



Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

December 2007

Gavitt given teaching award

Donna Gavitt, business teacher, was honored as Junior Achievement of Central Pennsylvania's Educator of the Year at a recognition breakfast October 25.

State representatives Merle Phillips and Russ Fairchild made the presentation.

Junior Achievement is an international organization that supports business education and sponsors many programs and activities for students.

Student wins business bout

Wesley Brubaker took first place at the 16-round Junior Achievement Titan competition held at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit in October.

The Titan program is an interactive curriculum for high school students designed to teach entrepreneurial and business management skills.

Brubaker competed against nine other entrants in a simulation activity that pits one team against another in business simulation. Teams, assisted by a coach from a local business, had to make decisions that would advance or hinder their companies' performance in a simulated marketplace.

From the Principal—

I would like to thank everyone who has enrolled in the Giant APlus program. If you haven't already, you can do so online or at the store.

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.

Our new grading system/online access appears to be successful. Almost 2/3 of our students have their accounts accessed online. If you would like to take advantage so that you can monitor grades and assignments, please check in the guidance office.

Again we had a successful fall sports season. Most impressive, as always, is the high degree in which our student athletes represented our school. Our other activities, such as the band and fall play also saw our students contributing in a positive way.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Reed Messmore
Principal

Middle States team visits Selinsgrove

After eighteen months of self-study, reflection, and planning, Selinsgrove Area High School this week is hosting an accreditation visit from a Validation Team representing the Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools. The group of five educators from around the state of Pennsylvania arrived on Tuesday and will stay with us until Friday, using their time to review all aspects of the educational program at Selinsgrove.

Following the "Accreditation for Growth" protocol, the Validation Team is reviewing the school's plans for improving student performance and assessing how well the school complies with the twelve standards of quality education set forth by the Middle States Association. During this process, members of the team meet with individual teachers, students, and parents to get direct input on all aspects of the educational program here in Selinsgrove. In addition, the Team reviews the Self-

Study Document completed by the Selinsgrove's Middle States Planning Team over the past eighteen months. This complete document is now available to all interested members of the public, and can be viewed through multiple links on the Selinsgrove Area High School home page (www.seal-pa.org).

An oral summary of the Validation Team's findings will be delivered to the faculty on Friday, December 7. This summary will become the basis for the full Middle States report, which will be delivered to the school in January or February of 2008.

The many parents, teachers, and students involved in the extensive preparations for this visit are optimistic that the Validation Team's review will be largely positive. We will share their findings with you in the next issue of this newsletter.

Four place third in math meet

An all-sophomore team consisting of Nate Cover, Courtney Lester, Geoff Leonard, and Amber Wenrich placed third among 52 teams in the game of 24 math contest held at Bloomsburg University on November 6.

TSA prepares for regional competition in Mifflinburg

The high school Technology Student Association (TSA) members are currently preparing for regional competition scheduled for February 23, 2008 at the Mifflinburg Area Middle School. This regional competition involves TSA chapters from middle and high schools in the area, and members will be competing with one another to qualify for the state leadership conference in April.

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.

Students experience German culture at area festival

German students in Mrs. Feidt's German 1 and 2 classes will have the opportunity to experience a little bit of Germany right here in the local area. Students will visit the Mifflinburg Christkindlmarkt on Friday, December 7, to sample authentic German foods and learn about German Christmas traditions. The market features a variety of stands selling German food and products.

The Mifflinburg Christkindlmarkt has been taking place every December during the first full weekend of the month for nineteen years. This market is one of the most authentic markets in the United States and has been featured in the magazine German Life in America. The German Club at the high school will also be working together with the German Heritage Society of the Susquehanna Valley to sell German potato pancakes and hot mulled cider at the market.

Group forms to show students the power of charitable giving

Selinsgrove is participating in an exciting new philanthropic project.

P.J. Adam, Courtney Bailey, Rachel Bingaman, Sandra Gower, Alex Knitter, and Gabe Robison composed half of the student group in attendance at the meeting for Youth in Philanthropy. A team of twelve students will represent Selinsgrove Area H.S. in this new program designed to teach about donating time and/or money to make a difference in the community involving youth programs.

The twelve students will have \$5,000 to disburse to non-profit organizations in the Selinsgrove area. Harvey Edwards and Christi Hendricks will serve as advisors to the YiP group.

Guidance News

Seniors applying to post-secondary institutions should contact their guidance counselors to inform them where they want their transcripts sent. Seniors using the on-line application form should complete the transcript request form located in the guidance office. Please keep in mind college and university deadlines and allow the guidance department at least one week for processing transcript information.

Juniors planning to attend the SUN Area Career and Technical School next year will visit three shops of their choice on Monday, December 11, 2007. The bus will leave promptly at 9:15 and students will return at approximately 2:30.

The Guidance Department will be coordinating the administration of the PSSA in Writing for juniors February 11-22, 2008. The PSSA in Math and Reading will be administered March 31-April 11, 2008. The PSSA Science Test will be administered April 28-May 9, 2008.

Financial Aid Night will be held Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This program is an excellent opportunity for any student in grades 10 through 12 and their parent(s) to learn more about financial aid. A representative from Susquehanna University's Financial Aid Office will present information and answer questions regarding the financial aid process. The guidance department maintains an open file for anyone interested in scholarship opportunities. Please stop by the guidance office for further information.

Scheduling for the 2008-09 school year will begin on January 8, 2008 for current eighth graders. Course description booklets and course selection sheets will be distributed. On January 15, 2008 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. an Open House for parent(s) of incoming ninth graders will be available. Parents and students will meet with the high school department chairpersons. Course selection sheets are due January 29, 2008 to middle school teachers.

The Guidance Department will meet with students in grades 9-11 to distribute course description booklets and course selection sheets. Juniors will meet Jan. 29, sophomores on Jan. 30 and freshmen on Jan. 31. The deadline for course selection sheets in these grades to be returned to the guidance office is February 21, 2008. The guidance department is available to meet with any student to discuss course selections.

Any junior planning to apply to two or four year colleges should consider taking the SAT either May 3 or June 7. More information is available in the guidance office or at collegeboard.com.

Edwards attends national English teachers conference

In mid-November Harvey Edwards attended the Annual Convention of National Council of Teachers of English in New York City. He participated in technology sessions and writing workshops designed to improve English instruction for the 21st century.

Two visit school from Spain

Students studying Spanish at the high school this semester had a rare opportunity. Two high school students from Spain, both completing a month-long homestay visit in the area to practice their English and sample the American lifestyle, wanted to spend a day in a public high school here to see how it differs from their schools in Spain.

Ana Perrela and Laura Olmeda, both 15 years old and from the city of Zaragoza, Spain visited the high school last August. Laura came to school with her host sister for the homestay program, and Ana came to school with her host mother, high school nurse Mrs. Barnhart. Laura and Ana spent a little time in Dana's classes and went to lunch with her, but most of the day they divided their time visiting the many Spanish classes so our students could meet them and ask about their schools and activities in Spain.

In the beginning-level classes, the girls talked to our students in English and the Spanish teachers helped when they needed assistance with English vocabulary, or with understanding our students' questions. The upper-level Spanish students asked questions in both Spanish and English, with Laura and Ana answering them mostly in Spanish. This gave our students a chance to listen to a different accent since the pronunciation in Spain is quite different than that of Latin American Spanish. The girls seemed surprised and impressed that our upper-level students learn about Spain's history, geography and culture in Spanish classes in addition to learning the language, and were also surprised that students here can choose many of their classes from electives.

Laura and Ana both said they enjoyed spending the day visiting our high school, meeting our students, and sharing with them what a teenager's life is like in Zaragoza, Spain. This cultural sharing on a personal level was a great way to start the school year for our Spanish students, and some may be inspired to host their own student from Spain for a month next summer when Mr. and Mrs. Barnhart organize their next homestay program.

Classes make toys for kids

The Advanced Materials 1 and 2 classes, and the Life Skills and Peer Helpers class manufactured and packaged 50 wooden toys and gave them to the Haven Mission and Toys for Tots for the holiday season.

The advanced materials class researched a toy design for the three to seven year-old age group and designed a toy tractor trailer rig they called "Big Rig Trucker." The process took four days to design, build and package the 30 trucks. The life skills and peer helpers made 20 pull toy animals that they cut out, painted and assembled for the holiday toy drive.

Council sponsoring Angel Tree

The Student Council is again conducting the Angel Tree project for under-privileged children in the Snyder Union Mifflin Child Development programs. Students, staff and faculty are invited to purchase and wrap gift requests from the children.

Troupe tours area events

In October the Tolerance Troupe performed skits during Red Ribbon Week in the Intermediate School to combat bullying and relational aggression. They also presented a two-day program for the Northwest High School in Shickshinny, PA. During the month of December they will perform for the Foster Grandparents program in Lewisburg; the Community Alliance for Respect and Equality (CARE), also in Lewisburg; and Benton Area High School.



Students read to young minds

Sophomores and juniors in Mr. Edwards' English II class have visited five different first grade classrooms in the Selinsgrove Elementary School working with students in reading and writing. Future visits are planned for letters to Santa, a gift exchange, and other projects promoting literacy. In the New Year, the students expect to expand the project to full-day kindergarten classes in Jackson Penn.

Leadership program seeking sophomore participants

Peer Leadership weekend for 10th graders is February 28 to March 1, 2008.

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 holidays.

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

Students turn themselves into life-size art

Recently, students in their Advanced Digital Art Class posed, photographed, downloaded, edited, resized, printed, and reassembled their own images into lifesize cutouts. The cutouts looked so real that a few teachers a distance down the hallway asked them why they were all just standing there and told them to get going to their classes. Naturally, they didn't answer. After taking a closer look, the teachers realized they'd been fooled.

Digital Art and Advanced Digital Art are Technology Education courses that introduce students to professional

computer graphic software and principles in painting, photo manipulation, typography, illustration, and three dimensional modeling.

Students learn basic techniques of Adobe Photoshop for pixel-based manipulation of 2D graphics, Adobe Illustrator for vector-based 2D graphics, Sketchup and other software for three-dimensional graphics, and Adobe ImageReady and Macromedia Flash for simple animation, all of which are essential programs for studio artists and designers.

