

the MUSTANG Roundup

A Publication of the South Western School District
225 Bowman Road, Hanover, PA 17331 • 717-632-2500
www.swsd.k12.pa.us



Volume 21

Number 4

Fall 2006

Welcome the New Faces at South Western! Meet the Latest Additions to the Mustang Family



PICTURED (Left to Right): FIRST ROW, SEATED: Helen Bowersox, Allison Gill, Sara Tracy. **SECOND ROW, SEATED:** Janet Yohe, Jennifer Kilmer, Briana Baum, Kathleen Miserendino, Erin Cromer, Erica Zinn. **BACK ROW:** Jeff Little, James Shaffer, Joseph Mummert, Michael Renoll, Sandy Good, Brian Gallagher, Sara Graft, Kyle Simon, Bridget Corey, Alexander Breittkreutz, Alda Heller, Kayton Wilson, Linda Rigler, Allison Mickley.

South Western welcomed twenty-three new Mustangs to the teaching staff for the 2006-2007 school year. This summer, they took a break from preparing their classrooms for this photo taken at orientation. Best wishes for a long and happy career at South Western!

Helen Bowersox returns to South Western after several years home with her family. A graduate from both Gettysburg and Western Maryland College (since renamed McDaniel College), Helen teaches second grade at Park Hills Elementary.

Recently graduating from Bloomsburg University with a Bachelors Degree in Business Education, **Allison Gill** is a new face to the High School's business department.

Sara Tracy joins the mathematics department at the High School where she was a long-term substitute teacher last school year. Sarah earned her Bachelors Degree at Kutztown University.

Filling the role as a seventh and eighth grade health teacher at EHMIS, we welcome

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A Note From the Superintendent

Dr. Barbara Rupp

We are off to a great start for 2006-2007, thanks to many of you! Our building principals shared that they have noticed an increased attendance at our many of our start-of-the-year activities



The education of our children is dependent upon the school to home partnership. Research tells us that children's academic achievement can be enhanced by the support that is exhibited at home for education. And, because student achievement continues to be our major goal for this school year, we are counting on you.

One easy way that you can help your children is to encourage reading in your home. You can accomplish this quite simply, by having your children see you read. It can be as easy as reading the cereal box during breakfast or by reading a magazine or newspaper. As a parent, you are an important role model for your child. Children learn by what you say, but also by what you do.

Our teachers and administrators are doing all that they can to enhance your children's achieve-

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Inside

- Middle Schoolers Use Their Heads to Help a Friend
- Homestead Tax Exemption News
- Weather Closings

A Note From the Superintendent

Continued from Cover

ment in our schools. They are counting on your help as equal partners in educating your children. Please know that if you need any help with suggestions to try at home, our principals and teachers are there for you.

We are most appreciative of your help and your support.

Barbara A. Rupp

12 Retire
from South
Western
in '05-'06

Jody Adelsperger
High School, Learning Support

Yvonne Baldwin
West Manheim, 2nd Grade

Linda Clark
Elementary, Librarian

Doris Deitzel
High School, Nurse

Sharon Forry
EHMIS, Music

Charlotte Krill
West Manheim, 2nd Grade

Audry Menges
Manheim, 2nd Grade

Jean Mummert
Administration, Secretary

Colleen Reese
West Manheim, 2nd Grade

Mary Ann Schwartz
High School, Art

Michael Staub
High School, Mathematics

Nancy Straub
Elementary, Guidance

with a combined
339
years of service
to the district

Giving Our Students the Tools for Success

2006 PA System of School Assessment Scores

By
Dr. Barbara Kehr
Assistant
Superintendent



This year, for the first time, all students in grades 3-8 and 11 were assessed in reading and mathematics through the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). Although students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11 have been assessed for a number of years,

this is the first year that students were also assessed in grades 4, 6, and 7. Yearly assessment should help us to better monitor student progress and to ensure that students graduate from high school with the skills they need to be successful in college and in the workplace.

We are pleased to report that South Western School District made adequate yearly progress (AYP), both at the district level and in each of our six schools. The chart below indicates the percentage of students who were either proficient or advanced in reading and math at each grade level.

Percentage of Proficient Students

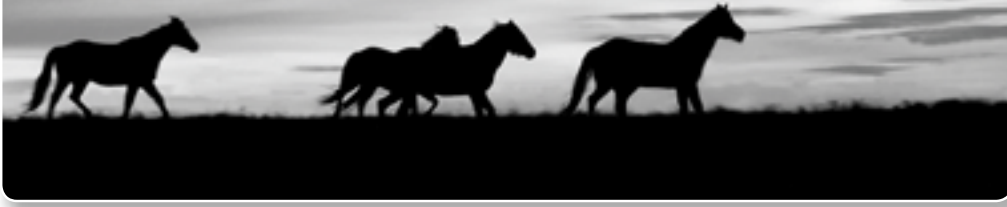
Grade	Reading	State Average	Math	State Average	Writing	State Average
3	73%	69%	87%	83%		
4	70%	68%	85%	77%		
5	54%	61%	63%	67%	67%	54%
6	69%	66%	65%	68%		
7	71%	68%	61%	66%		
8	78%	71%	57%	62%	80%	66%
11	74%	65%	53%	52%	93%	86%

South Western Receives Financial Reporting Awards

The South Western School District has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2005. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Of the 530 school districts and Intermediate Units in the state of Pennsylvania, only 14 received this award.

The District has also won the Association of School Business Officials International's (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (COE) for Excellence in the preparation and issuance of the comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year end 2005. The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Program was designed by ASBO International to enable school business officials to achieve a high standard of financial reporting. The award, the highest recognition for school district financial operations offered by ASBO, is only conferred to school systems that have met or exceeded the standards of the program.

Welcome! to South Western



New Teachers *Continued from cover*

Janet Yohe. Janet is a recent graduate from Lock Haven University.

A graduate of Shippensburg University with a Bachelors in Elementary Education, **Jennifer Kilmer** teaches fourth grade at West Manheim Elementary.

Briana Baum joins the art department at the High School. Briana earned her Bachelors Degree in Art Education from Millersville University.

After a long term substitute position in the neighboring Hanover School District and six years of substitute experience at South Western, **Kathy Miserendino** joins the High School business department. Kathy is a graduate of Widener University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Erin Cromer joins faculty at West Manheim as a fourth grade teacher. Erin completed her student teaching experience at West Manheim through Shippensburg University.

Most recently a day-to-day substitute for South Western, **Erica Zinn** now teaches first grade at West Manheim. Erica is a graduate of Millersville University with a Bachelors Degree in Elementary and Special Education.

Jeff Little is a familiar face to South Western. He formerly served as a day-to-day substitute here and at neighboring school districts. Jeff joins the Manheim faculty as a physical education teacher. He is a graduate of Slippery Rock University.

After teaching for five years in Independence, Missouri, **James Shaffer** joins the English department at the High School. A graduate from Bloomsburg University, James holds a Bachelors Degree in English Education.

Joseph Mummert is a new face at all four

elementary buildings teaching music. Joseph earned his Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He formerly taught music grades K-12 in the Shanksville School District.

Michael Renoll joins the science department at the High School with a Bachelors Degree in Biology earned from Lebanon Valley College.

New to the High School as the school nurse, we welcome **Sandy Good.** Sandy hails from York College with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing and School Nurse Certification from Slippery Rock University.

Formerly the Assistant Principal at the Waynesboro Area Senior High School, **Brian Gallagher** now joins the administrative team at the High School as the Assistant Principal. He is a graduate of Shippensburg University and the Ohio State University.

Sara Groft joins Park Hills Elementary as a third grade teacher. Sara completed her student teaching experience at Park Hills through Shippensburg University.

Kyle Simon joins the science department at the High School. Kyle earned his Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education: Earth and Space Science from Penn State University.

A graduate of York College of Pennsylvania with a Bachelors in Elementary Education, **Bridget Corey** teaches fourth grade at Manheim Elementary.

After teaching German in the Hempfield School District, **Alexander Breitreutz** joins the EHMIS faculty as the seventh and eighth grade German and Latin teacher. A graduate from the University of Applied Sciences in Germany, Alexander holds a Bachelors

New Bus Drivers

The Transportation Department has added eight new drivers for the 2006-07 school year.

The drivers are:

Ann Bittle

Parochial Schools Bus #28

Ed Fisher

Baresville PM Bus #58

Shannon Horrell

Park Hills Bus #45

Barbara McFadden

Baresville Bus #65

Orlena Whitcombe

Park Hills Bus #64

The new substitute drivers for this year are **Joseph Donohue, Angela Patton and Karen Slemaker.**

Degree in International Business, a Masters Degree in Business Administration and certification in Secondary Education German.

Alda Heller joins the faculty at EHMIS as a seventh grade language arts teacher. Alda holds her Bachelors Degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Completing the previous school year as a long-term substitute, **Kayton Wilson** now joins the EHMIS faculty as a full-time seventh and eighth grade general music teacher. A graduate of West Chester University, Kayton holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education.

New to the High School as the librarian, we welcome **Linda Rigler.** Linda brings 17 years of experience from Corry Area School District and hails from Kutztown State College and Edinboro University.

With one year of experience at Lebanon Middle School, **Allison Mickley** joins EHMIS as a seventh and eighth grade science teacher. Allison earned her Bachelors Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Add It Up!

Manheim Math Night

On October 5th, Manheim Elementary held its annual Math Night. The evening began with a brief presentation by Miss Iati, Math Coach, and Mrs. Strausbaugh, Principal, about the Everyday Math program. Those in attendance were reminded that Everyday Math is a research based math program developed by the University of Chicago. Key to this program is the spiraling of instruction - skills are first introduced at a lower level and then revisited throughout the year and throughout the grade levels. Miss Iati also introduced the crowd to the information and educational materials that are available to parents and students alike on her web site www.swsd.k12.pa.us/~rina_iati/. The general meeting closed with questions and a drawing for Everyday Math door prizes. Families then moved to their children's classrooms. That's when the fun truly began!

One important component of the Everyday Math program is math games. These fun and challenging games are played by the children during



the course of their math instruction in order to practice and integrate the math skills they have learned in class. On Math Night, the students had the opportunity to show-off their math skills by challenging their parents

to play the games the students play in class on a regular basis. After the classroom teacher explained how to play the game and gave a brief description to the parents of the curricular function the game played, families began the fun. Everyone got to play games.

All night long families enjoyed spending quality time with each other playing math games. They played games like Top-It, a card game that is used in grades K-5. In kindergarten this game resembles a card game that many know as "War". It teaches our kindergarten students number identification, number value, and greater than and less than. By fifth grade this game evolves into a complex card game involving multiple cards, multiple math processes, and integration skills. It was exciting to see parents and children all having fun playing together, spending time together, and laughing and smiling together - all while learning and doing math! Throughout the night cheers and groans could be heard coming from the classrooms of Manheim as the families engaged in friendly competition and played the math games.

Manheim Math Night concluded with snacks and community time in the cafeteria. It was truly a night full of fun and learning for all involved.

Now THAT'S Using Your Noggin!

The EHMIS Colts Football Team Helps a Fellow Member in the Spirit of True Teamwork And Caring



If you've seen the EHMIS Colts football team lately, you probably thought you were seeing double. That's because of the new team look; NO HAIR! The Colts recently joined together to make a difference for one member in a big way.

It started back in September when one of the players suggested to coach Ed Ahrens that the team do something to support fellow member Tyler Feeser. Tyler is battling Leukemia and is undergoing frequent treatments at Hershey Medical Center. In a show of true team spirit, it was decided the guys would shave their heads and use the opportunity as a fundraiser to benefit Tyler and his family.

With Mr. Ahrens full support, the team got to work collecting the permission needed and donations in anticipation of the "big shave." Many teachers, parents and community members volunteered their time and even their heads for this fund-raiser. By the time the group was finished, they'd raised over \$700 for the Feeser family.

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Pictured above: Tyler looks on as some of his teammates prepare for the inevitable.

Pictured below: Coach Cromer cutting Coach Morela's hair



A shaven Casey



Shawn gets buzzed



Did You Ever Wonder...

**How ants can travel great distances without getting lost?
If spider webs all look alike?
What happens to frogs and fish when the water freezes?**

The second grade classes at West Manheim went on a quest to answer these questions and many more about insects, amphibians, fish, birds, mammals, and reptiles. Where did they look - the South Western Environmental Center. The students enjoyed a spectacular day at the East Woods, the Trail and Stream Area, and the Hidden Pond.

They explored the East Woods and followed an ant "smell trail" to learn about ant colonies, their scents, food sources, ant communication, and winter survival. They used magnifying glasses to observe and record insect activity. They searched the woods and found many examples of symmetry in nature, and discussed how the seasonal changes of the East Woods will affect animal life.

At the Hidden Pond, they used magnifying glasses to examine living matter scooped from the bottom of the pond. Tadpoles and insect larvae were still present in the water, which led to a discussion on the seasonal changes at Hidden Pond, and how animals that have a water habitat survive the ice. Did you know many amphibians, fish, and insect larva bury deep in the mud until spring?

At the Stream, they studied how insects whose colors blend into their natural habitats are harder to find. Therefore, these cam-



ouflaged insects have a better chance for survival. The children enjoyed a Creature Feature Hunt to find as many camouflaged insects as possible. They blended so well with their habitat that the students were amazed at how many creatures were overlooked. There may still be many lurking along the path.

Families are also welcome to visit and explore the many wonders of the South Western Environmental Center.

Property Tax Relief

Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Application is the First Step

Two years ago, property owners throughout the county received in the mail an Application for Homestead and Farmstead Exclusions from school districts in York County. This initial application was required under Act 72, the state's previous attempt at property tax relief. Approximately 68% of eligible property owners in the South Western School District applied and were approved for a homestead and/or farmstead exclusion at that time. The applications that were approved by the assessor's office two years ago are still good.

In November or December, 2006, the school districts in the county will once again send out the Application for Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion. This notification is required under Act 1, the state's most recent legislation to provide property tax relief. Applications will be sent annually to property owners who have not yet applied for the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion. You can also download a copy of the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion application by going to www.york-county.org/departments/assessment/tx_asmnt.htm.



Property owners who already completed an application and were approved by the York County Assessment Office will not receive an application. **Only those property owners who have not applied and have not been approved for a homestead and farmstead exclusion will receive an application. This homestead/farmstead exclusion is the method by which property tax relief will occur. It is important that all homeowners in our district who receive an application complete and return this application to York County Assessor's Office by March 1, 2007.** If you do not apply for the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion, you will not be eligible to receive property tax reduction.

If you have any specific questions regarding your Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion application status, those questions should be directed to the York County Assessment Office. If you have general questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Jeff Mumert, Business Administrator, at 632-2500.

Exceptional Academic Achievement!

Congratulations to Raquel Melendez and Jillian Adams who were selected as a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student for scoring among the top 5% of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2007 competition taking the PSAT/NMSQT as a junior.

PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for



*Pictured: (L to R)
Raquel Melendez, Jillian Adams*

the SAT Reasoning Test™. It also gives students a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills.

Raquel Melendez was also recognized as a National Hispanic Scholar based upon her scores and academic achievement! This year more than 175,000 PSAT/NMSQT takers identified themselves as Hispanic with 4,700 recognized as scholars or Honorable Mention Finalists.

Congratulations to Raquel and Jillian on their academic excellence and for representing South Western High School so well!

Aren't You A Little Big For Kindergarten?

Learning with the Elementary Seminar Program at Baresville

When visiting Baresville on any given school day, one may be surprised to see high school students in classrooms and hallways working with small groups of students. The school is so fortunate to have sixteen juniors and seniors from South Western High School devote part of their school day to join the school community. Two programs, the Teacher Aide Program and the Elementary Seminar Program, are the catalysis for providing this opportunity for the older students to help them understand the school age child and the role of a teacher through direct interaction in the elementary classroom.

The Elementary Seminar Program is under the tutelage of Mrs. Sue Kirkpatrick, Family Consumer Science Teacher at South Western High School. The program began three years ago for juniors and seniors who have a sincere interest in pursuing a career in early childhood education, elementary or secondary education, day care, or related fields dealing with children. Along with working at Baresville, regular class time for the students is spent with Mrs. Kirkpatrick to study the development of the school age child with an emphasis on their development of physical, mental, social, emotional and moral growth along with the skills they may need to guide and nurture the child through each stage of development.



The Teacher Aide Program brings high school seniors to each elementary school to work in a kindergarten classroom for either the morning or afternoon session. This program has been in place for many years, and the kindergarten teachers appreciate this assistance they can rely on everyday. "This program has helped our students tremendously," said, Mrs. Susan Gould, kindergarten teacher. "There is much mutual respect between the older and younger students." Currently, thirteen seniors are part of this program for the full school year, and each one receives a grade each marking period from their assigned kindergarten teachers.

Tutoring Equals Classroom Success at Park Hills

Meeting the needs of all our students has always been the primary goal at Park Hills Elementary School. During the 2005-2006 school year, a committee of Park Hills teachers developed a program to continue emphasizing this goal. The After-School Tutorial Program was created by a group of teachers to provide students in grades 3 and 5 with extra support in the areas of math and/or reading.

With the dedicated efforts of several Park Hills teachers (Mrs. Theresa Hoggart, Miss Erica Myers, Miss Kathryn Bortner, and Miss Becky Thoman), students who attended the program were given extra support two times per week for an hour

each session. Over a five month period, the benefits of the program were made apparent by students feeling more comfortable in the regular classroom. As the students' self-esteem continued to grow, it was the goal of the program to improve student achievement, as well. This will be monitored over time to determine the overall benefits of the program.

The After-School Tutorial Program will continue during the 2006-07 school year. The committee will analyze the program and make changes to it as needed in order to best meet the needs of all our Park Hills students. We look forward to another successful tutoring program this year!



community *info*

Weather Closings

In the event that weather forces school delays or closings, announcements will appear on the following media outlets:

Radio

WHP 580AM	WGET 1320AM	KISS 99.3FM
WSBA 901AM	WRVV 97.3FM	WARM 103FM
WHVR 1280AM	WYCR 98.5FM	WGTY 108FM

Television

WGAL TV 8	WHP-CBS 21	WPMT FOX 43
WLYH TV 15	WHTM TV 27	

Internet

www.cancellations.com www.wgal.com/closings

Using Your Noggin!

Continued from page 4

Shaving that many heads was not going to be an easy undertaking. It took a full hour and the combined efforts of Coach Morela, Coach Cromer, Coach Sager, Coach Stetter, Mrs. Urick and Mrs. Conroy. When finished, about 40 plus heads had been shaved. A big heap of hair on the ground was all that remained!

Coach Ahrens said it best, "This was a team effort if I ever saw one. Winning on the field is important but learning the lesson of helping others is a dream come true for anyone working with young men."

Community Swim



The pool at Emory H. Markle Intermediate School is open to the public on **Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:45 PM** for a minimal fee. Lifeguards and access to locker rooms are provided.

South Western Employees Help During 2006 United Way Day of Caring

Several employees of the district volunteered their time for the recent United Way Day of Caring kickoff on September 8th. This nationwide program is a day of service in the fall when hundreds of volunteers from local companies and organizations make a difference at local agencies and schools, and in the lives of students and clients by completing much-needed projects.

The group from South Western spent the day at the Hanover Area YWCA and helped with various tasks. They removed old appliances from the Safe Home base-ment, helped organized files, and sorted clothing for the YWCA clothing bank.

Throughout York County communi-ties, more than 90 employee groups from 52 workplaces participated in the Day of Caring initiative.

A special "Thanks!" goes to these folks who gave of their time for our community on this important day!



PICTURED: (Front Row, L to R) Dr. Barb Rupp, Hope Stout, Mandy Livai, Karen Horrell (Back Row, L to R) Jeff Mummert, Dr. Al Moyer, Eric Klanssek, Mike Staub (retired)

Join the STATS team!

The STATS team (students/teachers/achieving/team/success) has been created this year at EHMIS to assist students who have scored below proficiency on the statewide assessment in reading and math. The STATS team's efforts will be primarily with sixth grade students. The team members will go into classrooms to work with identified students, providing them with the extra support they need to succeed. There may be some small group instruction on an as needed basis during study hall so that students are not missing classes. A parent meeting was held on September 13, 2006 to explain what the program is and how it works. This really is a team effort and the support of parents is vital to our success. If anyone missed the meeting and would like further information about the program, please call Mrs. Becky Miller at 633-4840 or email becky_miller@swsd.k12.pa.us.

Have you thought about substitute teaching?

South Western is looking for people with a valid Pennsylvania Teacher Certificate to serve as substitute teachers. If you have a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline, you may also qualify. For more information, please contact the District Administration Office at 632-2500.

Dates to Note

November 10
Report Cards Distributed

November 13 & 14
EHMIS Parent Visitation
8:35 AM - 3:13 PM

November 14
Parent Conferences Begin:
EHMIS 3:30 - 6:30 PM

November 15
School Board Meeting
7 PM

November 16
Parent Conferences:
All Elementary Schools
5 - 8 PM
EHMIS 6 - 9 PM

November 17
K-8 SCHOOLS CLOSED

Parent Conferences:
All Elementary Schools
7:30 AM - 3:15 PM
EHMIS 8 AM - 2:45 PM

December 6
School Board
Reorganization Meeting
6:30 PM

December 20
School Board Meeting
7 PM

December 25 - January 2
School Closed
HOLIDAY BREAK

January 3
Return to School

South Western School District
225 Bowman Road
HANOVER, PA 17331

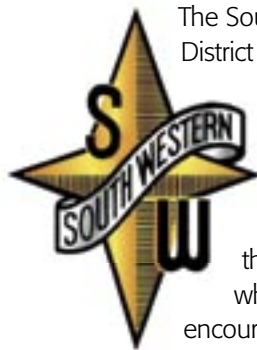
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A Beautiful Day At... The New West Manheim School



Mission Statement



The South Western School District is dedicated to providing a continually improving educational environment, through a cooperative effort with the family and the entire community, in which all students are encouraged and expected to achieve their full potential, to express themselves clearly, to think reflectively, and to interact responsibly in preparation for lifelong personal growth.

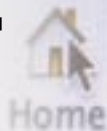
*Adopted by the Board of School Directors
October 24, 1990: Revised March 25, 2002*



School Board Meetings

School Board meetings are conducted at 7:00 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the Administrative Conference Room, unless otherwise announced. Residents are invited to attend. Requests to formally address the Board should be made in writing to the Superintendent's office ten days in advance of public meetings.

FOR MORE USEFUL INFO
VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.SWSD.K12.PA.US



<http://www.swwestern.org>

The South Western School District complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Public Law 90-202 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or physical handicap.

Any questions concerning South Western School District's programs and policies should be addressed to: Administration Office, 225 Bowman Road, Hanover, PA 17331, 717-632-2500.