



WEST ELIZABETH • JEFFERSON HILLS • PLEASANT HILLS

West Jefferson Hills

SCHOOL DISTRICT & COMMUNITY NEWS



Education in Our Classrooms

The West Jefferson Hills School District's Annual Recognition of Education in Our Classrooms, and the presentation of the 2008-2009 Progress Awards took place at the February 2009 School Board Meeting. The District was honored to have Presidents, Principals, Teachers, Musicians, Television News Reporters, and Student Leaders in attendance.

The educational accomplishments, Community Service achievements, and activity highlights at Thomas Jefferson High School and Pleasant Hills Middle School were presented by the Student Council presidents.

The News Staff from Jefferson Elementary reported on the educational achievements taking place in their classrooms and the opportunity for participation in the challenging, fun filled activities.

The Student Musicians from McClellan Elementary performed their musical interpretation of a children's story.

The Student Leaders from Gill Hall Elementary represented students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth, and synchronized the educational attributes at Gill Hall Elementary to the spelling of their school name.

Kudos to:

- Timothy Haselhoff, Principal, Thomas Jefferson High School
- Daniel Como, Principal, Pleasant Hills Middle School
- Tina Mayer, Principal, Gill Hall Elementary
- Dennis Peterson, Principal, Jefferson Elementary
- And
- Margaret Sollen, Principal, McClellan Elementary

for their dedication to education and their commitment to our students, parents, and community residents.

(Continued on page 20)



Central Administration

Terry Kinawy
Superintendent

Suzan Peterson
Assistant to the
Superintendent

Hemanti Rajgopal
Director of Human Resources

Joseph Zupan
Business Manager

Ira Weiss
Advisor

School Directors

Martene L. Neal
President

Shauna D'Alessandro
Vice President

Deborah Pazycki
Vice President

Anthony Angilli
Alan Caponi
Karen Cassel
Dr. David Graham
Garry A. Kuecher
Anna Louise Libby

Administration

Message from the Superintendent



T.E.A.M.

Together Everyone Achieves More

It takes a team to succeed—no one can do it alone. By combining our individual talents and abilities, great things can happen. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated T.E.A.M. members like you, excellence is within everyone's reach."

Teamwork is an important element in successful value added school venues. Creating great schools requires a relationship among Team members focusing on accomplishing our collective goals for moving the West Jefferson Hills School District forward and meeting our ambitious milestones.

As your Superintendent, I wear the West Jefferson Hills School District's success to be based on teamwork encompassing all parties involved in the education of our students. By our working together to achieve our milestones, we can accomplish more than we could attempting to work as individuals while respecting the motivation and creativity each of us brings to the West Jefferson Hills School District. When listening to a chorus, the voices you hear singing are a skillful mixture of altos, tenors, basses, and sopranos, each bringing his or her talents to this beautiful blend of music. Each chorus member openly conveys their individual expression and ideas, but their collective result is a magnificent concert.

Mrs. Terry Kinsey, Superintendent, and Mrs. Susan Peterson, Assistant to the Superintendent, would like to announce the following members of the West Jefferson Hills School District's T.E.A.M. They have been recognized to receive the official "T.E.A.M. Shirts," for their extraordinary dedication and commitment to the West Jefferson Hills School District.

Chief Martin Reagan, Jefferson Hills Police Department

Chief Reagan began his career with the Jefferson Hills Police Department more than 10 years ago. In his role as Chief of Police, Chief Reagan has been an indispensable safety and security collaborator and consultant for the West Jefferson Hills School District. First and foremost to Chief Reagan is the safety and security of our students. We value our partnership with the Jefferson Hills and Pleasant Hills Police Departments and rely on their guidance as we continue to work with Mr. Paul Drake on our District Safety Program, reviewing and recommending revisions and improvements to our long-term Safety Plan.

Chief Reagan is a dedicated Police Officer and a remarkable advocate for our students, parents, faculty and West Jefferson Hills Community.

Marianne Neal, West Jefferson Hills School District School Board President Shanna D'Alessandro, West Jefferson Hills School District School Board Vice President

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association recently awarded Master School Board Member and Distinguished School Board accreditation to a select group of school board directors across Pennsylvania. This recognition is for school boards and individual board members who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in attaining the goals of effective governance and meeting the needs of students for the 21st Century through educational excellence and equity of all students.

This is the first year PSBA has awarded such an accreditation to members. Those selected completed a detailed process through which they highlighted their board service, community engagement, advocacy and teamwork skills. Being an effective school board member is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. School board members need to be knowledgeable about complex educational and social issues and carry our initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments. To face the demands of governing our public schools, they willingly give countless hours of personal time.



Mrs. Marianne Noel and Mrs. Shauna D'Alessandro were elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for public schools. They represent you, and they take this responsibility seriously by attending lengthy meetings, broadening their knowledge at conferences and seminars and talking about the schools with business leaders, parents, legislative members, PTA groups, Faculty members and neighbors. It's a huge responsibility. I applaud both Mrs. Noel and Mrs. D'Alessandro for their vision and voices to help shape a better tomorrow! "Thanks for caring about our children."

Chief Edward Cunningham, Pleasant Hills Police Department

I have known Chief Cunningham for the past 17 years. He has worked with and encouraged his officers to actively participate in the daily operational aspects of the West Jefferson Hills School District. Developing a sense of ownership in the department by his officers is his goal, and enhancing the excellent police-school partnership with our administration, faculty, staff and children is his mission. The

Mission of the Pleasant Hills Police Department is to insure, to the greatest extent, the safety and security of our borough residents and businesses. This involves not only the traditional approach to law enforcement, but also an aggressive Community-Oriented Policing Program. Fostering a strong police-community partnership not only builds a positive relationship between the police department and the community, but also serves as a critical ingredient in both crime detection and crime prevention.

Chief Cunningham has been one of the most successful people that I have known. There are few people anywhere who have managed to win the love of children, adults, educators and the community as he has. Indeed, his visit to our school for D.A.R.E., for safety talks, fire drills, investigating a complaint, or just visiting, is always an occasion for our children to gather 'round him to bask in the glow and the warmth this wonderful man brings with him. Chief Cunningham is a man success and a beacon of light. Thank you for all that you do for the children of West Jefferson Hills School District and their safety.

Paperless Communication

The West Jefferson Hills School District Board of School Directors has officially "Gone Green." The Board explored paperless options for communicating information between the administration and fellow board members. Factored into the review and evaluation process of a paperless system was the potential cost savings for the District as well as the assurance of a protected, secure website.

After review, debate and discussion, the Board voted for BoardDoc. According to BoardDoc, "BoardDoc provides a user-friendly, reliable, governance solution for managing every aspect of the preparation, approval, and distribution of documents associated with governance. BoardDoc was developed to alleviate the enormous task of assembling, printing, distributing and revising agenda items and policies. BoardDoc unique state-of-the-art solutions increase transparency in governance, save tax-payers money, and have a positive effect on the environment."

The Board attended workshops for this new paperless system to familiarize themselves with the BoardDoc program.

The West Jefferson Hills School District Community will soon have the opportunity to follow meetings and observe the Board as it votes on District issues. To review the monthly agenda, voting outcome, and District issues at your convenience, the BoardDoc link can be found on the District website at wjhsd.net.

District Alternative School Funding

The West Jefferson Hills School District Administration and Board of School Directors would like to thank the West Jefferson Hills Community for their support and dedication in our quest and success in obtaining the \$500,000 in Federal Appropriations to fund our District Alternative School.

We are in the process of once again applying for Federal Appropriations for building a 21st Century Model Math and Science Collaborative Linking K-12 and Higher Education, and an After-school Mentoring Program.

The purpose of our seeking Federal Appropriations for our future District Educational Programs reflects the fiscal restraint and financial responsibility we, as an Administration and Board, dutifully uphold. We are continually evaluating, updating, and incorporating educational programs, which will serve to benefit our students in the West Jefferson Hills School District for generations to come.

We ask for your continued support and will soon be once again calling upon you with letters to be signed and emails to be sent.

Thank you for your continued collaboration for our District Educational Programs and for promoting our unique Parent, Student, Community, School District, and Local Business Partnership.

2008-2010 Academic Handbook

The West Jefferson Hills School District administration in conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson High School administration is pleased to announce the implementation of the revised Thomas Jefferson High School Academic Handbook.

The review process, which began in September, evaluated the core courses, electives, and course requirements for students registering for an elective or a particular sequence of course offerings. The revisions to the Academic Handbook includes the elimination of a letter grade requirement for selected electives, elimination of a grade level requirement for selected electives, and a modification of formerly required prerequisites for core courses.

Preceding the presentation of the revised Academic Handbook to the Board of School Directors, the Education Committee met to review and discuss the proposed changes.

We would like to thank the Thomas Jefferson High School Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Parents, who volunteered their time to initiate and complete this essential academic project.

2008-2009 Community Service Projects

Compassion, character, and humanity exemplify the students, parents, administration, faculty, and staff in the West Jefferson Hills School District. Through their generosity and commitment they have supported various national and international foundations and associations, which dedicate themselves to education, aiding children, medical research, and community outreach.



SchoolDays

• Gill Hall Elementary • Jefferson Elementary • McGlellan Elementary •



Jump Rope for Heart and Hoop for Heart Programs

Bravo to the *McGlellan Elementary* students, parents, Ms. Marie Barolenti, faculty, and staff, for enthusiastically sponsoring their Twelfth Annual "Jump Rope for Heart," and "Hoop for Heart" Program.

More than 140 elementary students participated in this fund-raising heart-healthy event.

The students, who collected monetary pledges from family and friends during a weeklong pledge drive, "jumped and hooped" to raise more than \$4,529. A touching honor to the students' successful efforts were the numerous memorial paper hearts, basketballs, and posters, bearing the names of family members lining the gymnasium's walls.

What a tribute to the students and parents at McGlellan Elementary who support this heart-healthy, lifelong learning event. Through their noble accomplishment, the students, faculty, staff, and parents at McGlellan Elementary have, to date, raised more than \$125,000 for the American Heart Association in their ongoing mission to combat heart disease and strokes.



Friends of Danang

More than \$1,500 was raised for "The Friends of Danang" through the Third Annual *McGlellan Elementary* Read-A-Thon. "The Friends of Danang," founded by Vietnam Veterans, continues to support the children of Vietnam. They have built schools, bridges, and wells for drinking water. They have purchased prosthetic devices for children injured by land mines. The students, faculty, and staff, at McGlellan Elementary adopted the Hoa Sen School in Vietnam four years ago. Nancy McCall and Debbie Tulak coordinate the Annual Read-A-Thon. The participating elementary students collected monetary pledges based on the number of books they intended to read. To date the Read-A-Thon has raised more than \$6,000.

The program, which ran for six weeks, concluded with a whole-school assembly. Mr. Anthony Accatando, a founding member of the "Friends of Danang," accepted the donation and presented the students with their Reading Awards.



SchoolDays

• Gill Hall Elementary • Jefferson Elementary • McClellan Elementary •



Read Across America

The students at *McClellan Elementary* celebrated the Birthday of Dr. Seuss by inviting **Marian Sue Sarlan, the Wharville Librarian**, to visit *McClellan Elementary*. Sponsored by the *McClellan Elementary PTA*, Ms. Marian addressed the students at a whole school assembly, in which numerous Dr. Seuss books were colorfully displayed. Ms. Marian read the familiar works of Dr. Seuss, encouraging the students with his creative rhyming and imaginative illustrations. During the assembly the students utilized their creativity and imagination to create a Dr. Seuss character. Mr. Dobos crafted the illustration based upon the student's artistic direction. The imaginative results of this creative student collaborative would have surely delighted Dr. Seuss.



The Annual "Read Across America Celebration," at *McClellan Elementary* was launched with a whole-school Special Reading Session. Sponsored by the *McClellan Elementary PTA* and the Pleasant Hills Library, "Read Across America" is recognized for its continuing promotion of encouraging children to read.





SchoolDays

• Gill Hall Elementary • Jefferson Elementary • McClellan Elementary •



Get Caught Being Good

The fourth grade students at *Jefferson Elementary* eagerly attempted to "Get Caught Being Good." Fourth grade teachers, Dan Owen, Deann Staff, Lori Lawry, and Melissa Gambino and their students wrote letters to numerous business organizations detailing their "Get Caught Being Good" project and requesting a prize donation. "Get Caught Being Good," an academic contest, encouraged the fourth grade students to participate in class, improve their grades, and develop their study habits. The overwhelming response from the local businesses encouraged the students to enthusiastically "Get Caught Being Good." Through their academic performance and educational achievements, the students have the opportunity to be awarded Pittsburgh Prize tickets, passes to the Carnegie Science Center, the Practice Tee, hats, shirts, stuffed animals, gift cards, and backpacks.

Congratulations to the Jefferson Elementary fourth grade students for their successful letter writing skills and their continuing remarkable academic success.



March Madness

The third, fourth, and fifth grade students at *Jefferson Elementary* uniquely celebrated "March Madness." This annual competition integrated the Accelerated Reader Program, which fosters reading growth, into the student challenge. Each participating classroom was designated a competing March Madness Basketball Team. The classrooms were decorated to reflect their team, and the students enthusiastically "rose to the challenge." They read their books and upon completion, took the accompanying 10-question computer quiz. For each book the students read, a paper basketball was placed on the hallway walk. The halls were brimming with decorated basketballs as the students enthusiastically read 5,000 books.

Due to the students' overwhelming achievement in this "March Reading Madness," Mr. Owen is sporting a new look, which will serve to be a pleasant reminder of the students' triumphant victory in this reading challenge.





SchoolDays

• Gill Hall Elementary • Jefferson Elementary • McClellan Elementary •



Family Fun Day

The normally tranquil halls of *Jefferson Elementary* were clamoring with the delightful sounds of music and laughter. The source of this jubilation was the "Annual Family Fun Day," sponsored by the Jefferson Elementary PTA. As you stepped into the decorated entryway, you were greeted with volunteers painting original designs on children's faces and a lavish tropical setting for a family portrait. Each of the elementary classrooms donated a gift basket based upon a chosen theme. The beautifully decorated baskets were the feature of the Chinese Auction.

The students displayed their Limbo and Hula-Hoop skills throughout this family fun-filled event. Thank you and Kudos, to the numerous PTA parent volunteers, who successfully coordinated this memorable family event.





SchoolDays

• Gill Hall Elementary • Jefferson Elementary • McClellan Elementary •



A Passage in History

Mr. Arthur Long visited the fourth grade students at *Jefferson Elementary* and shared with the students his historical meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King. While serving in the Army, Mr. Long was stationed in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Long were planning to be married, and Dr. King was the Minister at her Baptist Church. Dr. King conducted the marriage class for Mr. and Mrs. Long and performed their wedding ceremony. Mr. Long also shared his personal history of the Civil Rights Movement, and his role in the Boycott. After his historical presentation, the fourth grade students asked Mr. Long a series of questions regarding the Civil Rights Movement.



Mr. Long's granddaughter Armani, a fourth grade student at *Jefferson Elementary*, proudly introduced her grandfather to her classmates and teachers.



Electric Circuits

"Let there be light" was the classical response to the conclusion of the Electric Circuit Unit for the fourth grade students at *Jefferson Elementary*. Proudly displaying their newly constructed, fully furnished, model homes, the students demonstrated how the electric circuits functioned. The ASSET Electric Circuit Unit is an inquiry based, hands-on learning unit. The students are required to observe, respond, investigate, collect data, write reflections, create tables, calculate, illustrate, and problem solve in following the areas of energy, the flow of energy, and parallel and series circuits.

Congratulations to these talented, budding architects on their successful model home construction and Electric Circuit proficiency.





SchoolDays

• Gill Hall Elementary • Jefferson Elementary • McClellan Elementary •

“My Soldier Project”

The fifth grade students at *Jefferson Elementary* have remarkable new Pen-Pals. The students' new Pen-Pals, who are actively serving in the United States military, were chosen by the students through the “My Soldier Project.” The students collected the personal grooming and food donations for their Pen-Pals and carefully assembled the special packages for delivery. Packages were also shipped to family and friends of the students who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kudos to the fifth grade faculty: Travis Chropka, Benjamin Thomas, Lori Gophart, Stephanie Martinis, and Susie Reynolds, and the students at Jefferson Elementary for their gracious contributions to the “My Soldier Project.”



Family Bingo Night

BINGO was much more than a game at *Gill Hall Elementary*. The First Annual Family Fun Bingo Night sponsored by the Gill Hall Elementary PTA proved to be a huge success. The cafeteria was abuzz with activity as families gathered, patiently listening to the call of the numbers, as they carefully marked their numerous BINGO cards to the synchronized numbers. Principal Tina Major was the official Silent Auctioneer, as she and Gill Hall elementary students carefully drew tickets after tickets for a chance to win one of the beautifully decorated gift baskets.

Kudos to the Gill Hall Elementary PTA for sponsoring the First Family Fun Bingo Night to benefit our local food bank. The PTA collected more than four boxes of non-perishable food items and raised more than \$1,400.





SchoolDays

• Pleasant Hills Middle School •



CSI:PHMS

The pursuit was intense at *Pleasant Hills Middle School* as students investigated the sudden disappearance of their Jaguar Mascot who was reported missing. The students dusted for fingerprints, followed the patterns of footprints, evaluated the evidence, and worked with Pleasant Hills Police Officer Bryan Frankenfeld to build a sketch of the suspect.

The crime fighting activities were part of the students' weeklong, school wide unit, entitled CSI:PHMS. Experts from the *Allegany County District Attorney's Office* instructed the students on the art of *Finger Print Analysis*, how to dust for fingerprints, and how gathering evidence and conducting an investigation are much more involved and intense than what we are exposed to on a criminal television episode.

Officer Ronald Poropky, a K-9 Certified Pleasant Hills Police Officer, gave the students a demonstration of the tactics and commands used for training a K-9 police dog.

The weeklong, interdisciplinary, school wide unit integrated all subject areas in the Middle School curriculum.

In *Reading*, the students, faculty, and staff read the novel *Zach's Lie*, by Roland Smith, which deals with a crime that results in a family being forced to enter the Witness Protection Program.

In *Language Arts*, the students were charged with creating a new identity for people entering the Witness Protection Program. Their new identities included a name, date of birth, fingerprints, and distinguishing characteristics.

In *Art* the students sketched a suspect's profile from physical characteristics described by their classmates.

In *Mathematics*, the students incorporated mathematics to solve crimes using problem solving mathematical strategies.

In *Social Studies*, the students were assigned famous crimes from history and instructed to solve the crime using clues and investigative skills.

In *Science*, the students constructed a crime scene, which required the knowledge of Physical, Earth, and Life Science, to investigate and solve.

In *Physical Education and Family and Consumer Science* the students were required to describe the suspects' clothing, while focusing on the suspects' measurements and attire. They also analyzed the fibers and fabrics involved in the crime.

In *Foreign Language*, students identified art forgery through dendrochronology and infrared spectroscopy of art works by famous artists Salvador Dali and Jan Gossaert.

In *Industrial Technology*, the students measured a footprint found at the crime scene using a mathematical formula to figure the approximate height of a suspect.

Using their newly acquired crime fighting techniques, the students solved the crime of the missing Jaguar Mascot and "got their man, Dan"...





SchoolDays

• Pleasant Hills Middle School •



Pancake Breakfast

For their early morning assignment, the faculty at *Pleasant Hills Middle School* were sporting knee length, forest green aprons as they prepared to undertake an enormous task.

Soon, the entire faculty, staff, and student body would descend upon the cafeteria, for a hearty breakfast of pancakes and sausage. This Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the Pleasant Hills Middle School Student Council, raised more than \$1,200 for the American Cancer Society. The students appeared to be impressed with the culinary skills of their teachers, who amazed the giddies with coordinated expertise.

The highlight of the morning's event was the good-natured food competition, in which Mr. Zanic demonstrated his unique ability to consume breakfast cuisine.

The breakfast fare and paper supplies for the Pancake Breakfast were provided by the District's food service, Metz and Associates.



Formula One

The students who participate in the *Pleasant Hills Middle School Formula One Interest Group*, incorporated their math and Science skills into designing and developing their Model F1 Racing Cars.

The F1 Interest Group is sponsored this year by the Web Tech Engineering and Manufacturing

Corporation. Under the direction of Matthew Belter, their faculty sponsor, the students in the F1 Interest Group were invited to visit and tour the Web Tech facility. During their visit, the students also had the opportunity to speak with company executives and engineers.

Best of luck to these young designers on their upcoming F1 Model Race Car Competition.



Going Green

The Gil Hill Elementary PTA continues their quest to "Go Green." They have implemented a number of Eco-Friendly programs and projects and continue to publish "Eco Friendly Tips" in their monthly newsletters.

They are sponsoring the following projects and programs:

Abiabi Paper Recycling Program - The recycling container, located on the school's lower parking lot, will be used to collect newspapers, catalogs, magazines, notebooks, folders, office paper, fax paper, and junk mail. Community residents are asked to drop off these recyclable items during after school hours or on the weekend.

TJ Jaguars Totes - The PTA is selling eco-friendly Black and Gold totes. The oversized, reusable, durable bags which sport a "TJ Jaguar Paw" on the front can be used for grocery shopping, business, traveling, or game day necessities.



SchoolDays

• Pleasant Hills Middle School •



Interest Groups

On Wednesday afternoons, the corridors at Pleasant Hills Middle School are abuzz with activity long after the dismissal bell has rung. The middle school students in grades six, seven, and eight, who participate in the after-school Interest Groups, were presented an array of activities and interests from which they could choose.

The following contains a brief description of the 2008-2009 Pleasant Hills Middle School Interest Groups as well as the faculty sponsor:

- **Scrapbooking** (Faculty Sponsor - Mrs. Clark) is ideal for students who enjoy developing their personal Scrapbook. The students' Scrapbooks depict their memories with personal messages and colorful photographs.
- **Puppet Masters** (Faculty Sponsor - Mrs. Watson) is ideal for students who have an interest in developing fluency, drama, craftsmanship, and confidence as young actors. The students chose two stories to read and crafted creative puppets to artistically interpret the stories. The students will perform their original Puppet Shows at the Pleasant Hills and Jefferson Hills Library.
- **Chess Club** (Faculty Sponsor - Mr. Maza) is ideal for students who have a basic knowledge of chess, and who want to develop their strategic game-playing skills.
- **Academic Games** (Faculty Sponsor - Ms. Mackallia) is ideal for students who enjoy games, which present a challenge. A fun, new game is featured each week.
- **Strategy Games** (Faculty Sponsor - Mr. Husik) is ideal for students who focus on playing point-driven, partner based, strategy card games. A new card game, such as Bridge or Euchre, is introduced weekly.

- **A Film Approach to History** (Faculty Sponsors - Mr. Kerr and Mr. Lytle) is ideal for students who want to view videos and films depicting interesting periods in history.
- **Board Games** (Faculty Sponsor - Mrs. Prali) is ideal for students who wish to draw conclusions, evaluate information, and strategically think, while playing popular board games such as Monopoly and Scrabble.



- **The Halo-Hoop Group and Extreme Intramurals** (Faculty Sponsors - Mr. Shoddy and Mrs. Perry) is ideal for students who want to participate in healthy activities and games such as Flag Football, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, and Kick-Ball.



- **Extreme Mural Project** (Faculty Sponsor - Mr. Parangolis) is ideal for students who are artistic, creative, talented, and dedicated to design, to develop, and paint a wall size mural in the middle school cafeteria. The mural will soon be unveiled to the students, faculty, and community residents.





SchoolDays

• Thomas Jefferson High School •

Annual Science Fair

Thomas Jefferson High School Science Department Chairman, Kathy Hanson and Science Teacher, Heidi Karcher, along with members of the TJ Science Club organized the Sixth Annual "Science is Fantastic" Science Fair at *McClellan Elementary*. The event was made possible through the efforts of the members of the Science Club, who worked the concession stand during sporting events.

The Science Fair provided the elementary students an array of scientific knowledge meshed with fun. The mini-experiments, such as "Stick Icky, Spinning Spool, Swinging Wonder, Racing Down the Ramp, Sound Waves, No Bonus About It, Biome, Magic Writing, Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, and Rainbow Effect," which explored velocity and acceleration, Newton's 3rd Law of Motion, chromatography, chemical reactions, frequencies of sound, and concave, convex, and plane mirrors were conducted at each of the stations. Under the instruction and guidance of the Science Club members, the students also received printed directions for duplicating the experiments at home.

Members of the *McClellan Elementary* PTA also volunteered their time and scientific savvy, which contributed to the success of this innovative inter-district educational project.

Kudos to Ms. Hannon, Ms. Karcher, and the members of the Thomas Jefferson High School Science Club, who expertly demonstrated their scientific knowledge and encouraged the young scientists to explore their quest for knowledge.





SchoolDays

• Thomas Jefferson High School •

Future Business Leaders

The following members of the *Thomas Jefferson High School Future Business Leaders of America* (FBLA) competed in the 2009 Regional Leadership Conference. FBLA is a professional organization for students inclined toward business and business-related careers. FBLA Conferences and Seminars are designed to promote the development of business leadership skills. More than 300 students from eight local school districts competed in the conference challenge to ascertain their knowledge of Accounting, Business Calculations, Business Law, Marketing, Networking Design, Entrepreneurship, Management Decision Making, Business Math, and Business Procedures.

The business savvy students utilized various research methods to prepare for this competition and were evaluated on their presented projects, written exams, objective tests, and timed orations.

Based upon their success at the 2009 Regional Leadership Conference, contending students who placed first, second, and third, will compete in the 2009 State Leadership Conference. More than 3200 students from across Pennsylvania will be represented at this annual challenge.

Congratulations to:

- Senior **Matthew Finnegan** Placed Second in Accounting I
- Senior **Julia Hofmeister** Placed Second in Accounting II
- Seniors **Brooke Gawlas** and **Cassy Martin** Placed First in Banking and Financial Systems
- Senior **Brimany Kundrat** Placed Second in Business Calculations
- Senior **Ashley Veith** Placed Third in Business Calculations
- Junior **Zachary Virgin** Placed Third in Business Communications
- Junior **Kelly Yelenic** Placed Third in Business Law
- Sophomore **Alexander Davin** Placed Third in Business Math
- Senior **Chelsea Haywiser** Placed First in Business Procedures
- Sophomores **Mazwell Marcucci** Placed First in Marketing
- Senior **David Geary** Placed Second in Marketing
- Juniors **James Giannante** and **Sean Ryan**, and Senior **Daniel Virgin** Placed First in Network Design
- Senior **Scott Newman** Placed Second in Personal Finance
- Junior **Nicholas Singer** Placed Second in Sports Management
- And
- Senior **Corey Filippa** Placed First in Technology Concepts.

The Jaguar Den

The students at *Thomas Jefferson High School* have an exciting new venue for purchasing TJ Memorabilia. The **Jaguar Den** opened this school year in its new location at TJ. Formerly known as the **CabbyHole**, the student run store has over the years, generously purchased numerous items to enhance the TJ high school lobby.

The students, who manage and staff the **Jaguar Den**, are enrolled in the updated Business Curriculum, which includes Management and Marketing and Retail Management. Business Education Teacher Christine Bacola and Sherry Metacci have innovatively incorporated real world, hands-on business experience into their classes, affording their students the opportunity to gain valuable entrepreneur experience.

TJHS Medallion

Thomas Jefferson High School teachers created a Thomas Jefferson High School Medallion, which will be displayed in the renovated conference room at Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School. The staff at Steel Center requested each of their home schools design a Medallion to represent their school. Industrial Technology teacher Ken Geantz created the insert for the large medallion on TJ's remarkable CAD Barring Machine. The Medallion insert was designed and painted by Art teachers Natalie Wenzel and Kirk Salopek.



"Stepping Out Program"

Attorney **Jill Albrecht** was the featured speaker in Michele Stacovy's Independent Living Consumer Science Class. Jill, "our own TJ Alumni," and member of the Allegheny County Bar Association along with Attorney **Marla Prodey**, presented the "Stepping Out Program"

to the students. The "Stepping Out Program" addresses the legal rights and legal obligations of 18-year-old young adults. Throughout the Program, Jill addressed such legal issues as Bank Loans, Rental Leases, Purchasing a Car, and Consumer Credit.





SchoolDays

• Thomas Jefferson High School •



"The Pajama Game"

Congratulations to Karly Cecomi, Sandy Barker, Julie Kearns, Valerie Sigler, Jim Mirabella, Michele Stoicov, Kirk Salopek and the Cast, Crew, and Orchestra of *Thomas Jefferson High School* for their performance of *The Pajama Game*. The talent of TJ's aspiring actors, who showcased their musical talent and dancing finesse, once again "Brought Down the House."

The students also incorporated community service into their annual production. They sponsored a Pajama Drive to benefit a local women's and children shelter.





STEEL CENTER

AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL



Technical Talents

The following Thomas Jefferson High School students attending Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School recently competed in the National SkillsUSA Competition.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure a skilled trade work force. More than 420 students representing eight local Vocational Technical Schools competed in the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania District 8 Competition.

The competing students were required to demonstrate ability, knowledge, and proficiency of their selected technology or trade before a panel of judges. The panel of judges assessed their competency and expertise. The students who placed first in the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania District 8 Competition competed at the State Level in April and have the opportunity to compete in the National SkillsUSA Competition in June.

Congratulations to:

- Senior **Brandon Lysinger**, Area of Technical Study - Computer Programming and Information - Placed Third in Technical Computer Applications
- Junior **Sean Slampak**, Area of Technical Study - Computer Programming and Information - Placed Third in Web Design
- Senior **Annalise Murch**, Area of Technical Study - Electronics Engineering - Placed First in Electronics Applications
- Senior **Matt Provins**, Area of Technical Study - Retail Food Merchandising and Production - Placed First in Job Skills Demonstration
- Senior **Nicole Szymkiewicz**, Area of Technical Study - Cosmetology - Placed Second in Cosmetology

Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School

The following Thomas Jefferson High School Students were selected to receive the **Extra Effort Award** for their accomplishments at Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School. The recipients of the Extra Effort Award are chosen by their instructors and recognized for their demonstrating outstanding attitude, work ethic, dependability, accurate theory, and consistent attendance.

Congratulations to:

- **Robert Fazio** - Area of Technical Study- Auto Mechanics
- **Nicholas Guert** - Area of Technical Study- Collision Repair and Refinishing
- **Brandon Lysinger** - Area of Technical Study- Computer Information Systems

The following Thomas Jefferson High School students have been selected to receive the **Top of The Shop Award** for their accomplishments at Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School. The recipients of The Shop Award were nominated by their instructors, and have been selected as the top student in overall performance. This award is presented each semester to students who demonstrate proficiency in their course work, consistent attendance, professionalism, and commendable behavior.

Congratulations to:

- **Shawn Martello**, Grade 12, Technology - Computer Information Systems
- **Matthew Provins**, Grade 12, Technology - Retail Food Merchandising and Production
- **Nicole Szymkiewicz**, Grade 12, - Technology - Cosmetology
- **Annalise Murch**, Grade 12,- Technology - Electronics
- **Sean Slampak**, Grade 11, Technology - Computer Programming and Information Technology

Adult Education

Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School is pleased to offer the following courses in their Adult Education Program.

Manicurist Technician

Manicurist Technician is a 220-hour course, which instructs the adult student on Sanitation Technique, Nail Sculpting, Nail Wrapping, and Nail Design in preparation for taking the State License Exam.

Tuition Cost: \$1,950

Ethetics Skin Care

Ethetics Skin Care is a 350-hour course, which instructs the adult student on A Basic Facial, Facial Cleansing, Facial Exfoliating, and Applying a Facial Mask.

Tuition Cost: \$3,100

For additional information please call Dennis McCarthy at 412-469-5200

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Bill Cherpak, Athletic Director

Thomas Jefferson High School Jaguars

Congratulations to all of the Thomas Jefferson High School athletes who participated in Winter Sports.

In recognition of our Thomas Jefferson High School student Varsity Athletes, whose talent, team discipline, team spirit, dedication, and athletic ability contributed to the successful Winter Sports Season. Each of you impressively demonstrated "Jaguar Pride" both in victory and defeat. We are proud of you and your athletic accomplishments.

The 2008-09 Thomas Jefferson High School Winter Varsity Athletic Team Record and Student Athlete Recognition

Girls' Swimming and Diving Team

Qualified for the WPIAL Section V AA

Championships in the:

200 Medley Relay

200 Freestyle Relay

400 Freestyle Relay

Rachel Hill

Qualified for the WPIAL in the:

200 Yard Freestyle

500 Yard Freestyle

400 Yard Freestyle

Haley Sharp

Qualified for the WPIAL in the Relays

Amanda McBee

Qualified for the WPIAL in the Relays

Lydia Sabol

Qualified for the WPIAL in the Relays

Carley Risley

Qualified for the WPIAL in the Relays

Boys' Swimming and Diving Team

Qualified for the WPIAL Section V AA

Championships in the:

200 IM

100 Backstroke

200 Medley Yard Relay

200 Freestyle Relay

400 Freestyle Relay

Zach Virgin

Qualified for the WPIAL in the:

100 Yard Freestyle

200 IM

50 Yard Freestyle

100 Backstroke

Set a new school record in the

100 Meter Backstroke

Zach Solomon

Qualified for the WPIAL in the:

50 Yard Free Style

100 Yard Freestyle

200 Yard Freestyle

500 Yard Freestyle

100 Fly

Bryan Cooley

Qualified for the WPIAL in the:

50 Yard Freestyle

Greg Snyder

Qualified for the WPIAL in the:

50 Yard Freestyle

Drew Gallatin

Qualified for the WPIAL in the Relays

Brett Caponi

Qualified for the WPIAL in the Relays

Girls Varsity Basketball

The Section V AAA Co-Section

Champions

Qualified for the WPIAL Playoffs

Taylor Lotis

All Tournament Team in Shaker Tip Off

Tournament

First Team All Conference AAA

Section V

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Placed First in Section V AAA

Competed in the WPIAL Semi Finals

Tournament

Brock DeCicco

All Star Teams

Jimmy Gianante

All Star Teams

Steve Licht

All Star Teams

Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track and Field

Varsity Wrestling

Placed Fifth in Section II

Patrick Slovonic

Qualified for the WPIAL Playoffs

Placed Second in the Seneca Valley

Tournament

Placed Fourth in the Serbia Tournament

The Thomas Jefferson High School Ice Hockey Club

Dan Joseph

PHIL All Star

AJ Parkinson

PHIL All Star

Robbie Landucci

PHIL All Star Allstate

Chase Lehigh

PHIL All Star



Class Reunions

Thomas Jefferson High School Alumni are pleased to announce the following Class Reunions:

- The Class of 1979 will be hosting their 30 Year Class Reunion on July 25, 2009 at the West Mifflin Holiday Inn. For additional information please contact Joan Clayton Slater at TJ99@comcast.net.
- The Class of 1999 will be hosting their 10 Year Reunion on September 19, 2009 at Dave and Buster's in the Waterfront. For additional information please contact Colleen Voland Kadis at TJ99@comcast.net.
- The Class of 1969 will be hosting their 40 Year Reunion September 4th through 6th. Details of the planned Reunion Events will follow. For additional information please contact Anna Benedetti Lilley at lilleya@comcast.net.
- The Thomas Jefferson High School Alumni And Friends and the Class of 1960 will be coordinating and planning a series of "Alumni Events" throughout the 2009-2010 School Year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the First Graduating Class of Thomas Jefferson High School.

The TJ Alumni and Friends are looking for a representative from each Thomas Jefferson High School Graduating Class to serve on the Anniversary Committee or to be the Designated Class Contact for their fellow graduates. Preliminary plans are being made for a "Dinner in the Cafeteria" followed by a "TJ High School Dance." For additional information, or to register as the Designated Class Contact please contact Anna Benedetti Lilley at: lilleya@comcast.net.

Free Clinics to Help Kids Catch Up on School Vaccinations

Estimated 30,000 Students Countywide May Lack Required Immunizations

The Health Department's regular vaccination clinic at 3441 Forbes Avenue will maintain its normal operating hours and be open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1 to 8 p.m.

Based on a review of school vaccination records, about one in five students or an estimated 30,000 countywide in kindergarten through 12th grade lack documentation for one or more of the newly required vaccinations, which took effect this school year. The new requirements include vaccinations against meningitis, chicken pox, mumps and tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis.

"We commend our schools for already making steady and significant progress in reducing the number of unvaccinated students from an estimated 62,000 last October and about 42,000 as recently as January," said County Health Director Dr. Bruce W. Dixon.

"Thirty-thousand is still a substantial number of unvaccinated students, however, and our free clinics are meant to give them an opportunity to get caught up because some schools may decide to start excluding students who are not completely vaccinated."

While the Health Department has issued a waiver allowing schools to let unvaccinated students finish the current school year, it does not take away their option to exclude such students before the end of the school year if any schools choose to do so.

The waiver is for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year only and does not carry over to the next school year. Schools will be required to exclude students at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year that cannot document compliance with the vaccination requirements, which apply to all public, private, parochial, cyber and home-schooled students in Allegheny County.

H1N1 Update

Symptoms of H1N1, the swine flu in people are similar to those of regular or seasonal flu and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Although winter is over, there is still a low level of seasonal influenza occurring in the state.

There is no vaccine available at this time, but the H1N1 swine flu can be treated with certain antiviral drugs. Persons with H1N1 swine flu are contagious for up to seven days or longer after the onset of illness, so it is important to take the following steps to prevent spreading the virus to others:

- Stay home when you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others;
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues;
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water and getting plenty of rest and exercise; and
- Seek care if you have influenza-like illness.

The CDC is asking that those individuals who have a recent history of travel and experience mild, flu-like symptoms stay home. However, if you feel your symptoms worsen or become severe, call or visit your health care provider.

For more information on Swine Influenza A/H1N1, contact the Department of Health at 1-877-PA-HEALTH or visit www.health.state.pa.us.

Library Events

Jefferson Hills Library

- "Toem and Book Buddies" Create a Spring Flower Pot Thursday May 21st 6pm
- Story Time Age 5 May 20th and 27th at 2pm
- Preschool Ages 4, 5, and 6 stories and songs, May 21st and 28th at 10:30am and 1:30pm
- Book Buddies, Grades 1, 2 and 3, May 21st at 6pm
- Registration will begin for the Summer Reading Program for students in grades 1 through 5 and the Preschool Summer Reading Program for children ages 4, 5, and 6
- Operation Identification sponsored by the Jefferson Hills Police

For additional information or to register for the Library's programs please call the Jefferson Hills Library at 412-655-7741.

Pleasant Hills Library

- "The Walk Wise Program" Tuesdays at 5:30pm and Wednesday at 9am, Registration Required
- Baby Book Nook Infant-2 years each Wednesday at 10:30am
- Tot Time Ages 2-3, each Thursday at 10:30am
- Pre-School Story Time Ages 3-1/2-5 Each Tuesday at 10:30am and 1:30pm
- Adult Book Discussion Group meets the Third Monday of each month beginning at 7pm
- Writer's Group meets the First Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30pm
- Conversation Salon meets the First Friday of the month beginning at 1pm

For additional information or to register for the Library's programs, please call the Pleasant Hills Library at 412-655-2424

West Jefferson Hills Historical Society Meetings

The West Jefferson Hills Historical Society meets monthly in the Community Room of the Jefferson Hills Borough Building at 7pm.

May 27, 2009

Field Trip - Tom Blatchford's Country Store Tour

August 26, 2009

"Changing World of Newspapers"
Presented by Edith Hughes

June 24, 2009

"Memory Boxes: Demonstration and Display"

September 23, 2009

"First Families of West Jefferson Hills"

Presented by Janice Scaup

July 22, 2009

"Reminiscing Pittsburgh Trolleys"
Pittsburgh Trolley Museum

October 28, 2009

Antique Road Show
Pat Golden

The following information appeared in the West Jefferson Hills Historical Society Newsletter July - December 2008

An excerpt from Schools and Education in the West Jefferson Hills School District

An Outline of the School District History

by Joyce Schmidt

- Early education consisted of schoolmasters who came over the mountain to this area.
- Children were taught in homes by schoolmasters whose room and board were deducted from their salary. They were also hired by other families at \$1.50 per student.
- Early schoolmasters were responsible for finding a place to hold school, for providing school supplies, and for cleaning the school.
- Lessons were taught by repetition. Students used a slab of wood and charcoal to write on the board. Slates came into use in 1820. Teachers were scarce and did not stay long in a particular area.
- The first recorded schoolmaster came with the Walker family of Elizabeth. He was twenty-three years old.
- The McGuffey Reader taught patriotism and helped form literary tastes in the United States. Early in the 1800's each state set up a system of free, compulsory, tax-supported schools.
- The first record of public tax showed Jefferson Township receiving \$734 for the year. Teachers were paid \$25 per month and \$10 per month was paid for janitorial services.
- The first area schoolhouse on record was in 1812, a one-log school in Gill Hall.
- West Elizabeth was formed in March of 1848, and in May its first School Board was organized. A temporary school was set up in a building in town. In 1851 a brick structure of four rooms was built and continued to be the only schoolhouse until Lincoln School was constructed. For high school, the West Elizabeth students generally attended Elizabeth High School.
- In 1952 Jefferson Township School District and West Elizabeth School District combined with a new name, the West Jefferson Hills School District.

Education in Our Classrooms (Continued from page 1)

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators present the Keystone Achievement Awards as a public recognition of the dedication and commitment of Pennsylvania educators and students to the shared goal that all students achieve proficiency.

Congratulations to the West Jefferson Hills School District for receiving the Keystone Achievement Awards.

District administrators from *Thomas Jefferson High School, Pleasant Hills Middle School, Gill Hall Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, and McClellan Elementary* were each presented an Achievement Award at the February 2009 School Board Meeting. Students in the West Jefferson Hills School District have exceeded the mathematics and reading standards required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

