



Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

April 2009

One Enchanted Evening ahead

Students will present the classic musical *South Pacific* April 30, May 1 and May 2.

Set in an island paradise during World War II, two parallel love stories are threatened by the dangers of prejudice and war. Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with a mature French planter, Emile, proving that opposites attract. Nellie learns that the mother of his children was an island native and, unable to turn her back on prejudices with which she was raised, refuses Emile's proposal of marriage.

Meanwhile Lt. Joe Cable denies himself a future with an innocent Tonkinese girl with whom he's fallen in love out of the same fears that haunt Nellie. When Emile is recruited to accompany Joe on a dangerous mission, Nellie realizes that life is too short not to seize her own chance for happiness, and she is able to confront and conquer her prejudices.

South Pacific is back on Broadway where it won seven Tony awards in 2008, including Best Musical Revival. Its theme of racial tensions in a time of war, as well as the love stories it tells, are timeless. The music, including the songs, "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," and "Honey Bun," are some of the best known in Broadway history.

Show time is 7:30 each night in the high school auditorium. Phone 374-1144, ext. 2506 for tickets or go online at www.seal-pa.org/sahs/ and click on the Spring Musical link. All seats are reserved; adult price is \$8.00, student price (K-12) is \$4.00.

TSA competes at state leadership conference

Jacob Ross was elected as state reporter in the Technology Student Association earlier this month.

In addition, six TSA members traveled to Seven Springs resort April 15th for the 3 ½ day State Leadership Conference. Two seniors, Stephanie Carstetter and Mark Minier and four sophomores, Diedrich Farber, Kaitlin Gill, David Martin, and Jacob Ross, all earned their way to the conference by qualifying at the regional conference at the high school in February.

The students competed well against more than 1400 other attendees. Many earned finalist pins for finishing in the top 10 in various contests. In addition to the competitions, Jacob Ross ran a successful campaign for the office of Reporter and is now a member of the State officer team.



Diedrich Farber, Kaitlin Gill, Stephanie Carstetter, Mark Minier, Jacob Ross, and David Martin all earned the opportunity to compete in state level technology events.

He is the first TSA member from this high school to hold a state officer position.

TSA is a nationally recognized organization that prepares its members for the challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership and problem solving skills through competitive events, conferences, and chapter programs resulting in personal growth and opportunities.

Foreign language teachers become students for a day

Three Spanish and one German language teacher, as well as a Spanish student teacher from Selinsgrove High School attended a conference in March entitled Accelerating Proficiency in the Foreign Language Classroom Using TPRS – Total Physical Response Storytelling.

The conference was held in Camp Hill and revolved around simple ways to incorporate this technique of language teaching into the classroom. TPRS is a method of teaching vocabulary meaning, as well as grammar, without actually stressing grammar.

The method stresses meaning and function in usage instead, and students learn in a low-stress manner that keeps everyone actively involved. Students and teachers use props, hand motions and stories to learn the language.

This conference supplemented a previous in-service program provided by the district on this same method of teaching. All the teachers who attended left with a number of fresh new approaches to teaching languages to try out in their classrooms.

Student shines in area math competition

Scott Gehman received Honorable Mention recognition by placing in the top 20 at the annual Gold Math competition at Bucknell out of over 140 students.



Hannah Herrold and Rachel Gingrich show off their culinary creation at the Foreign Language Food Day.

Foreign Language Month

March was National Foreign Language Month, and students at Selinsgrove Area High School were once again actively involved in activities to celebrate the French, German and Spanish languages.

Every day during foreign language week a different activity was planned for students enrolled in foreign languages at the high school. A Foreign Film Night was held at the high school auditorium. The film shown this year was *Sous la Misme Luna, Under the Same Moon* in English. Students involved in the three language clubs also played a volleyball tournament. The winning team happened to be the only mixed team from all three language clubs.

Foreign Language week activities culminated with a Foreign Food Day, in which students were invited to prepare an authentic ethnic food. Students who prepared foods, were then invited to sample the dishes prepared by their peers. A mixed panel then chose the best dessert, main dish and side dish.

Students win big, including Best of Show at Arts Festival

For the second straight year, a student from Selinsgrove Area High School has won Best of Show in the Lewisburg Arts Festival's Photography Contest.

Judges of the competition immediately and collectively agreed that Casey Paradis' self-portrait entitled "My Reflection" earned the top spot. The photograph was matched up against many classification levels including Amateurs and Advanced Amateurs of the area. Altogether Casey took two firsts, one second and one honorable mention in three categories of People, Places and Digitally Enhanced.

Natasha Mundo also did well in taking two firsts, one second place and an honorable mention in two categories

of Things and Places

Russel Bowersox earned a third place and three honorable mentions in four categories.

Lauren Donkochik entered as an Amateur and placed first in the Pets/Animal category.

Warner Jacobs placed second in the Digitally Enhanced category.

Photographs will be exhibited throughout the Arts Festival week in the Gallery of The Lewisburg Studio, 425 Market St. Lewisburg. The Lewisburg Arts Festival is sponsored by the Lewisburg Arts Council.

Three earned spots to perform in PA all-state chorus



Katie Richards, Jordan Harris, and Megan Fisher comprised the second team of students to qualify for the all-state chorus performance in the school's history.

Katie Richards, Jordan Harris, and Megan Fisher earned the opportunity to sing in the annual Pennsylvania Music Educators All-State Chorus last Saturday.

The three students worked diligently all year to qualify for this final stage of the PMEA vocal music competitions. In order to make it this far, the students passed the auditions for the PMEA District 8 Chorus, the PMEA Region IV Chorus, and finally placed in the top four in the Region in order to go on to the state level. It is extremely rare for a school as small as Selinsgrove to have three students make it to the state level, and students only achieved this feat once before in 2005 when three Selinsgrove students also made it to the All-State Chorus.

Language study pays off

Dane Reggia, a 2006 graduate of Selinsgrove Area School District, recently returned to his alma matter to visit some of the German classes in which he was once enrolled. Dane spoke with students about his experiences studying and working abroad in an Internship with Stabilo, a German company that produces various types of pens and paints, as well as a new make-up line.

Dane is now almost completely fluent in German and was even told by a native speaker that he could have passed for a German. His language skills were an important asset for him during his internship program, where

Guidance News

This summer juniors planning to attend a four-year college should consider visiting the colleges they are interested in applying for admission and eventually attending. They should contact the admissions office of the college or university they are interested in visiting and schedule a tour and interview.

We recommend that juniors begin their college search early and notify their counselor about their plans. Counselors need to be notified by the student when he or she applies on-line to a college or university so that transcripts can be forwarded. Athletes planning to play a sport in college should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse and visit the website: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

The guidance department is available to assist and discuss college or career objectives with any student.

PSAT Testing will be held Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

SAT Test Dates

October 10, 2009 at Selinsgrove

October 18, 2009

November 7, 2009

December 5, 2009 at Selinsgrove

January 23, 2010

March 13, 2010

May 1, 2010 at Selinsgrove

June 5, 2010

Register for the SAT at collegeboard.com/reg

Summer Programs

The guidance department has information available to all students about summer programs that would enhance student academic, leadership, and personal skills as they prepare for post-secondary and career objectives.

AP Exam dates are May 3-7 and May 10-14, 2010. Students enrolled in Advance Placement courses will be required to take the exam offered by College Board and pay the required fee. Letters will be mailed during the second semester to notify parents of payment due and dates for testing.

Scheduling 2009-10

All students will be given their schedule for the 2009-10 academic school year before leaving for summer vacation. The students' schedule should reflect their future goals of post-secondary education and/or career objective, keeping in mind graduation requirements.

Students that have conflicts in their schedules or concerns should arrange an appointment with their counselor during the month of June and/or August 3- 21. Counselors will not be available to meet during July.

Students are encouraged to call the guidance office at 372-2237 to schedule an appointment with their counselor early because enrollment in some courses is fixed. No changes will be made to student schedules the week of August 24- 28.

Students need to take time now to finalize their schedules so that schedule changes are minimal once the school year begins. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Summer Office Hours

Our office staff will be located at Jackson-Penn Elementary due to the construction at the high school. Hours will be 8 A.M. to 2 P.M.

he worked not only with native Germans, but also with internists from various other countries, so the only common language that could be used to communicate was German.

Dane stressed the importance of the language classes in which he was enrolled here at Selinsgrove Area High School in preparing him for his experience abroad. He also stressed that whatever language students take is an important building block for future possibilities and successes. Dane provided a great answer to the common student question of why they need to study a language.

When is high school not high school?

How can students earn college credit without ever leaving Selinsgrove Area High School? The answer is no secret, but it deserves to be shared nonetheless.

This year over 100 Selinsgrove juniors and seniors have enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. As the May testing dates approach, these students are diligently wrapping up their course work in preparation for those challenging three-hour assessments. As a consequence of their year-long efforts, many of our students will receive college credits. All of our A.P. students have received an advance taste of the college experience. These students will enroll in college with a better understanding of the academic expectations they will encounter, as well as a head start on the concepts and skills associated with specific courses.

One consequence of the Middle States review that Selinsgrove completed in December of 2007 was the adoption of two goals related to our students' participation in A.P. courses. First, we want to increase overall participation in those courses. Second, we want to make sure that, even with increased participation, every A.P. course maintains a minimum "pass" rate (a score of three or better on the five-point A.P. scale) of 60 percent. What this means for your student is that Selinsgrove teachers are committed to making their A.P. courses a rigorous yet successful introduction to the college experience.

Selinsgrove offers eight A.P. courses, including American History, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English, European History, Psychology, and Statistics. It's not too late for your son or daughter to enroll in one of those courses for next year.