
- Feb. 19 Board Voting mtg., 7 p.m.
- Feb. 20-21 Kdg registration for 2008-09, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at all K-4 schools



## Six-Year Strategic Plan Crafted

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires school districts to prepare a strategic plan every six years. The purpose of each plan is to target goals for educational programming, student services, special education, technology, and teacher induction and staff development. The process to develop the plan engages staff, board members, parents, and community members in many meetings.

The process to prepare a new strategic plan in ETSD began over a year ago and involved close to 40 staff and board members, as well as, over 30 parent and community volunteers. Eleven committees crafted the proposed long range "map" which includes plans for school terms through 2012-13. The plan is available for public display in the Administration Building and each of the six schools.

The district sincerely appreciates the time and work of the 70+ volunteers who contributed to the development of the plan.

## A Reminder to Exeter Township School District Residents: Your Local Earned Income Tax Return for 2007 Must Be Filed by April 15, 2008

Anyone who has earned income, regardless of age, for the year 2007, 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. 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](http://berkseit.com)

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

### BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

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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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