

Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

October 2005

History students score

Eighty percent of the students in AP European History scored a three or better on the national AP European History examination, with half of them scoring a four or better. The College Board suggests that colleges provide credit for students scoring a three or better.

Five students scored a perfect five: Brandon Ewing, Will Gordon, Liza James, Sasha Minium, and Jennifer O'Hora.

AP European History covers everything that happened in and around Europe from 1400 to the present. Students are tested via a combination of multiple choice questions, free response essays, and a document based question. They are expected to not only know everything that occurred, but act as a historian and work with previously unseen documents to craft an opinion-based response to a question.

Troupe begins new season

The Tolerance Troupe opened the year with its annual performance for the freshmen class. Serving as an orientation to the high school and introduction to the Troupe, the assembly allowed freshmen to watch a brief skit on bullying in September. They also received encouragement to audition for open slots in the Troupe.

The Tolerance Troupe also performed for The Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way in Milton September 28 and the Foster Grandparents Program in Selinsgrove September 29. They will perform at the Selinsgrove Elementary and Selinsgrove Intermediate School, 8:30-11:30 October 24 at the various buildings.

Students sponsored to attend Oktoberfest in Reading

German food, dancing and fun – that is what Selinsgrove German students expected on their trip to the Reading Oktoberfest on October 1, and that's exactly what they experienced. The Reading Oktoberfest is the largest Oktoberfest in eastern Pennsylvania, and this year students studying German were given the opportunity to experience this Oktoberfest firsthand.

Selinsgrove German students were lucky enough to have been given this opportunity through the generosity of Donald Fisher, a member of the German Heritage Society of the Susquehanna. Mr. Fisher provided an additional bus to accompany the German Heritage Society on their yearly

From the Principal–

I would like to thank everyone for a successful start to the new school year. Just like last year we are crowded, but everything is going well so far.

As usual, we have a number of students involved in activities and sports. I encourage you to come out and support them.

At the end of October, we will be administering 12th grade math, reading, and writing PSSA retests. We will have more information for you when we decide on exact dates.

Our Open House for the first semester will be October 5 from 6 – 8:30. Parent involvement is important to us. Clearly, your child's chances for success improve when you and the school work together. Open House provides an opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers. If you need more time with a teacher to discuss your child's progress, please call the guidance office to schedule a conference, or use Open House to schedule one with the teacher. When teachers are unable to attend Open House, they inform their classes. If there is a particular teacher you need to see, check with your child to make sure he or she will be here. This year we will again have refreshments in the cafeteria.

I hope to see you at Open House.

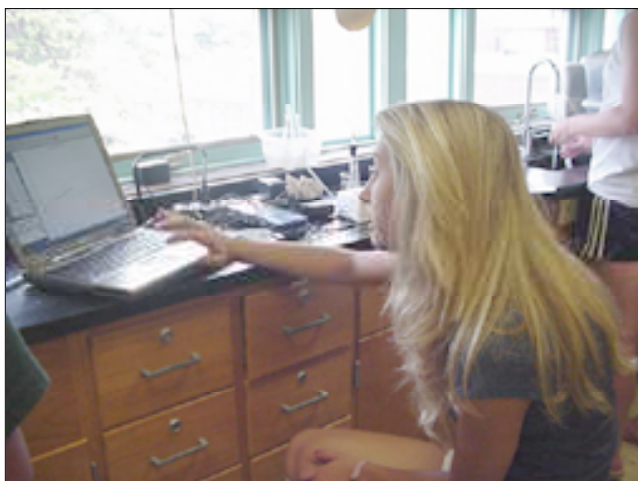
Reed Messmore
Principal

trip to the Oktoberfest. He stipulated that the second bus was to be filled with high school students from the area.

Oktoberfest originally began in Munich with the marriage celebration in 1810 of King Joseph Maximilian of Bavaria to Princess Theresa of Saxony. The celebration was so popular that the locals decided to repeat the party the following year, and it has continued annually.

In classes students have been engaged in webquests to discover Germany's famous Oktoberfest in Munich and its history. In October the German club will once again be sponsoring the annual Oktoberfest dance.

Our Reading Oktoberfest was just as exciting, with German dancing, rides, vendors and of course, delicious German food. Students can't wait to return next year!



Rachelle Ryan experiments with reaction rates in a recent biology lab sponsored by Science in Motion.

Science road show makes appearance in Selinsgrove

Students in Biology 1 CP classes had an opportunity to practice some real science recently.

Madge Schworer, from Science in Motion, a program based at Susquehanna University which delivers technical scientific equipment to students in schools, set up some laboratory experiences in September. Students evaluated the effects of pH, temperature, salinity and peroxide concentration on the reaction rate of catalase from potatoes. Catalase is an enzyme in cells that helps to break-down peroxide, a harmful product of metabolism. Previous to this experiment students did a very general lab to determine how extreme pH and temperatures affect cow liver catalase.

Schworer will be returning in October and November with a cricket respiration lab and a photosynthesis lab.

Club plans rock climbing trip

The Outdoors Club is preparing for its first activity of the year, a rock climbing trip to Moccasin October 9.

This trip allows students a safe opportunity to try out rock climbing in an actual outdoor setting. Students will practice both climbing and belaying skills.

Yearbooks go on sale

Yearbook sales will be held from October 3 through October 7 during lunch time and resource period. Students may purchase yearbooks in the lobby area during lunch or in Mr. Myers' room (110) during resource.

The cost of the yearbook during the early purchase period will be \$50. Students will also have the opportunity to purchase a name stamp for an extra \$5. By purchasing a name stamp, the student's name will be stamped on the cover.

The name stamp option is only available during the early purchase period. Yearbooks will be sold at a later date; however, the cost will increase to \$55.

Checks should be made payable to CYNOSURE. Cash

is accepted; however, we would prefer a check.

Parents may also purchase yearbooks during Open House on October 5th.

Student Council provides help to several worthy programs

The Student Council provided a fifty percent match for every dollar donated and received nearly \$400 from the Tolerance Troupe from their "Back to School" dance for disaster relief efforts in the Gulf Coast. The total the Student Council will send to the Red Cross is \$1500.

The Student Council is also providing a donation of \$300 to the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble to support Project Discovery. Project Discovery provides an annual free performance by the BTE for the entire sophomore class. The play this year is *Getting Married* by George Bernard Shaw.

The Council also donated 100 books to Growing Up Great. This program promotes literacy among preschool children enrolled in Head Start. They will also provide \$208 for the program to use at Walden Books to purchase additional materials. These donations are part of the local Council's participation in the State Service Project.

Finally, Spirit Week for Homecoming is October 10-14. This year is the Homecoming theme is *Superheroes*. **Please note that the Homecoming Queen will be crowned just before the football game on Friday at roughly 6:50 pm.**

Sophomores will attend live theater performance

The English Department will hold its annual sophomore field trip to attend a performance of the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble October 19.

All sophomores are invited to see *Getting Married*, a play by George Bernard Shaw which explores the meaning and experience of marriage through a comic setting.

The performance is the 2005 offering of Project Discovery, a program of the Ensemble which seeks private sponsorship so students from five counties can have the opportunity to attend a live theater performance. Tickets to the Project Discovery events are free. Selinsgrove students are being asked to pay two dollars to help defray the cost of buses.

Previous Project Discovery plays have included such works as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *The School for Wives*, *Our Town*, and *Death of a Salesman*.

Math students shine on various AP exams

Out of a class of 16 students, ten achieved the top score on the AP Calculus exam last spring. They are Ben Barben, Jordan Blake, Justin Carnahan, Alyssa Catalano, Dan Mease, Jay Pagana, Joe Ruby, Brett Schrey, Brian Smith, and Mike Watson. Their class average of 4.25 was the fifth highest in AP Calculus exam history of 17 years.

Jarred Molitoris achieved the highest score on the

Calculus BC exam by doing an independent study of additional Calculus concepts.

Also, the following four students achieved the top score on the AP Statistics exam last spring: Chris Desantis, Jarred Molitoris, Jordan Teisher, and Kaitlyn Watto. Congratulations to all on their fine efforts.

Selinsgrove FFA team to perform at states

The Future Farmers of America Farm Safety and Health Quiz Bowl Team advanced to the state level competition by winning at Penn State's Ag Progress Days held August 17, 2005. Team members were: sophomores P. J. Adams, Gwen Graybill, Brian Gray, and Scott Hoover. Sophomores Keith Kessler and Coy Weller were team alternates.

The Selinsgrove team scored the highest total points out of the eight FFA teams that competed.

A total of thirteen 4-H and FFA teams competed in the event at Rock Springs.

The Farm Safety and Health Quiz Bowl at Ag Progress Days was a semi-final round in which the top four teams from FFA and 4-H divisions qualified for the finals, to be held at the State Farm Show in January.

FFA runs away with 2005 Forestry Skills competition

It was practically a clean sweep for the members of Selinsgrove's FFA during competition at the 2005 Beaver Fair Forestry Skills Competition held September 21, 2005. Students demonstrated remarkable skills in Chain Saw, 2 Man Crosscut Saw and Log Rolling.

Chain Saw competitors were challenged to cut a six inch square block of wood. The fastest times recorded from the signal of the judge until the block was cut and the chain saw lowered to the ground won. In first place was Selinsgrove's Randy Yetter, followed by Coy Weller and Brad Dressler in 2nd and 4th place. In 6th through 11th place respectively were Joshua Kurtz, Keith Kessler, Zach Buss, Colin Long, Levi Ehrisman and Jed Parker.

Teams from Selinsgrove FFA swept 1st through 5th place in the 2 Man Crosscut Saw. In first place was Zach

Buss. In 2nd place was the team of Colin Long and Jed Parker, in 3rd Andrew Shaffer and Eric Bauman, in 4th place Scott Hoover and Keith Kessler, and in 5th place was Brad Dressler.

The Log Rolling competition required a two-man team of students to show proficiency in rolling a log 20 feet, touching that log simultaneously on two stakes, and then rolling it back again. The team of Selinsgrove's Scott Hoover and Keith Kessler took first place, while Brad Dressler and Brandon Wilkinson came in 4th.

Selinsgrove FFA members awarded state medals

Eight members of the Future Farmers of America attended the 2005 State FFA State Competition held June 14-16, 2005 at the Pennsylvania State University.

Silver Medalists were Ryan Romig, Small Gas Engines CDE, and Andrew Shaffer, Soil Judging CDE. Bronze Medals went to Valerie Hoover, Soil Judging, and Matthew Heimbach, Small Engines. Other participants included P. J. Adams, Brian Gray, and Robin Shaffer.

The Selinsgrove Chapter was awarded a Silver Medal for their National Chapter Award Application and a bronze for their scrapbook preparation.

Approximately 1500 members and advisors were in attendance at the three day conference. President George W. Bush was the keynote speaker during the opening session held on June 14, 2005.

English teachers heading to Pittsburgh for conference

Four English teachers will be attending the annual Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English conference, held this year in Pittsburgh.

Harvey Edwards, Alex Gruenberg, Larry Lawson and Barb Mattison will attend the conference November 17-20 to attend workshops on new methods and materials for teaching English, as well as to meet with other highly motivated teachers at the largest gathering of English teachers in the nation.

**Attend Open House Wednesday,
October 5 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.**