



Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

February 2008

Business roundtable shows students finance basics

Students learn to make financial decisions and interact with professionals in a financial simulation project initiated by Donna Gavitt, business teacher.

Students in Gavitt's Personal Finance class begin the Business Roundtable project by making a five year plan for checking or savings accounts, loans, and other bank services. Then, using class materials, discussion and research on a bank website, they prepare questions to ask of bank employees.

Then, representatives from local banks come in to meet with the class, and students rotate from table to table, interviewing a banker at each station. Students are observed to see that they ask questions in a professional manner and listen attentively to answers.

Finally, students make a choice of what bank they would like to do business with and explain their choice in a two page paper.

The project develops students' understanding of banking principles, personal communication skills, and writing. Students are assessed on how they integrate the content; speak and interact at a professional level; and describe, synthesize, summarize, and defend their banking choice. Most importantly, students apply communication skills in a real-world learning situation just as though they walked into a bank to open a checking account.

Gavitt made a presentation of the project at the annual National Business Educators Association conference this fall, and her project was written up on Glencoe-Ezine, an online publication of the McGraw-Hill publishing company.

Ettinger wins third regional Scholastic writing award

The Harrisburg *Patriot-News* has announced the winners in the Regional Competition of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, sponsored by Scholastic, Inc., and for the third year in a row senior Ryan Ettinger is an award recipient. The annual writing contest generated over 3,000 entries from throughout central Pennsylvania, and the top five to ten percent were selected by panels of regional

From the Principal—

A number of items to discuss this time—

We have begun scheduling for next school year. Your child should have had you approve his or her course selections. At the end of this school year, we will give your child his or her tentative schedule for next year. If at any time you have questions, please contact the guidance department.

This year we will be giving PSSA tests the week of March 31. We would ask that you not schedule trips, appointments, etc. during the testing period. During the testing period, we will be having some programs for the 9th and 10th grade students. We will have a presentation entitled "The Yellow Dress" for the freshmen, which is a true story related to dating violence, and a program on internet safety for the sophomores. We are working on getting additional programs for that time.

March will also see students from Senshu University High School, Tokyo, Japan, coming to Selinsgrove as part of our exchange program with them. They will be here the week between March 20 and March 30.

educators for recognition.

Ryan will receive a Certificate of Merit for his short story entitled "Nose Bones and a Political Machine." Ryan also earned a Gold Key award in 2006 for a short story entry and a Certificate of Merit in 2007 for his poetry entry. Ryan is the only Selinsgrove student ever to earn awards in three consecutive years

Scholarships available for summer business program

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week is a weeklong summer program and students have a choice of one of five weeks to attend. In 2008, the first session will begin on July 6, and the last session will conclude on August 9. PFEW is held at Lycoming College and Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA – giving 10th and 11th grade students their first taste of college life. The program is designed to give participants first-hand experi-

ence with free market economics and help them understand how the economy affects them, irrespective of the career path they may choose. The participants become a member of a simulated management team that takes over a company that has been performing poorly. The object is to turn the company around and make it a solvent, profitable business. A customized computer simulation allows each "company" to determine, through 12 business quarters, all the decisions that managing a business typically demands, among them selling price, marketing costs, and research and development. Surrounding the business simulation are world-class speakers, seminars and discussions that cover such topics as the future of our economic system, business ethics, money and banking, and much more!

All PFEW participants will receive a \$525 scholarship from a business or civic organization in their community, which covers the cost of materials, room and board and all other expenses associated with program participation. More information and student applications are available online at www.pfew.org.

The "Early Bird" application deadline for Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week 2008 is March 7 and the final deadline is April 4.

Leadership team wins award

After attending the 2006 Second Mile leadership conference at Penn State to develop a project to promote unity and school spirit, Selinsgrove received the silver award from among the 45 schools in attendance. Team members from the Student Council were Colleen King, Stacey Sassaman, Lauren Scholl, Courtney Schrey, and Kilene Smith. Students are given a year to implement a program. Last year's Seal Fest earned them the trophy and \$250 prize.

In 2002 a team from Selinsgrove also won the award for their creation of SOFA Day.

TSA prepares for competition

Technology Student Association (TSA) members competed at regional competition February 23 at the Mifflinburg Area Middle School. This regional competition involved TSA chapters from middle and high schools in our area and members competed 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.

GI Bill for high school students

The guidance office has received information about utilizing the GI Bill Benefits while in high school. If you are the son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran you may be eligible for educational and training opportunities through the Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA). Please contact the guidance department for details and information.

Club teaches the gift of giving

One of the newest clubs in the highest school is the Youth in Philanthropy group. The team is composed of twelve students

representing other clubs that participate actively in promoting community service. The members are P.J. Adams, Courtney Bailey, Rachel Bingaman, Sandra Gower, Cody Hunnicut, Alex Knitter, Alyssa Moyer, Lauren Rambo, Gabe Robison, Morgan Roush, and Abby Yavorek. These students are charged with disbursing \$5000 to non-profit organizations in the Selinsgrove area dealing with issues and concerns of youths.

The Youth in Philanthropy program is designed to assist students in developing an interest and experience in philanthropic pursuits at an early age.

As part of this process Alex Knitter will be going to Mexico this summer to represent Selinsgrove at a conference on youth philanthropy. Advisors for this club are Harvey Edwards and Christi Hendricks.

Six qualify for regional chorus

The Selinsgrove Area High School Music Department is proud to announce that six students have been accepted by audition into the PMEA Region IV Chorus this year.

Wesley Brubaker, Megan Fisher, Jordan Harris, Shawn Park, Katie Richards, and Ellie Tomaszewski will all participate in this music festival, which will be held March 26 through March 29, at Lackawanna Trail High School.

The choir will be conducted by Dr. David L. Brunner from the University of Central Florida. The PMEA Region IV Chorus will be premiering one of Dr. Brunner's choral works.

Classes explore new technology

Photo Stories utilizing new laptop computers, an LCD projector, Promethean board, and other technology were featured in the English CP I and CP II classes of Mr. Edwards. The autobiographies combined photos, voice and music recording, and

Financial Aid Basics

There are three types of federal student aid:

- Grants—financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund).
- Work-Study—allows you to earn money for your education.
- Loans—allow you to borrow money for your education. You must repay your loans, with interest.

Students planning to attend a four year college, two year college, trade or technical school are reminded that they need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Completing the FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process. You use it to apply for federal student financial aid, such as grants, loans, and work study. In addition, most states and schools use information from the FAFSA to award non-federal aid.

The deadline for four-year degree programs is May 1, 2008. For all other programs the deadline is August 1, 2008. Students and parents should be aware of institutional deadlines for submitting financial aid applications. Easy online applications for the FAFSA are available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please contact your college's financial aid office or the guidance office for further information.

special effects. In his Humanities classes, students created Virtual Museums with the technology and participated in a Power Point program on Japanese woodblock prints to learn about art, culture, and history.

Bettleyon takes second in Antonelli Art Institute contest

Lyndsey Bettleyon has won second place for her outstanding work and interpretation of the theme "Nature" in the Fall 2007 Antonelli Institute High School Art Contest. This year there were five states and more than eighty schools represented in the contest. She will receive an award for her effort to be presented by the program director from Antonelli Institute.

PSSA testing is underway

Juniors were assessed in the state PSSA writing exam February 15 and 19. They will also be assessed in Reading and Math during the March 31-April 11 testing window. The Science Assessment will be administered to juniors during the April 28-May 9 testing window.

Student results on these tests are used to determine course placement, curriculum decisions, and senior release. Juniors that do not achieve the proficient or advanced level will be assigned remediation their senior year and will be given a re-test.

Four go to state FBLA contests

Four Future Business Leaders of America members will advance from regionals to the state competitions in March at the Hershey Convention Center.

Those competing will be Joe White in Cyber Security, Tyler Confer in Computer Problem Solving, and Hayden Conrad and Dustin Colburn in Introduction to Technology Concepts.

Other FBLA members that placed in regionals in January at Bloomsburg University were Linsey Martin in Accounting II, Katie Sassaman and Andrew Snook in Banking and Financial Systems, Hannah Shipman in Technology Concepts, and Kayley Eshenaur in Economics.

Middle States team validates Selinsgrove educational program

During the first week of December, after eighteen months of self-study, reflection, and planning, Selinsgrove Area High School hosted a Validation Team representing the Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools. This group of five educators from around the state of Pennsylvania spent four full days at the high school, using their time to analyze all aspects of the educational program at Selinsgrove.

The Validation Team focused on three general concerns. First, they reviewed the school's plans for improving student performance. Second, they assessed how well the school com-

plies with the twelve standards of quality education set forth by the Middle States Association. Finally, the team considered how well the school has established a culture of planning as a means of focusing the school's energies and efforts over the next several years.

During the visit, members of the team met with individual teachers, students, and parents to get direct input on all aspects of the educational program. In addition, the Team reviewed the Self-Study Document completed by the Selinsgrove's Middle States Planning Team over the prior eighteen months.

An oral summary of the Validation Team's findings was delivered to the faculty on Friday, December 7, by the visiting team chair, Mr. Bill Ramsey of the Montgomery School District. His summary complimented the staff, students, and community for their extensive efforts in preparing for the evaluation. More importantly, the Validation Team concluded that Selinsgrove Area High School has earned full accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, for a period of seven years. As Selinsgrove awaits the official written report from the Validation Team, the many parents, teachers, and students who have become involved in the Middle States planning process can be

satisfied with the recognition that their efforts have been both properly focused and highly successful.

This process of self-assessment and program revision will be an ongoing activity at Selinsgrove, and the Middle

States Planning Committee has two openings for parent and/or community representatives who would like to contribute their efforts during two to four meetings a year over the next three years. If you would be interested in serving on this committee and would like additional information, please contact either Mr. Larry Lawson (llawson@seal-pa.org) or Mrs. Donna Gavitt (dgavitt@seal-pa.org) at the high school.

Two students take top honors at regional science event

Andrew Oreskovich and Jacob Tomaszewski both received plaques for attaining the highest score of any high school competitor in their events at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition at Susquehanna University Saturday.

In addition, Oreskovich earned the highest score of any competitor at the event with a perfect 5.0 rating.

Both students will go on to compete at the state competition in State College May 18-20.

Retreat set for this weekend

Peer Leadership retreat 27 will take place February 28 through March 1.

Peer Leadership brings together a wide range of sophomore students for a three day retreat program that is designed to break down barriers between groups and show students how they can display leadership in everyday events.

SAT Testing at Selinsgrove Area High School is set for May 3, 2008
Registration Deadline: April 1, 2008
Late Registration: April 10, 2008