



Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

December 2005



As part of the PASC statewide charity, Growing Up Great, sponsored by PNC Bank, members of the Student Council dressed as the Berenstain Bears and Biscuit, the dog, and collected donations in the mall to promote childhood literacy. The group raised over \$500, which permitted area Headstart programs to purchase books for the children and the centers. Shown are Ashley Hook, Layla Wolfberg, Kaitlin T. Martin, and Cristen Minori.

Leadership program seeks sophomores for retreat

Peer Leadership weekend for 10th graders is February 9-11, 2006.

Any student who did not go to Peer Leadership as a 7th grader in the district or is new to the district will get an invitation to participate after the Christmas holidays.

Peer Leadership invites students to have fun with a series of engaging projects outside the school environment and meet other students in the process. Students develop a sense of confidence and independence while learning how to be positive leaders for others.

Contact Harvey Edwards, Alex Gruenberg, or Ellen Miller at the high school for more information.

Math teams add up

The math team consisting of Kelley Bohm, Derrick Keister, Steve Rubin, and Joe Ruby placed third out of 42 teams in both the Quiz Bowl competition and the Brain Teaser competition which was held November 15th at Bloomsburg University.

The quiz bowl is like a round robin tournament of teams pitted against one another. After the initial round, the top 16 teams out of 42 advance to the second round

From the Principal—

I would like to remind everyone who shops at Giant that the high school is registered as part of the GiantAPlus program. Just register at the store or online and the school will receive a percentage of what you spend. So far over 80 people have registered. Contact the high school office for more information.

We will begin scheduling soon. Class meetings will be held in January to discuss the process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the guidance office.

Several of our students just returned from an exchange trip to Japan. They were overwhelmed by the hospitality shown to them. If you think your child might be interested in this program in the future, have them see me.

Congratulations to all our fall athletes. This fall season was one of the most successful in school history. Our band and student actors also put on excellent shows this fall as well.

Happy Holidays.

Reed Messmore
Principal

based on their point totals. Then after that the winner keeps advancing until an ultimate winner is declared. The third and fourth place teams from the semi-finals also compete for the third place award.

The Brain Teaser competition is a packet of challenging problems that the teams work on during the morning session when they are not competing in a Quiz Bowl round. The packets are scored by the number of correct responses.

Team wins SUN Area land judging competition

PJ Adam, Dale Barge, Scott Hoover, and Zachary Smith placed second, third, fourth, and fifth as individuals and first as a team to win the 2005 SUN Area Land Judging Career Development Event held October 11 at the Beaver Community Fair Grounds.

The team of Kyle Fry, Jameson Gelnett, Donald Gower, and Colin Long placed second.

In the Forestry Competition, also held on October 11,

Brian Gray, Abe Hagenstaller, Nathan Herman, and Randy Yetter placed second, fourth, sixth, and twelfth individually and second as a combined team. The team of Levi Ehrisman, Keith Kessler, and Coy Weller placed fourth overall as a team.

The Selinsgrove first place land judging team and the second place forestry team will advance to state competition to be held in June at The Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA.

Council attends conference, brings joy to needy children

Senior officers Hilary Dagle, vice president; Courtney Sickel, Secretary; and Katy Yavorek, Treasurer, represented the Student Council at the 2005 Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) State Conference at Fleetwood High School on November 10-12.

The delegates participated in leadership workshops and enjoyed motivational speakers from across the country. They brought back a host of ideas the council will be seeking to implement in the upcoming meetings.

The Student Council will once again host an Angel Tree in the Media Center to benefit children in the Snyder, Union, Mifflin Child Development program. For the past six years members have decorated angel ornaments and placed them on a tree for students, staff, and faculty to purchase gifts for less fortunate children. Each year over 150 gifts are presented to children whose holiday might otherwise be less joyful.



Kids grow great pumpkins

After a long, dry, hot summer Selinsgrove High School FFA is proud to announce the winners of the Giant Pumpkin Contest.

Students of the Selinsgrove Area Intermediate School were provided with newly started pumpkin seedlings to grow at home and bring in to be weighed in October.

Placing first with an 87 pound pumpkin was Ashley Campbell. Second place went to Byron Heinbach with a pumpkin that weighed 42 pounds. Third place went to Megan Heintzleman with a pumpkin that weighed 40 pounds.

Other participants included John Daku, Emily Watto, Alexandria Simon, Madison Weirick, Rachael Hackenberg, Rachael Laubscher, Autumn Swartzlander and, Zach Soper.

Notes from Guidance

On Tuesday, December 6, 2006 the Guidance Counselors met with the junior class to address the following topics:

- The College Application Process
- Financial Aid
- The SAT
- SUN Area Technology Center
- Scheduling & Graduation Requirements
- Selective Service
- PSSA Testing

Juniors were given a variety of handouts and important information regarding the above topics. Students in grade eleven planning to apply to a post-secondary institution of higher education should begin the process of researching and formulating a plan to achieve their future educational and career goals. Please check with your son or daughter regarding the information that was disseminated.

The Guidance Office is planning to hold an information session about scheduling for parents of students in grades 9, 10, & 11 on February 2, 2006 from 6:30 to 7:30PM in the high school auditorium. The counselors and administrators will be available to answer questions regarding the scheduling process for the 2006-07 school year. Course description booklets and course selection forms will be distributed to all students by January 19, 2006.

The Guidance Department will be coordinating the administration of the PSSA in Writing for juniors February 13-24, 2006. The PSSA in Math and Reading will be administered March 20-31, 2006.

She's one cool teacher

Tracy Hepner, a new science teacher, dazzled her classes December 3 with spectacular demonstrations of the effects of liquid nitrogen.

Liquid nitrogen has a temperature of -195 degrees Celsius (-320 degrees F)—it's very, very cold. Hepner froze a banana so solidly in the liquid nitrogen that she could use the banana as a hammer to drive in a nail. A frozen onion hurled on the floor shattered like a glass bulb. Hot dogs were used to illustrate the effects of a finger being frozen in liquid nitrogen.

The finale was ice cream made by pouring liquid nitrogen into a pan of milk and flavorings.

College programs open eyes

Students attended Liberal Arts-in-Action Day at Susquehanna University on November 7th: Ellen Barnhart, Valen Brommer, Courtney Laniewski, and Ashley Oswald. They were accompanied by social Studies teacher Walt Fisch.

Liberal Arts In-Action Day offers workshops led by



Amanda Nardi, Johnny Ramos and Mike McGlynn were among students who participated in an unusual laboratory exercise. Madge Schworer, a teacher with Science in Motion, provided students the opportunity to extract their own DNA from cheek cells, precipitate it, and place it in mini-vials for a DNA necklace. Students were then able to take home visible DNA.

university faculty on subjects including economics, sociology, modern languages, public relations, elementary education and history.

Earlier, Steve Brown, William Gordon, Sarah DeSantis, Janelle Landis, Lauren Lamas, and Bryce Warman attended Writing-In-Action October 24. This program offered workshops on writing poetry, fiction, non-fiction, journalism and academic writing. Sessions were led by Susquehanna University staff.

Graduate Receives FFA's Highest Honor

April Beaver, a 2003 graduate, was awarded the 2005 American FFA Degree on Saturday, November 29th at the 78th National Convention held in Louisville Kentucky.

The degree, which is presented annually to less than one half of one percent of the nation's 475,000 members, is based on leadership, citizenship, and managerial skills.

To be eligible, a member must have received the state degree, held continuous FFA membership after high school graduation, continued education in agriculture or an agriculture-related field or worked in agriculture after graduation from high school, and maintained a continuous record of leadership and civic development and service.

Selinsgrove German students take essay contest prizes

Four students from Selinsgrove High School took all four prizes in an essay contest sponsored by the German Heritage Society of the Susquehanna Valley. The contest was sponsored in honor of national German-American Day.

The winners of the two top prizes, which included fifty dollars and a free membership to the German Heritage Society of the Susquehanna Valley, were Joshua Frank and



German essay contest winners were Dane Reggia. Kaitlyn Watto, Joshua Frank, and Jeff Brubaker. Teacher Stephanie Feidt accompanied them to the competition

Kaitlyn Watto, both seniors. Two second place prize memberships to the society went to Jeffrey Brubaker and Dane Reggia.

National German-American Day is celebrated on October 6. This particular date was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first group of German settlers in Philadelphia Harbor.

Students from Shikellamy and Mifflinburg were also invited to participate in the contest. The theme for this year's contest was "German Immigration to My Hometown."

Santa's Helpers

Fourth period Advanced Materials class took time off from their individual projects to produce 30 wooden toys to be donated to the Haven Mission and the Marine's "Toys for Tots" holiday drive.

The class started the process by researching product plans over the Internet. Sarah Gaugler found the plan for a running duck push toy. Jon Eberle customized the plan and made templates for the production run. Large wooden wheels were needed for "Flop-Flop Duck," so Austin Royer, Andy Shaffer and John Abromitis made the 60 wheels and floppy feet. Clayton McKinney cut out the wings and body sections. Eric Brosious sanded and assembled the ducks. TSA members Mark Minier, Stephanie Carstetter, Tim Musser, and John Abromitis

painted the body parts. Each toy was then individually packaged and labeled for delivery.



Dates to watch

Snow make-up day:
December 22

Winter Vacation:
December 22, 2005
through January 2, 2006

Act 80 Day, No School:
January 16, 2006

End of First Semester:
January 23, 2006



Students Travel to Mexico

Ten students from SAHS and seven students from Mid-West H.S. who have studied Spanish toured Mexico with Spanish teacher Barbara Corbin during the 7-day Thanksgiving break, from November 23-29.

Corbin organized and chaperoned the trip along with two teachers from other districts. The Selinsgrove students who participated were Alexa Benner, Jessica Berry, Laura Brehm, Ashley Hook, Lauren Lamas, Pam Morris, Alicia Musser, Shawn Park, Bryce Warman and Layla Wolfberg.

The group spent 3 days in Mexico City, the largest city in the world with 34 million inhabitants, touring the historic city center and visiting Aztec archeological sites in the surrounding area. This included an opportunity to climb the enormous, pre-Aztec Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan, which all the students did. Next the group flew to the tropical Yucatan Peninsula, where they learned about Mayan history and culture from their Mayan tour guide while visiting the archeological sites of Uxmal and Chichen Itza, where they climbed another ancient pyramid. The last day was spent at Playa del Carmen, where the students enjoyed the beach and using their Spanish for lots of souvenir shopping and bargaining.

Group participates in Latino Symposium at university

The Susquehanna University Modern Language Department sponsored its 11th Annual Latino Symposium to promote increased understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture in the local community. This year's theme was "Our Caribbean Neighbors," with emphasis on various musical styles originating from that region.

This year's participants were Jazmin Brumfield, Brittany Eshenaur, Gab Furtado, Shaneec Garcia, Casara Hoot, Jose Idrogo, Lauren Lamas, Miguel Monroig, Amanda Rodriguez and Melissa Treas. They heard presentations about Caribbean political and economic developments, participated in dance lessons to learn salsa and merengue techniques, and listened to a moving performance and explanation of Cuban classical music by a guest pianist from Florida who came to the U.S. as a political refugee from Cuba.

Spanish classes attend a theater performance

Fifty-five Spanish 3 and 4 students traveled to Harrisburg the morning of December 2 with Spanish teachers Joan Bastian and Barbara Corbin to attend a play performed in both Spanish and English, with the actors using a unique bilingual technique to help students understand the performance. The play was "Las Aventuras de Don Quijote," a dramatization of some of the most well-known episodes from the famous Spanish novel written by Miguel de Cervantes in 1605.

Don Quijote is an elderly gentleman who loses his grasp on reality and decides to live in his fantasy world and become a heroic "knight errant," traveling around the region of La Mancha in Spain to do good deeds and help the oppressed, resulting in surprised reactions to his madness and many comic misadventures.

The play was presented by professional actors from the National Theater for Arts & Education. This year's performance of Don Quijote celebrates the 400th anniversary of the publication of this classic novel.

Crash tests leave only one survivor in class project

The Design Engineering class performed a project in which students had to design and build a model car that would protect a raw egg from damage in a crash. After the class designed and tested 16 different car designs, only Tyler Smith's car protected the raw egg passenger from harm during the head-on crash test.

Students were given a design brief that set the requirements and materials that could be used for the design. The class researched crumple zones, passenger restraints, and safety standards for passenger cars before they went to work designing their own vehicle. The cars were then sent down a track propelled by a Co2 blast into a block wall.

Photogates were used to measure speeds, and force calculations were made from the results. The class used iMovie software to edit videotapes and slow down the action to view the damage that occurred during testing.

Robin Tallon from the Penn State Transportation Safety Lab introduced the class to the processes involved in vehicle testing and used the lab's high speed video equipment to record a few of the tests. The high-speed equipment recorded the tests at 500 frames per second compared to the standard video speed of 30 fps.