



# Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

October 2007



## Students draw portraits for orphans in Mexico

Last year there were 30 art students participating in "The Memory Project" which means they drew portraits of orphan children from Mexico and the drawings were sent to the individual orphans as a keepsake. This summer each orphan wrote and/or drew a thank you message for those Selinsgrove students.

The coordinator of the program also sent photos of each orphan holding their own portrait so our students could see how happy they were receiving these gifts.

## Grants fund web design study

What are webheads? A webhead is someone who wants to learn everything he or she can about creating web pages. Webheads is a club where students are learning to use Macromedia® Dreamweaver and Fireworks in designing web pages. After a year's break, webheads are again analyzing and revising web pages on the high school website. Currently they are learning how to use

## From the Principal –

I want to commend everyone for a successful start to the school year.

We have some changes. First, we have a new automated phone system for absences. Second, our progress reports will have a new look since we are using a new grade book system. This year you are getting them on the 22nd day of the marking period, the earliest we have ever gotten them to parents. Keep in mind that our new system allows for online parental access. Four hundred accounts have already been created for online access at the high school. The district web site has instructions if you are interested in accessing your child's grades online.

Our open house for the first semester will be October 3 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.

I hope to see you at Open House.

---Reed Messmore, principal

Dreamweaver and are gathering information on all clubs to revamp the clubs website.

Webheads club is trying something new this year in offering members an opportunity to achieve certifications in WebDevelopment based on certifications offered by Cyberlearning.org. The fees are grant-funded by the National Education Foundation with the exception of \$60.00 per student. In essence, students pay \$60.00 and they have a full year of access to any and all courses under Web Development at the site. Mrs. Gavitt, club advisor, serves as mentor. The club meets every Thursday after school until members are more self-sufficient and will then meet every two weeks. Watch for the progress on the high school site.

## German Honor Society members inducted

An induction dinner for new German Honor Society members was held May 24 at Herwig's. Herwig's is a restaurant in Lewisburg featuring authentic Austrian food, such as Wienerschnitzel, Paprikahendl and much more. Students sampled this authentic cuisine and welcomed incoming members to the organization. New officers for this school year were also elected by the members.

The German National Honor Society, Delta Epsilon Phi, is a national organization open to students who have taken at least two years/semesters of the language and maintained high grades in their German courses and overall. The organization exists to promote and encourage the study of German within the school and local community and recognize high school achievement in the study of the German language, literature and culture.



## Students Travel to Europe

In June, seventeen students from Selinsgrove High School traveled together to Germany, Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Students prepared for this trip all last year and were excited to experience the cultures of these interesting countries. All of the students who went on the trip are or were enrolled in German classes at the high school.

The trip visited the cities of Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Munich, where our group was able to practice their German. They also got to know students from other schools around the country, who traveled with us.

Everyone had an exciting ten days. Some of the highlights were sampling German Spaghetti ice cream, hiking to Neuschwanstein castle, riding the rides at an amusement park in Vienna, listening to the street musicians of Budapest and touring Prague via nightly ghost tours.



*Kirsten Krebs, Courtney Bailey, Mike Inch, Johnny Ramos, and Alyssa Moyer prepare to study the Susquehanna River as part of the Chesapeake Bay Project.*

## Classes take to the river

The Environmental Science students spent a day on the Susquehanna River investigating the water's quality, properties, and overall health. The students began the day at Shady Nook Boat Access, there they learned how to board and disembark a canoe correctly, how to paddle a canoe, and they also were introduced to two local members of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Sally and Matt were the CBF coordinators who lead the trip down the river, the students were also introduced to Rosie Wise. Rosie is the watershed specialist for the local Penns Creek Watershed.

The group then paddled the Susquehanna with several stops on the islands. They did a macroinvertebrate study, an abiotic study, and investigated the nekton community.

Another highlight for the students was lunch on the river with strong undertones of an environmentally sound lunch, so no litter or pollution would be left behind.

Overall the students learned of the great qualities of this local waterway and all the good things that are happening in, on, and around the Susquehanna River.

The outings were led by Mrs. Hepner and Mr. Bechtel.

## Teachers study the Bay

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation maintains several teacher education workshops throughout the year. This past summer Tracy Hepner, Janice Royer and Christine Lester took a week long course at Port Isobel Island in Virginia. There they learned of the effects the Susquehanna River on the Chesapeake Bay. It was a long week of investigations associated with the changing properties of the Bay.

One of the most surprising points of the workshop was that the Susquehanna River produces 50 percent of the water in the Bay. So it is extremely important to educate students about the river for the Bay's protection.

**OPEN HOUSE WEDNESDAY OCT. 3**

## Guidance News

The Guidance Department has been busy scheduling college representative visits with juniors and seniors. Eleven schools visited during September and the following chart shows the Oct./Nov. schedule.

Elizabethtown College	Tues., Oct. 2
Albright College	Tues., Oct. 2
Washington & Jefferson	Wed., Oct. 3
McCann School of Business	Thurs., Oct. 4
Susquehanna University	Tues., Oct. 16
Franklin & Marshall College	Wed., Oct. 24
Lebanon Valley College	Thurs., Oct. 25
Lycoming College	Thurs., Oct. 25
Luzerne County Comm. College	Mon., Oct. 29
Wilson College	Tues., Oct. 30
Gettysburg College	Thurs., Nov. 1
Thiel College	Tues., Nov. 6
Saint Francis University	Wed., Nov. 14

Seniors need to complete a Transcript Request Form for the guidance office to release their records to schools. Applications, financial aid, and scholarship information are also available in the guidance office.

### PSAT

Sophomores and juniors planning to take the PSAT need to sign up in the Guidance Office and get a copy of the PSAT Student Guide.

The test date is Saturday, October 20, 2007 at 8:00 a.m..

Students should enter the building through the doors closest to the library. A \$13 testing fee will be collected on the day of the test. Checks should be made payable to S.A.H.S. Contact Mrs. Thompson in the Guidance Office, 372-2237, if you have questions regarding PSATs.

### SAT

Test Date: December 1, 2007

Regular Registration Deadline: October 30, 2007

Late Registration Deadline (requires a late fee): November 8, 2007

Test Date: May 3, 2008

Regular Registration Deadline: April 1, 2008

Late Registration Deadline (requires a late fee): April 10, 2008

Please contact the Guidance Office for further information.

### PSSA re-testing

All seniors who are not proficient in Reading, Math, and/or Writing on the PSSA's will be re-tested during the testing window of October 22 to November 2, 2007.

## SUN Area Career & Technology Center Information

Geoff Schmitz, Counselor at the SUN Area Career & Technology Center will visit Selinsgrove Area High School and present information to all interested juniors on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. His presentation will assist students in recognizing the value of a technical education and explore the many exciting programs available at SUN, located in New Berlin.

On Tuesday, December 11, 2007 juniors will have the opportunity to visit 3 programs of their choice. The SUN AC&TC offers programs in the following areas: Advanced Precision Machining, Advanced Wood Products, Advertising Art & Design, Auto Technology, Carpentry, Collision Repair Technology, Cosmetology, Dental Health Technology, Diesel & Truck Technology, Drafting CAD Technology, Electrical Systems Technology, Electronics Technology, Food Service, Health Professionals & Related Sciences, HVAC & Plumbing Technology, Information Technology, Masonry, Police Corrections & Security Sciences, and Welding.

Students planning on attending this visitation will leave Selinsgrove High School at 9:15 and return at approximately 2:15. Bus transportation will be provided. For more information please contact the guidance office.

## Edwards continues studies and presents workshop

Harvey Edwards participated in the 2007 Summer Institute for Teachers at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The information from the two-week program, Visualizing Japan: Teaching Japanese History through the Arts, will be incorporated into the Humanities course.

"Show Not Tell" will be the focus for a full-day writing session Harvey Edwards will present on October 15 during the CSIU regional inservice program for teachers in the IU 16 school districts.

## FFA places at Beaver Fair

In Sun Area FFA Competition held at the Beaver Fair the following students placed: Kelvin Womer, first place tractor driving; Zeb Buss, second place tractor driving; Matt Gehers, second place livestock judging; Jonelle Wetzel, fifth place dairy judging; and Derrick Cook, fifth place livestock judging.

In team competition the livestock judging team of Matt Gehers, Derrick Cook, PJ Adam, and Kyle Kessler placed first. The dairy judging Team of Jonelle Wetzel, Terry Heimbach, and Travis Hackenberg placed second.



## AP Euro History class samples cultures of Europe

The AP European History students of 2006-07 school year earned top honors on this past year's exam. Students study all social, political, religious, intellectual, technological, and economic aspects of European history from 1450 to the present and how they played a fundamental role in shaping the modern world. The competitive exam taken in May is scored on a one to five point scale, with a five being the highest score possible. Less than 12% of the 92,000+ students across the country who took the test scored a five this year and less than 70% passed the exam. Ninety percent of Selinsgrove students passed and all of the following students scored a five: Frank Fina, Euric Krause, Allie Morris, Lauren Rambo, Pat Ritter, Gabe Robison, and Tyler Wolfe.

In addition, several current and former students travelled to England, France, Italy, and the Vatican City State for ten days to further their studies this past summer. They visited seven cities and immersed themselves in the culture while there.

## Math AP students excel

The AP Calculus class averaged 4.4 out of a possible high of five on the 2007 AP Calculus exam. Students who scored perfect fives from the class were Alexa Benner, Kelley Bohm, Jason Buranich, Caitlin Conn, Zach Dale, Matt Hockenbrock, Derek Houtz, Morgan Keller, and Sarah Orris.

The AP Statistics class also did very well averaging 4.2 for the whole class. Students who earned a five on this exam were Nabeel Akhtar, Vojtech Cermak, Sara Lupolt, Kaitlin Martin, Steve Rubin, and Kylee Yetter. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

## Council to attend conference

Four members of student council will attend the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils State Conference, November 1-3 in Easton, PA. Courtney Schrey, President; Courtney Bailey, Treasurer; Taylor Morrow, Secretary; and Brianna Smith, Historian, will accompany their advisor, Harvey Edwards on the three-day leadership conference.

## Yearbooks go on sale

Yearbooks will be on sale during the week of October 1st-5th. Students may purchase them during lunch time. The early price is \$50. If a student would like his or her name engraved, it is an extra \$5. Checks should be made out to CYNOSURE. There will be another sale in November, but the price will be \$5 more at that time, so get your yearbook NOW! Students will receive a receipt. Please keep receipts in case there are any questions when yearbooks are distributed in May.

## Outdoors Club takes first trip

The first outdoors club trip is October 14. They will go rock climbing at Mocanocqua.

## Troupe begins touring

On October 9 and 10, the Tolerance Troupe will travel to the Northwest Area School District in Shickshinny to present programs for students at various grade levels. The Tolerance Troupe was awarded a special grant through the Youth in Philanthropy program of Berwick to make the trip possible.

## Edwards to present at Teacher of the Year ceremony

Harvey Edwards will be presenting "Best Practices" demonstration lessons and speaking at the PA National State Teacher of the Year ceremony in Harrisburg October 1 and 2. On November 15-17 he will attend the National Teachers of English/National Writing Project conference in NYC.

## FFA does well at fair

In forestry skills competition at the Beaver Fair the following students placed: Scott Lenig, First place in chain sawing; Kyle Kessler, second; Zeb Buss, third; and Coy Weller, fifth. In the two man cross cut contest: Scott Lenig and Zach Habegger took first; Kyle Kessler and Zeb Buss took second; Matt Gehers and Coy Weller took third; Bryce Gearhart and Kelvin Womer took fourth; and Tyler Hummel and Trent Blair took fifth. In the two man log rolling contest the team of Matt Gehers and Coy Weller took first; Zeb Buss placed Second; and Derrick Cook and Kyle Kessler placed third.

## Gruenberg publishes article

Alex Gruenberg's article, "Make Sure Your People Are Heard" appeared in the summer issue of *Adviser Update*, a journal published by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund for journalism teachers and advisers.

The article offered reflections on the shootings at Virginia Tech last spring and the responsibilities of school publications to help make sure students have a sense of belonging in their schools.

