

# insight



## Wyomissing Area SCHOOL DISTRICT

David P. Krem, Superintendent

October 2010 | Volume 42, No. 1



## Letter from the Superintendent

Thank you, Wyomissing Area School District, for the warm welcome extended to both my wife and me. Since my start date of July 1, Christine and I have been welcomed into many of your homes and have had the opportunity to speak directly with parents and residents who generously shared their thoughts and experiences. Additionally, I've met many of your elected officials and community leaders who have provided a clear picture of what makes this school system special.

A common thread throughout all of my meetings has been a true pride in the accomplishments of the residents and their children. One gentleman asked me if I knew how lucky I was to be the superintendent of such a wonderfully successful school district. My answer to all of you is yes, and it is with equal pride I take on the challenges that come with the position. Wyomissing isn't easy, nor should it be, as it is this super-



rior mindset driving the community toward excellence.

I am aware of the need to address the continuation of the rich tradition of achievement while searching for answers to concerns such as school funding, student activities, college placement, and alumni relations. It is my hope to be an asset to both the school sys-

tem and the community as a whole. With active parent and community involvement, I feel confident that we will all succeed together.

My office is always open to any member of the community. Please contact me with your concerns or suggestions. I am always willing to listen. Thank you, again.



## Seventh-graders Earn Heraldry Ribbon at Renaissance Faire

Congratulations to the following seventh-grade students in Mrs. Andrea Landrum's Investigative Studies class: Mikayla Ambarian, Jack DiCintio, Madeline Harenza, Jason Kusmierz, Rohan Rai, and Henry Smychynsky. Their terrific design of Wyomissing's coat of arms earned a second-place ribbon in the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire's heraldry competition on Wednesday, October 13, 2010.

Clockwise from left - Jason Kusmierz, Mikayla Ambarian, Rohan Rai, Madeline Harenza, Jack DiCintio, Henry Smychynsky.

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If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this publication, please contact Mr. David P. Krem, superintendent, at 610-374-0739, ext. 1106, or dkrem@wyoarea.org via e-mail.

## WREC Renovations are Shaping Up



**Corbett Babb**  
WREC Principal

Plans continue to move forward for the West Reading Elementary Center (WREC) project. As many of you are aware, the District will be renovating the existing building and replacing modular classrooms with an addition. School will continue as scheduled for students up until the winter break. Work is scheduled to begin with asbestos abatement on January 3, 2011.

### WEST READING ELEMENTARY CENTER

From December 27 through December 31, 2010, classrooms will be moved to alternate locations. Starting January 3, the fifth grade will be housed for the remainder of the school year in the education wing of the St. James Church on Penn Avenue, West Reading. The sixth grade will hold classes in the education wing of the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, near Holy Name High School.

As you can imagine, this is an enormous packing and moving project for the entire WREC faculty and staff. Boxes have already started to be piled into corners, a moving company has been contracted to relocate us and provide temporary storage, teachers have visited their "new" classrooms, and collectively we are all working to ensure that the "WREC Road Show" is a posi-

tive experience for our fifth- and sixth-grade students.

As the remainder of this first semester unfolds, please continue to check the district website for updates. There is a link on the main page – "WREC Project Update." Additionally, a group of dedicated parents have volunteered to participate on the WREC Parent Council for the 2010-11 school year. Their e-mail addresses are listed on the school site under "WREC Parent Council," and they are always a great source of information. I met with them on September 21, and much of our conversation centered on the upcoming move.

Finally, I'd like to extend an early "Thank You!" to all the parents, PTA members, Watchdog Dads, church volunteers, and community members who have already asked how they can help us work through the next several months. It is going to take huge effort from everyone, but I feel strongly that by working together, things are going to turn out just fine. After the completion of the project (hopefully in August 2011), we are going to have a great school building to come back to in West Reading.

**Corbett Babb**  
WREC Principal

## WYO District Embraces Pennies for Peace



Photo by Bill Uhrich, Reading Eagle

Jason Mai, 8, of West Reading, a third-grader at Wyomissing Hills Elementary School, dumps his bag of pennies into the Pennies for Peace jar in the school library. The school's students are collecting the pennies to help fund schools in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

When the wives of General David Petraeus, commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, and Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, read the #1 New York Times bestseller *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, the women told their husbands that they, too, needed to read the book. After doing so, General Petraeus noted that it had three important points:

### WYOMISSING HILLS ELEMENTARY CENTER

- We need to have respect and humility towards the citizens of Afghanistan and Pakistan; we are there to serve and help them.
- We need to listen more.
- We need to build relationships.

Greg Mortenson is now an advisor to both General Petraeus and Mike Mullen, and the book is required reading for senior military commanders. *Three Cups of Tea* tells the story of how, while hiking a mountain in Pakistan, Greg Mortenson became lost and very sick. Nursed back to health by the people of Korphe and touched by their kindness, he promised to repay them by building a

school. Today he has built more than 150 schools and increased the number of students in Pakistan and Afghanistan from 800,000 to 8,000,000. In a part of the world where children have so little access to schools and education, they also have little hope for a bright future. If a child feels his future is hopeless, he is more likely to join any group that will accept him, even one that promotes terrorism. In his book, Mortenson states, "If we try to resolve terrorism with military might and nothing else, then we will be no safer than we were before 9/11. If we truly want a legacy of peace for our children, we need to understand that this is a war that will ultimately be won with books, not with bombs."

Students in the Wyomissing Area School District are joining in Greg Mortenson's effort to bring education to this war-torn section of the world. During the 2010-11 school year, students will be collecting pennies, discussing *Three Cups of Tea*, which has been adapted to a picture book and young readers edition, and studying the cultures of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Additionally, they will be learning the invaluable lesson that they, too, can help change the world one penny at a time.

**Kara Les**  
WHEC School Librarian

# AP Scholars

**AP Scholar:** Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

WYOMISSING AREA  
JR. | SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Dilliane Bonnet  
Maria Candal Tribe  
Francesca Ciatto  
William Conlin  
Joseph Dougherty  
Laura Drebushenko  
Thomas Edelman  
Casey Fromm  
Catherine Geraci  
Austin Helm  
Ren Hernandez  
Meredith Keller  
Alicia Marburger  
Peter McGowan  
Mary Moser  
Colleen O'Rourke  
Haley Petrarca  
Tyler Rank  
Avalon Swindell Jones  
Samuel Tonneslan  
Melanie Witman

**AP Scholar with Honor:**

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Alexa Bickhart  
John Bonino  
Rose Chiango  
Joseph Garapola  
Hannah Geyer  
Ashish Kalani  
Jaclyn Kovach

Ali Malik  
Julia Masano  
Ryan Melcher  
Michael Molinaro  
Chelsea Pellicano  
Anna Pleet  
Caroline Siebens  
Stephanie Wert

**AP Scholar with Distinction:**

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Sanaa Ahmed  
Zeba Ahmed  
Nicholas Anzalone  
Benjamin Bamberger  
Robert Brackbill  
Andrew Daniels  
Hillary Dooley  
Joshua Hamsher  
Daniel Helinek  
Jennifer Helinek  
Keito Hoshitsuki  
Michael Izzo  
Jorja Knauer  
Mark Koslow  
Rachel Koslow  
Katherine Leiby  
Patrick Magrane  
Catherine Mahony  
Laila Muallem  
Erika Rist  
Steven Sacks  
George Sayde  
Natalie Sergi  
Zachary Simon  
Sam Sodomsky  
Matthew Vandenbosch  
Corbin Weaver  
Kay Woodward

**National AP Scholar:** Granted to student in the U.S. who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Sanaa Ahmed  
Zeba Ahmed  
Nicholas Anzalone  
Benjamin Bamberger  
Andrew Daniels  
Rachel Koslow  
Katherine Leiby  
George Sayde  
Natalie Sergi  
Zachary Simon  
Matthew Vandenbosch

## National Merit Scholarship Announces Names of Distinguished Seniors

The Wyomissing Area School District is pleased to announce that twins **Daniel G.** and **Jennifer J. Helinek** have qualified as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Semifinalists are the highest scorers in the 50 states and represent less than one percent of each state's high school seniors.

In addition, **Keito Hoshitsuki**, **Mark D. Koslow**, and **Corbin T. Weaver** achieved "Commended" status, placing them in the top five percent of program participants nationally. Commended students may be considered for corporate or college-sponsored scholarships but do not compete for National Merit Scholarships.

# HOSA National Champion Recognized

Wyomissing Area's own **Bethany Feinauer**, 18, is the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) national champion in interviewing skills. Bethany competed against hundreds of other students this past summer at HOSA's national convention in Orlando. She qualified for the trip by earning third place at the state level competition, held in Lancaster last spring.

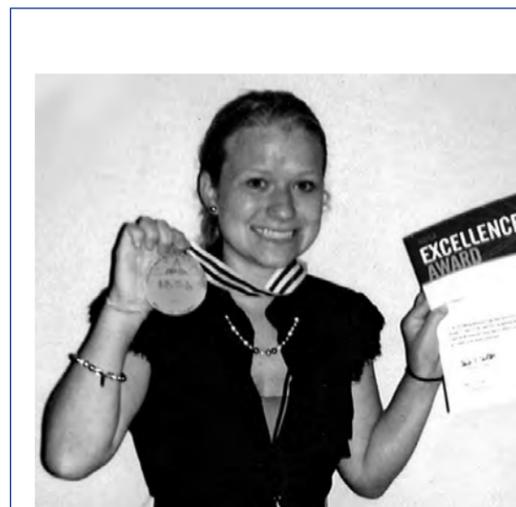
HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in health care fields and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

Bethany is a senior enrolled in the Health-Related Technology

program at the Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC), where she is specializing in physical therapy and massage therapy. Bethany is president of BCTC's East Campus chapter of HOSA and formerly served as parliamentarian for the chapter.

She attends BCTC in the mornings and Wyomissing Area in the afternoons. Her future plans include going to college to study biology and physical therapy. She aspires to owning her own physical therapy practice in Colorado.

Bethany is also very active in the District. She is a student trainer, a writer for the yearbook and school newspaper, and a student tutor. She is active in the environmental club, service club, soup kitchen, and literary maga-



zine. In addition, she has also participated in concert band, concert choir, memory book, track, and cheerleading.

Bethany lives in Wyomissing Hills with her mother, step-father, brother, and pet dog. Congratulations to an outstanding student for a job well done!



# meet our new teachers



## Elementary

**Shauna Eastedt**, long-term substitute RtI coordinator at the West Reading Elementary Center, earned a master of science degree from Walden University and a bachelor's in elementary education with a minor in biology from Rider University. She recently worked as a Summer Safari teacher for the District. Prior to taking time off to raise a family, Shauna worked as a fifth-grade teacher for the Randolph Township Schools in New Jersey. She is substituting for Michelle Kersikoski.

autistic support teacher at Central Dauphin School District. Karen is the recipient of the 2003 John Eshenhour Special Award for service to children with special needs.

**Amanda Myers**, long-term substitute teacher in Grade 4, earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education at Saginaw Valley University with minors in early childhood with ZA Endorsement, social studies, and English. She has held paraprofessional and

**Elizabeth Tollin**, who most recently served as the long-term substitute RtI coordinator at West Reading, will now be teaching Grade 1 at Wyomissing Hills Elementary.

## Secondary

**Ryan McBrearty**, English teacher, graduated summa cum laude from Neumann University with a bachelor of arts degree in English. He completed his student teaching in an integrated literature classroom at Marple Newtown High School.

**Joseph Robinson**, French teacher, earned a bachelor of arts degree in French language and literature/English language and literature from SUNY Stony Brook, and a post-baccalaureate certificate at Kutztown University. He student taught at Reading High School and worked as an assistant to the president of Kutztown University. He is a recipient of the President's Education Award for Academic Excellence, the U.S. Congressional Recognition for Academic Excellence, and the Naomi Stampfer Award. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Pennsylvania State Modern Languages Association, and the Online Translation Forum. He currently holds an emergency certificate from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, pending completion of six months' service with the District, at which time he will receive his Level I Certificate in world languages.

teaching positions in Michigan and Pennsylvania, serving most recently as a long-term substitute teacher for the Schuylkill Valley School District.

**Brittany Robinson**, long-term substitute teacher in Grade 4, graduated in May with a bachelor of science in elementary and kindergarten education from Pennsylvania State University.

She completed her student teaching at Tilden Elementary in the Hamburg Area School District and was recently a substitute in the Exeter Township School District. She is the recipient of the Lance M. Vaccaro Scholarship for Good Character and the Senator O'Pake Good Citizenship Award.

**Sarah Rugg**, kindergarten teacher, received a bachelor of science degree in education from Millersville University and Elementary Education Teaching Certification from Alvernia University. She is currently pursuing her master's at Wilkes University. Since July 2009, Sarah was a grade three/four learning support teacher and RtI-Title I-reading specialist at Cumru Elementary School. From 2006 until 2009, she served as a seventh/eighth grade learning support teacher at Exeter Township Junior High School.

**Teresa Wood**, math teacher, was employed by south Philadelphia High School, where she taught Algebra I, Algebra II, Strategic Math, and Statistics. She earned a bachelor's degree from York College of Pennsylvania and is currently enrolled in the master's program at Walden University.

**Carley Weis**, math teacher, graduated summa cum laude from Kutztown University in 2009 with a bachelor of science degree in education, having majored in mathematics. She taught Algebra I as a long-term substitute at Twin Valley Middle School for the 2009-10 school year.

**Tara Kleckner**, long-term substitute teacher in Grade 3, earned a bachelor of science in sociology from Penn State, a master's in sociology from Lehigh University, and an Elementary Education Certification from Kutztown University. Since 2009, she has been a substitute teacher for the Allentown, Bethlehem, and Parkland school districts.

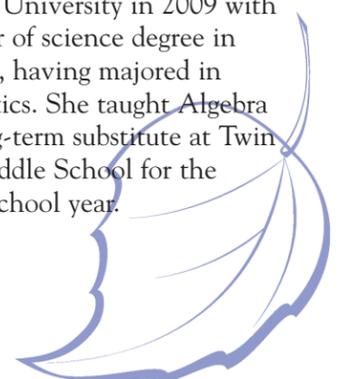
**Shauna Mehlbaum**, elementary learning support teacher at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, earned a master's in special education and a bachelor's in applied developmental psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. She served as a daily substitute for the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Propel Charter Schools.

**Karen Morris**, autistic support teacher at West Reading Elementary Center, earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Kutztown University. She most recently worked as an



Back Row (left to right):  
**Sarah Rugg,**  
**Tara Kleckner,**  
**Shauna Eastedt,**  
**Karen Morris**

Front Row (left to right):  
**Carley Weis,**  
**Brittany Robinson,**  
**Amanda Myers**



# congratulations!

to the following employees who have earned service pins for their ...

## 5 YEARS

Joseph A. Allen  
Keith J. Arnold  
Rita J. Belletti  
Melissa S. Devlin  
Brianna M. Fritz  
Meredith F. Groff  
William M. Harcar  
Michele E. Hatt-Ciemiewicz  
Kelly L. Keim  
Jeremiah N. Kozlowski  
Marci S. Luckenbill-Felty  
Amy L. Lutz  
Barry L. Matz  
Christopher D. Miller  
Holly A. Miller  
Steven M. O'Neil  
Dana M. Quinlivan  
Thomas M. Ritter  
Luci Schaeffer  
Lisa A. Schlappich  
Kathy L. Schweitzer  
John D. Thomas  
Colleen M. Vargo  
Claudia Walters  
Bruce W. Wanzie, Jr.

## 10 YEARS

Patti M. Armstrong  
Matthew Babiarz  
Nancy C. Boyer  
Kim L. Bressler  
Susan E. Derr  
Erika B. Homan  
Danielle L. Metzger  
Nancy J. Murray  
Eve M. Pardo  
Lindsay K. Rada  
Jill K. Robertson  
Richard A. Schlegel  
Michael J. Vecchio  
Arlene K. Wagner

## 15 YEARS

Joseph Ayala  
Cheryl A. Davis  
Mark R. Flannery  
Andrea K. Landrum  
Karen J. Sichak

## 20 YEARS

Dorothy M. Brandt  
Jill H. Heckler  
Sue A. Larkin  
Diane J. Schaeffer

## 25 YEARS

Audrey J. Colapreto  
Kelly A. McClennan



*These 50 staff members represent a combined total of 470 years of service. Thank you for your dedication and for a job well done!*

# parents:

## E-Alert Keeps Families Informed

The Wyomissing Area School District is proud to provide an emergency notification system using phone and e-mail messages. This system enables individuals to receive critical announcements in a timely manner.

To be notified by the e-alert system, register online at <http://alerts.wyoarea.org>. Please call 610-374-0739, ext. 1106 with any questions regarding this service.

## Parent Access 24/7

Parents will be able to access Wyomissing Area School District's online grading and information system. The system, eSchoolbook, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system provides up-to-date information regarding student grades as well as information about transportation, schedules, and attendance.

To register, please visit <http://www.wyoarea.org/enroll>



Dedicated employees (from left to right): Gene Kiwak, Christine Orzechowski, Craig Schwarz

## 2010 retirees recognized

The following dedicated employees retired at the end of the 2009-10 school year. Thank you for your many years of service.

**Gene Kiwak**, custodian, served the students and staff at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center for 17 years.

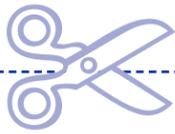
**Melissa Kreps**, secondary guidance counselor, retired after 28 years in education, with 21 of those spent at Wyomissing Area.

**Christine Orzechowski**, secondary English teacher, retired after 38 years in education, with 22 years at Wyomissing Area.

**Diane Schaeffer** served the Wyomissing Area School District for 20 years as the administrative assistant (executive secretary) to the superintendent. During her tenure, the District had six superintendents.

**Craig Schwarz**, copy services coordinator, served the Wyomissing Area School District for a total of 39 years.

*Best wishes for a long, happy, well-deserved retirement.*



clip and save

# Wyomissing Area School District MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Questions may be directed to  
610-374-0739, ext. 1106.

## Committee Certification Results in Discounted Premium Rate

The PA Department of Labor has granted formal certification to the District's Central Safety Committee, resulting in a discounted premium rate for workers' compensation insurance. Formed in November 2009, the committee represents a cross-section of employees and meets monthly to address issues of employee safety. Committee members participate in workplace safety inspections, accident investigations, and Right-to-Know/MSDS monitoring.

Members include Chairperson **Kathleen Garman**, Vice-Chairperson **Diane Kaag**, Committee Secretary **Deborah Mould**, **Craig Fries**, **Jack Kasopsky**, **Robin Kline**, **Bill Lerch**, **Jen Motze**, **Aaron Roberts**, **Rose Sneeringer**, **Barb Troxel**, and **Claudia Walters**.

### November

**5** **Early dismissal K-12**  
JSHS 11:30 a.m.  
WREC 12:00 p.m.  
WHEC 12:30 p.m.

**22** **Elementary conferences**  
No school for K-6 students

**23** **Elementary conferences**  
No school for K-6 students

**24–29** **Thanksgiving vacation**  
Schools closed

### December

**December 24–January 2**  
Winter Holiday  
Schools and offices closed

### January

**17** **Martin Luther King Day**  
Schools and offices closed

**19, 20, 21** **Semester Exams**  
Jr. / Sr. High School  
No early dismissal

**28** **Early dismissal K-12**  
JSHS 11:30 a.m.  
WREC 12:00 p.m.  
WHEC 12:30 p.m.

### February

**21** **Presidents' Day**  
Schools and offices closed  
or snow day make-up

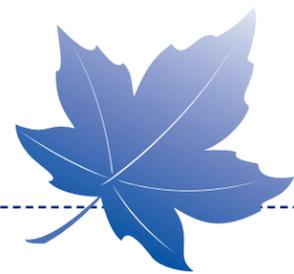
### December Winter Concerts

**Junior High School**  
Tuesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

**Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center**  
Grade 3  
Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
Grade 4  
Thursday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.

**Senior High School**  
Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.  
Jr./St. High School Auditorium

**West Reading Elementary**  
Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium



Wyomissing Area  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
630 Evans Avenue  
Wyomissing PA 19610-2636  
www.wyoarea.org

POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Official publication of the Wyomissing Area School District



October 2010 | Volume 42, No. 1

This newsletter is published for the citizens of the Wyomissing Area School District. We welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this publication, please contact David P. Krem, superintendent, at 610-374-0739, ext. 1106, or dkrem@wyoarea.org via e-mail.

Wyomissing Area School District is an equal opportunity institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

### Board of Directors

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ANNE P. SELTZER

DAVID P. KREM (EX OFFICIO)

### Our Mission:

The Wyomissing Area School District, in partnership with parents and community, is committed to:

- educate all students to their fullest potential
- provide all students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in the 21st century
- encourage all students to be productive, responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

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