

# The Rambler



AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WINDBER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume 3 • Issue 4

Summer 2010

## A Message from the Superintendent

*As many of you know, on Tuesday, May 18, the Windber Area School District Board of Directors voted to raise school taxes for the first time in 25 years. Please know that this decision was not an easy one, and that board members did not rush into making it without carefully considering the outcome their decision would have on our local taxpayers. There are many reasons that the Board felt this decision to be the right one. The main focus of the board is to move forward and become stronger in order to prepare our students for the future. This happens in many ways – from the technology we use to teach our children to the variety of classes we offer our students to keep up with our ever-changing world. We continually look at ways that we as administrators and teachers can be more efficient while enhancing the development of our students and the integrity of our programs. With a decline in our tax base as well as enrollment, the school district receives less support from state and federal funding, thus making a raise in taxes a necessity at this time. For the average tax payer, the increase will add about \$9 to your school taxes in 2011.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 467-5551.*

Sincerely,

Rick Huffman, Superintendent

## Revised Attendance Policy for 2010-2011 School Year

**I**n addition to teaching our students math, science, English and all the academic material that is required of school districts, we hope our students also develop a responsible approach to work habits which carries over to adult life. In order to do this and for each student to achieve his or her best in the classroom, regular school attendance is necessary. School attendance and prompt arrival at school are the responsibilities of students and their parents/guardians. In April, Windber Area School District Board of Directors approved a new attendance policy that will go into effect for the 2010-2011 school year. The following is a brief overview of the new policy. The full policy, in detail, is available on our website [www.windberschools.org](http://www.windberschools.org).

### Legal Absences

The school district knows and understands that illness, injury, and other unexpected circumstances occur requiring a child to miss school. The following are acceptable reasons for school absences: serious illness or death in the immediate family; quarantine; emergency medical or dental attention; absence approved in advance by the principal, such as, college visitations, military recruiting, required court attendance, preplanned educational trips and tours; and authorized religious holidays.

When such circumstances occur, students must have a parent/guardian write an excuse giving the name, date, days of absence, and specific reason before being admitted to classes. Students should submit the excuse to the proper authority in their building.

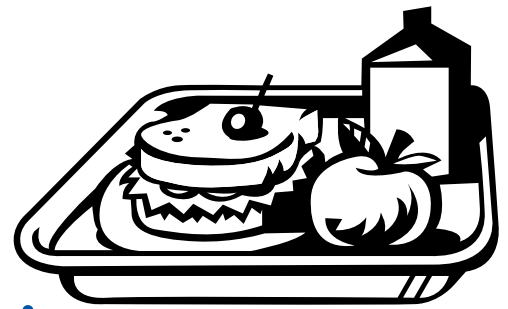
Failure of the parent/guardian to provide a written explanation within three school days of the student's return to school will result in an unlawful or unexcused absence. The fact that a parent/guardian provides an excuse does not in itself qualify the absence as excused. The absence must be for a legal reason. Students should make every effort to request work during their absence. If this is not possible, upon returning to school students should immediately make plans with their teachers to make up all work missed during the absence. Excessive absences shall make a student ineligible for promotion or graduation. All absences shall be counted when determining whether excessive absences exist, including: class absences, tardiness and/or early dismissals.

A written excuse indicating the nature of illness or injury from a parent/guardian will be accepted for absences up to and including 4 consecutive days and/or 10 total days during the school year. After this time, the district will send notification to require parents/guardians to verify any future illness/injury with a specific written excuse from a medical doctor. After 15 days of absence the district will notify parents by certified mail. An excuse/letter may be provided by the student's doctor that states he/she may miss school due to a specific illness and parent/guardian must refer to that specified illness when writing an excuse for each subsequent absence. These absences will then be excused.

*continued on pg.3*

## Across the District

# Cafeteria Food Can Be Healthy and Delicious



**M**any folks tuned in to ABC this spring to watch *Food Revolution* with celebrity Chef Jamie Oliver as he spent three months in Huntington, WV – a city declared one of the unhealthiest cities in America. Oliver was on a mission to change the school lunch program at one local school district to include healthier and more nutritionally sound meal options. The main idea was to keep children healthier and reduce the risk of childhood obesity and related health problems by offering students better choices that included more homemade foods with fresh ingredients, rather than highly processed frozen foods. And, while the battle was not completely won by Oliver, it did promote awareness among students, parents, and school officials of what exactly goes onto those lunch trays 180 days a year.

Throughout Windber Area schools, students are offered many fresh choices for their lunches. Homemade soups, bread, pizza, Stromboli, tacos and salads are among the

top favorites of students, and all are made following the USDA guidelines of what makes up a complete school lunch. And while processed foods are offered in moderation, **Bill Jablon**, Food Services Coordinator, says that Windber Schools offer a good selection of homemade foods as well. "Some schools across the state offer items such as pizza, fries, and burgers each and every day. Most students naturally will take these items if offered. I feel we are more fortunate in serving a variety of foods with the traditional meal plan than serving those items off an a-la-cart line every day."

And let's not forget that like so many things, good nutrition starts at home. "I encourage parents to talk with their children about how to make good choices for their school lunch," says Jablon. "Every day, our dietary staff works diligently to offer a menu that satisfies the USDA guidelines for a traditional school lunch, but we can't make them take it or eat it."

A traditional lunch includes a minimum of 2 ounces of protein; 8 ounces of milk; 2 servings of grain with a choice of regular wheat or whole grain; and a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups combination of fruit and vegetables. Students who don't choose the hot item on the day's menu can choose an alternative which can be a hot or cold sandwich or peanut butter & jelly. All milk served at Windber is 1% milkfat or lower. "Our staff does a great job of offering some of the tastiest and healthiest items while keeping our lunch rates at \$.95, the lowest in the state," adds Jablon.

Parents are reminded that applications are available for free and reduced lunches simply by filling out the form sent home at the beginning of each school year and returning it to the office. "I believe that we have more families who qualify for a free or reduced rate that simply don't fill out the form," says Jablon. For example, a family of four can make up to \$40,793 and still qualify for free or reduced lunch.

## Creative Writing Club's Contests



Eighth graders Stacey Hockensmith, Alexis Graham and Kayla Shaffer.

**T**his year students at Windber Area Middle and High Schools had the opportunity to participate in the Creative Writing Club's first writing contest. Students were introduced to the writing prompts in their English courses and encouraged to participate. In November, students in 11th and 12th grades were given an entry form, writing prompt and scoring rubric. Students were required to write 2000 words. **Genna Walker**, 11th grade, was the first place winner. She was awarded a refurbished laptop by the school district, and **Meghan Askey**, 11th grade, was the runner-up.

In February, 8th grade students participated in the creative writing contest. Students were required to write 1000 words in response to their prompt. **Alexis Graham** was the first place winner in the middle school competition and was awarded a refurbished laptop by the school district. **Kayla Shaffer** and **Stacey Hockensmith** were runners-up in this competition.

# Science Olympiads Bring Home Silver Medals

Both middle and high schoolers were awarded silver medals at this year's Science Olympiad Regional Event held at California University of Pennsylvania on March 24. Windber students competed with 23 other schools in Division B (Middle School) and Division C (High School). The annual event covers all aspects of science and technology and is aligned with the National Standards for Science. Seventh-graders **Alexia Shank** and **Trevor Buchan** took a silver medal in the Solar System event where they completed activities involving the sun, planets, satellites, comets, asteroids, and meteoroids among other space objects. Sibling team **Robyn Weyandt**, senior, and **Harvey Weyandt**, junior, took a silver medal in the Experimental Design event where they designed, conducted, and reported the findings of an experiment on site. Other events that students participated in included bridge building, electric vehicle, and cell biology just to name a few. **Doug Miller**, middle school science teacher and Science Olympiad instructor, emphasized that the success of Science Olympiad is dependent upon the support of the administration, teachers, parents, students, and especially volunteer coaches: **Brett Feather**, parent; **Greg Thomas**, high school science and math teacher; and **Dawn Elchin**, high school physics teacher.

## A Warm Welcome to...



**Randy Gutilla**  
– part time,  
maintenance  
department

**Retraction:** In the Spring 2010 Newsletter, the Forensics article mistakenly listed Sierra Bracken instead of Sierra Buchan. We apologize for the error.

# Attendance Policy *continued*

## Illegal absences

Irregular school attendance results in lowering the level of a student's academic achievement in addition to placing a burden on teachers who attempt to help absentees keep abreast of class work and meet the needs of the other students.

The following is a list of the most common reasons for illegal absences, but it should be noted that any reason NOT listed in the "acceptable absences" section are considered illegal. Oversleeping or missing the school bus; shopping; hunting, fishing, attending ball games or sporting events; birthday or other celebrations; employment; or automobile breakdowns are all considered illegal absences.

A student shall not be granted credit for any semester course if absences from that course total more than 10 periods per semester or more than 20 periods/days for any full-year courses/programs.

In addition, HS students will not receive credit towards graduation for any class(es) from which the student is illegally absent more than three times during a full-year course. The lack of sufficient credits in any particular school year could result in a student being denied promotion to the next grade level or graduation.

## Tardiness

A student is deemed tardy when he/she is late for the beginning of the first scheduled class period of the school day. An unexcused "tardy" to class, and to any consecutive class, shall result in an unexcused class absence being recorded for the class(es) involved. A student who is tardy must submit a written excuse from his/her parent/guardian stating the exact date and reason. Three tardies will be the equivalent of one unexcused absence. Each subsequent tardy after the first three will be recorded as an unexcused absence.

## Educational Family Trips

Parents who are planning to take their child on an educational trip during the time that school is in session may request an excused absence for the student. Consideration of such a request is dependent on these conditions:

- A trip may be considered an educational experience if it broadens the student's understanding of social, cultural or geographic values and concepts. Trips will be limited to 5 school days in any given academic year.
- Students must be present during standardized test dates and high school course final exams. No trips will be approved during this time period or during scheduled days of school preceding Labor Day and the last 10 days of school.
- Requests should be submitted by the parent or guardian 15 school days prior to the student's anticipated absence using the proper form which may be secured from the school principal's office. The student's academic standing and attendance record among other things will be taken into consideration by the principal prior to granting permission for the trip.
- The student is expected to complete all school work that is assigned during the approved absence. Such assignments will be given to the student immediately prior to the absence. It will be the student's responsibility to contact teachers and make up assignments missed.

## SAT Prep Classes Scheduled at Windber

SAT Prep Classes will be offered at Windber Area High School through The Learning Lamp. The course is divided into two sections: Math and Reading/Writing/Essay. Each section is two hours per class and four classes long. Classes will take place on Saturdays, September 4, 11, 18 and 25. Tuition will be based on the number of students enrolled. Class size is limited to 20 students. Call The Learning Lamp at 262-0732 for more information or to register.

# At the High School

## PITT Mobile Science Lab Makes Stop at High School

**O**n Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4, the Pitt Mobile Science Lab visited Windber Area High School as part of the Pitt Outreach Program which gives students an opportunity to complete innovative “hands-on” lab experiments. Senior students in Advanced Biology, Advanced Chemistry, and Advanced Physics participated in inquiry-based lab experiences utilizing two strains of Salmonella bacteria, amoeba species and natural selection concepts. Experiments simulated actual research problems and hypotheses of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh. “This experience allows our students to undertake “real world” science by making them apply the scientific method, scientific notation, analysis and prediction as well as a variety of lab skills that include culturing and plating bacteria, serial dilutions, and the like,” says **Robert Culp**, high school biology teacher.



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### SAT & ACT dates for Fall/Winter 2010

Students planning to take the SAT or ACT tests this fall should note the following dates that tests will be given at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

TEST	DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
SAT	October 9, 2010	September 10, 2010
	November 6, 2010	October 8, 2010
	December 4, 2010	November 5, 2010
ACT	September 11, 2010	August 6, 2010
	October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010
	December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010

### Challenge Program Awards

The Challenge Program motivates students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 by providing financial incentives for success in school. Through local business partnerships, the Johnstown-based program also helps build bridges between high school students and the business community.

#### Most Improved Grades

*Mark Dressick, Lacey Wilson, Kelly Zeglin*

#### Community Service

*Brianne Wagner, Breanna Robinson, Brandon Stevanus*

#### Best Overall GPA

*Stephanie Wilusz, Corrine Gahagen, Jessica Petro*

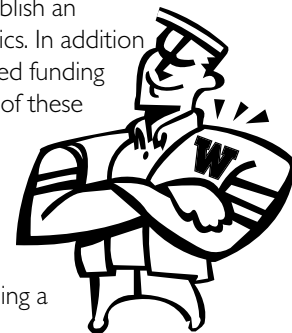
#### Attendance

*Stephanie Wilt, Tori Sterner, Michael Kasuba*

To learn how your child can benefit from the Challenge Program during the 2010-2011 school year, please visit [www.thechallengeprogram.org](http://www.thechallengeprogram.org).

### Windber Rambler Letterman's Club

**T**he Windber Rambler Letterman's Club was organized to establish an endowment for assisting Windber Area School District Athletics. In addition to purchasing equipment for athletics, the club has also provided funding for programs and support that the District is unable to finance. Some of these in recent years have included membership for the tennis team to play and practice at North Fork Country Club over the winter months and purchasing weight room equipment and a stereo system. The Letterman's Club also organizes an annual golf outing that benefits two senior athletes, one male and one female, to receive a \$1000 scholarship for continuing education. For more information on becoming a member of the Windber Rambler Letterman's Club or to make a donation, please contact **Ralph J. DeMarco**, High School Principal, at 467-4567.





# Class of 2010



## Valedictorian

**Jessica Petro**

**GPA:** 101.624

**Future Plans:** University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

**Major:** Marketing and International Business



## Salutatorian

**Joseph Napora**

**GPA:** 100.801

**Future Plans:** University of Pittsburgh

**Major:** Pharmacy

Amanda L. Adamczyk  
 Ashlee S. Alger  
 Levi A. Allison  
 Alexander Ray Ashbrook  
 Kegan Lynn Ashbrook  
 Rebecca Susan Aufman  
 Eric Paul Bahorik  
 Kathleen M. Bango  
 Nicholas Benton  
 Sarah Jane Berkey  
 Sara Marie Bibby  
 Tonya Marie Bibby  
 Susan Lynn Bodziak  
 Maria Kathryn Bonitz  
 Adam Bowers  
 Travis D. Brehm  
 Shane Michael Brummert  
 Alexander M. Bryan  
 David R. Burkett  
 Mathew Vay Christie  
 Samantha Nicole Claar  
 Kyle Clevenger  
 Hailee M. Click  
 Jessica Rose Craig  
 Cory S. D'Agostino  
 Dominick A. DiLoreto  
 Andrew R. Dill  
 Sara Lynn Dressick  
 Derek Delmas Faith  
 Stephany C. Flynn  
 Nathan Franchic  
 Krosby J. E. Geisel  
 Nicholas K. Grumbling  
 Cory Robert Hancock  
 Samantha Rae Heinrich  
 Patrick J. Hoffman  
 Joshua Ryan Hogue  
 Crystal Lena Hollibaugh  
 Jonathan R. Howard  
 Juliann Marie Hudak  
 Steven Michael Hudak  
 Chloe Ruth Huston  
 Michael A. Jacob  
 Michael Francis Kasuba  
 Robert B. Keim  
 Kayla Marie Knipple  
 Lindsai Cora Kotch  
 Rachelle Leah Lint  
 Alexis M. Liska  
 Kody Andrew Lupton  
 Phillip Joseph Marisa  
 Tabbitha Nicole Martin  
 Michael J. Mash  
 Christiana H. Matera  
 Thomas E. Mattis, Jr.  
 Angela N. McAndrews  
 Tamra Christine McCann

Jacklyn L. McDannell  
 Codi N. McDonald  
 Riana Kathleen Metroka  
 Seth C. Michaels  
 Clayton Gerald Mickle  
 Joseph E. Napora  
 Kyle Newman  
 Noah Joseph Ohler  
 Nicole S. Oldham  
 Sarah Jean Oldham  
 Alyssa Ott  
 Benjamin N. Pavlick  
 Michael A. Pekala  
 Jessica Lynn Petro  
 Jolynda Carol Piatek  
 Joshua Anthony Polca  
 Joseph M. Ponczek  
 Jennifer Rose Rasko  
 Christopher Shawn Reed  
 Kara N. Rively  
 Timothy Keller Roddy  
 Chelsea Arminta Romano  
 Richard W. Ross  
 Ambra R. Rowles  
 Kady Marika Ruane  
 Madeline Lou Sambor  
 Britny Nicole Sarver  
 Robert H. Seese  
 Zachary A. Seger  
 John Boyd Shaffer III  
 Chelsey M. Singer  
 Kyle T. Smith, Jr.  
 Eric Soler, Jr.  
 Cody A. Steele  
 Brandon Kyle Stevanus  
 Alyson Susan Strapple  
 Erick R. Strapple  
 Samantha Christine Stull  
 Suzanne Marie Tanking  
 Matthew A. Thomas  
 Maxwell B. Thomassy  
 Megan P. Tricoli  
 Paul D. Turcato  
 Brandon James Ulasky  
 Cameron M. Ursino  
 Victor V. Valchine, III  
 Christopher J. Walerysiak  
 Bethanie L. Weaver  
 Samuel K. Weaver  
 Tyler D. Weaver  
 Robyn Marie Weyandt  
 Pharuehat Wilaisophakun  
 Adam W. Wilusz  
 Bryan J. Wlock  
 Angela M. Zankey  
 Jamie M. Zeglin  
 Kelly Ann Zeglin

# Seniors Receive Scholarships & Awards

**M**ore than 35 Windber Area High School graduates were recognized for their academic, athletic and community service achievements during the annual Honors Night Award Ceremony on May 17 and at the May 27 commencement. Scholarship funding totaled nearly \$40,000, which recipients will use to further their education. Congratulations!

## GRADUATION NIGHT AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Departmental Awards

#### Art

*Sara Jean Oldham*

#### Business Education

*Dominick Anthony DiLoreto*

#### English

*Kathleen Margaret Bango*

#### Foreign Language

*Stephany Catherine Flynn*

#### Mathematics

*Robyn Marie Weyandt*

#### Music

*Michael Alan Pekala*

#### Science

*Jessica Lynn Petro*

#### Social Studies

*Jessica Lynn Petro*

#### Mark Mock Memorial Technology

#### Education Award

*Cory Robert Hancock*

### Scholarship Awards

#### William & Deborah Bahorik Scholarship

*Adam Wilusz*

#### Chapman Engineering Scholarship

*Patrick Hoffman*

#### Dr. J. Allen Figurele Memorial Scholarship

*Seth Michaels*

#### Dr. J. Allen Figurele Memorial Scholarship

*Sara Bibby*

#### Nick Fluder Memorial Scholarship

*Joseph Ponczek*

#### Football Club Scholarship

*Michael Kasuba*

#### Football Club Scholarship

*Paul Turcato*

#### Leah Guarino Memorial Scholarship

*Maria Bonitz*

#### Hayes Memorial Scholarship

*Michael Mash*

#### Hayes Memorial Scholarship

*Tonya Bibby*

#### In-Shore Technology Scholarship

*John Shaffer*

#### Lambert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship

*Michael Pekala*

#### PTO Scholarship

*Samantha Claar*

#### PTO Scholarship

*Crystal Hollibaugh*

#### PTO Scholarship

*Jennifer Rasko*

#### PTO Scholarship

*Chelsea Romano*

#### David J. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship

*Joseph Napora*

#### David J. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship

*Rebecca Auffman*

#### William Sipko Technology Scholarship

*Victor Valchine*

#### Windber Area High School

#### Alumni Scholarship

*Kathleen Bango*

#### Windber Business & Professional

#### Women's Scholarship

*Alyssa Ott*

#### Windber Business & Professional

#### Women's Scholarship

*Bethanie Weaver*

#### Windber Hall of Fame Scholarship

*Cory Hancock*

#### Windber Medical Center Scholarship

*Christopher Walerysiak*

#### Nunzio S. & Flora D. Yocca Scholarship

*Dominick DiLoreto*

### Superintendent's Awards

The Superintendent's Award is presented exclusively to a student who exemplifies outstanding character, leadership, and citizenship towards the school community. This year, we are fortunate to be able to award two Superintendent's Awards. They carry with them the Edna Solomon and Helen Solomon Memorial Scholarships.

#### Superintendent's Award

*Jessica Lynn Petro*

#### Superintendent's Award

*Kathleen Margaret Bango*

## HONORS NIGHT AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### First National Bank Scholarship

*Robert Seese*

*Brandon Stevanus*

#### Windber Band Boosters Indoor

*Lisa Dawn*

#### Shepherd Memorial Scholarship

*Sara Dressick*

#### Windber Band Boosters Spirit & Excellence

#### Marching Band Scholarship

*Stephany Flynn*

#### Windber Area Education Association

#### Scholarship

*Kathleen Bango*

#### Windber Lettermen's Club Scholarships

*Sara Bibby*

*Tonya Bibby*

*Cory Hancock*

#### Windber Lions Club Scholarship

*Juliann Hudak*

#### Windber Rotary Club Scholarship

*Madeline Sambor*

#### Penn Highlands Community College

*Rachelle Lint*

#### Red Cross Blood Drive Scholarship

*Alyson Strapple*

#### Zahorchak Education Endowment Scholarships

*Stephany Flynn*

*Alyssa Ott*

## NOCTI CERTIFICATES

The students on the following list will be receiving the Pennsylvania Skills Certificate signed by Governor Ed Rendell because they have scored in the advanced level on both the written and performance parts of the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) Test. This test is taken in both high schools and postsecondary technical schools throughout the country as an end of program skills evaluation. This PA Skills Certificate tells an employer or admissions officer in a postsecondary program that this student has already mastered basic, proficient and advanced level theory and performance skills. Each and every student should be very proud of this accomplishment.

#### Auto Tech – Auto Technician Exam

*Thomas Mattis*

#### Cosmetology – Cosmetology Exam

*Jessica Craig, Jacklyn McDannell*

#### Protective Services – Protective Services Exam

*Suzanne Tanking, Bryan Wlock*

#### Construction Tech – Building Const.

#### Occupation Exam

*Travis Brehm, Joshua Polca*

#### Advertising & Design

*Mathew Christie*

# At the Middle School

## New Math Program Begins in Fall

**M**iddle school students will begin using a new math curriculum in the fall based on the success of a pilot completed this spring by small groups of students in each grade. The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP) will go into effect for all middle school students at the start of the 2010-2011 school year. The USCMP curriculum emphasizes problem solving, everyday applications, and the use of technology and reading in mathematics, while developing and maintaining basic skills.

"The program is designed to continually build each year, thus teaching more mathematics skills by the time a student graduates than any traditional curriculum," says **Glenn Gaye**, Director of Education. UCSMP also upgrades student achievement in mathematics and increases the number of students who take math beyond algebra and geometry, better preparing students mathematically for life and work throughout the 21st century. "UCSMP

is also flexible in that it allows us to offer the appropriate mathematics classes to students regardless of their grade level," adds Gaye.

In former programs, teachers taught math skills in a specific order from a book. A few examples were done on the board and then students had problems to solve for homework that night. The next day, teachers reviewed the homework and moved on to the next topic. In many cases, a lesson may not be discussed again until the following year. The new UCSMP program will teach in more of a spiral direction by revisiting basic skills and building on them every few weeks. Teachers will become more of a facilitator rather than the dominant person in the classroom. They will emphasize group work and discussion; real-world problem solving activities that engage students' intellects; the use of geometry, statistics and probability in every class; and even writing, which helps students clarify their own thinking.

## Windber to Host IU-8 Summer ATOMS Program

**F**or the second year, Windber Area Middle School will host the IU-8 Summer ATOMS (Advanced Training for Outstanding Mathematics and Science) Scholars Program July 12-16. These enrichment courses offer hands-on, high level, intensive science and mathematics experiences that students typically do not receive in traditional math and science classes. More than 150 students will attend and participate in classes such as DNA of our Lives, Our Wonderful Wetlands, and Nuclear Engineering among others. Students selected to attend were chosen upon completion of a three-part application. For more information on the IU-8 Summer ATOMS Scholars Program, please visit the IU-8 website at [www.iu08.org](http://www.iu08.org).

## Career Fair Gets Students Thinking About the Future

In March, Windber Area Middle School held its annual Career Fair for 8th graders. Prior to the fair, students were asked to research a career that interested them for their English class. During the fair, students had the opportunity to visit with several local citizens working in a variety of careers in the area. Representatives in the fields of education, nursing, occupational and physical therapy, welding and manufacturing, law, and small business among others were available to meet with students and answer questions.

### Summer Library Hours

The Middle and High School Library will be open on the following Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for book check-out and returns:

June 16	July 28
June 23	August 4
June 30	August 11
July 21	August 18



Promotion Ceremony



# At the Elementary School



## Space Day 2010

On Tuesday, May 4, 5th graders at the Elementary School were treated to an "out of this world" assembly! Space Day 2010 is an educational initiative dedicated to the extraordinary achievements, benefits and opportunities in the exploration and use of space. The program was started in 1997 by Lockheed Martin & NASA to encourage students to study math, science, technology and engineering. After watching a short video about the most technologically advanced aircraft in the world, students built their own Alka-Seltzer rockets and launched them outside the building.

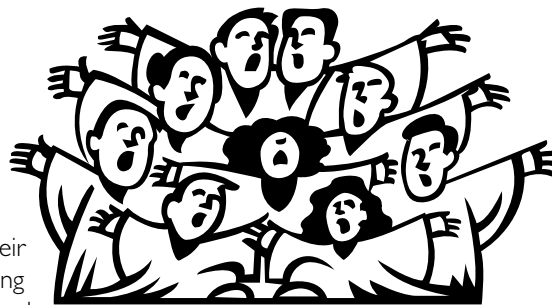
## D.C. Field Trip Includes Stops at Vietnam Memorial

Fourth graders visited Washington D.C. for their annual field trip on Friday, May 21. Prior to their field trip, the family of Major James Crew, a Windber graduate and a soldier that is MIA from the Vietnam War, came to the elementary school to speak to students which include Crew's grandson, **Joey Miller**. Major James Crew's name is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C. Each student wrote a thank you note to Major Crew or another veteran and attached the cards to carnations that were presented during the field trip at the memorial.



## Song Fest Features Outstanding Young Singers

Windber Elementary School hosted Song Fest on Friday, May 7 for over 120 5th grade students from four counties including Bedford, Blair, Cambria and Somerset. Teachers who accompanied their students received valuable in-service training for their music programs. Students rehearsed most of the day in the high school auditorium then performed an evening concert for their family and friends. Fifth graders from Windber Elementary who participated were: **Nathan Sabo, William Fisher, Joe Cominsky, Brandon Stepp, Haley Kabo, Kyra Kozar, Blaire Gillingham, and Samantha Harlin.**

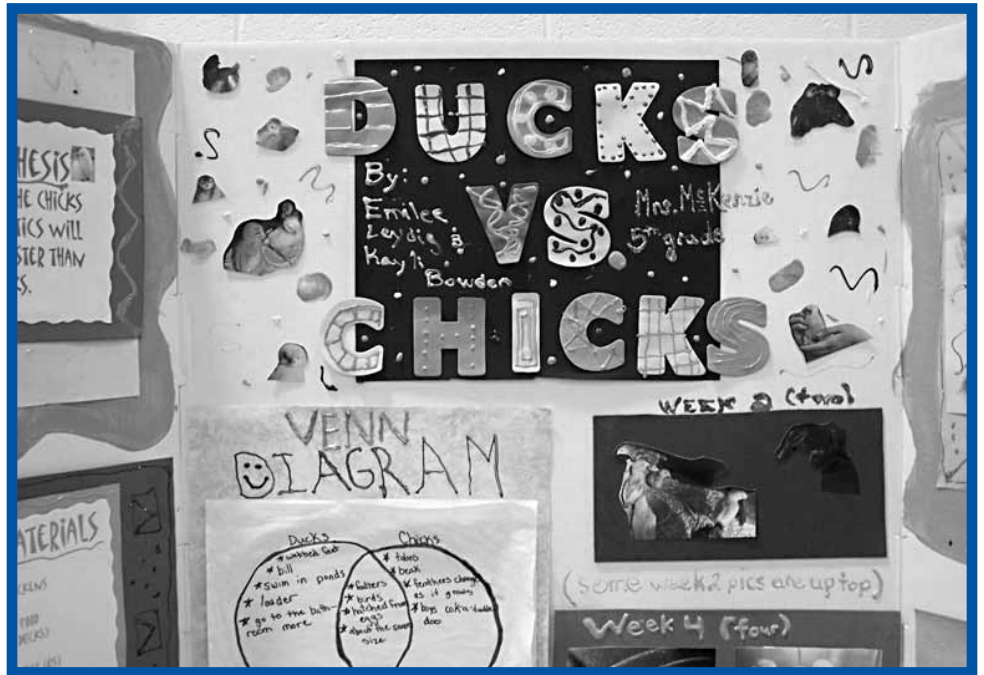


## Playground Hours

Just a reminder that the Elementary School playground is open to the public between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. during the summer when school is not in session.

## Elementary School Summer Library Hours

Encourage a continued love of reading during the summer months with Windber Area Elementary's Summer Reading Program. Parents and students are invited to kickoff their summer reading on June 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Elementary School Library. The library will serve as a hub for relaxing reading, cool activities and making new friends. The Summer Reading Program will conclude on Thursday, July 15. Summer Library Hours Tuesdays – 10 a.m. to Noon and Thursdays – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



## Science Fair

The Eighth Annual Windber Area Elementary Science Fair took place April 28 & 29 in the Elementary School Gym. Students in grades K4 through 5 participated by creating exhibits that coincide with the science curriculum taught through the Harcourt Science Series. Primary grades K4 through 2 developed class projects while intermediate students in grades 3 through 5 developed individual or group projects. This year's exhibits ranged from student chefs with food guide pyramid aprons and solar system projects to replicas of colorful dinosaurs and a few live chicks, ducks and baby quail! **Debra McKenzie**, 5th grade teacher coordinates the fair each year. Her dedication to the Science Fair is greatly appreciated as is the help of **Barbara DiLoreto**, computer teacher, **Sue Bailey**, Kindergarten teacher, and **Krista Britcher**, AmeriCorps volunteer and substitute teacher, who all work hard to make it a successful event. Congratulations to all students on a job well done!



Grade 3 Medieval Festival

## Spring Programs at the Elementary School

Grade 2 Spring musical "Make It Healthy"



## Quick Tips and Tricks to Make Your Computer Work Better

**M**anaging more than 600 computers and laptops within the Windber Area School District is not an easy task. Without continual preventative maintenance on our machines, the district could find itself in a technological meltdown. By constantly installing Microsoft Updates, managing and updating our Anti-Virus software, and following general computer maintenance rules, we are able to keep our computer network running at optimal efficiency. Below are some tips to run on your own home computer when you feel your PC is not operating properly or if it is slow and freezes up while trying to do simple tasks.

### Get rid of clutter

If your laptop or desktop computer has a tendency to freeze or start up slow, here are some tips to help speed it up. Start by paying attention to the most visible items on the screen, the icons. Look at your system tray or taskbar on the bottom right corner. Those small icons represent programs that start up as your computer boots. It takes time for your computer to find the icons for all those shortcuts. You can remove or turn off unnecessary icons, like MSN Messenger, with a right click. You can also use a freeware program called CCleaner (<http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner>) once a month to get rid of clutter and the icons that appear when you start your computer.

### Run Disk Cleanup

If your hard drive is filling up, several utilities can help you remove duplicate or unused files. The first one to try is built right into

Windows. Disk Cleanup, accessible from your Programs menu under Accessories > System Tools > Disk Cleanup (or Start > Run... cleanmgr), will delete, among other things, the contents of your Recycle Bin, old downloads, temp files, unneeded system logs, and dump files, as well as help you remove unused Windows components. If your machine has more than one drive and your System drive (usually C:) is filling up, consider moving some of your data files to your other drives. Do not try to move programs themselves. Programs need to be uninstalled.

### Remove old programs

If you've never used a program that came with your computer or haven't used it in over a year, you may want to consider trashing it. You can't delete a program by trashing its files. In Windows you need to use the Uninstall command (under Programs and Features in the Control Panel) or the uninstall program that comes with your program.

### Defrag your computer

As you work on your computer, information gets stored onto the hard drive in bits and pieces - wherever there is space. To open a certain file, your computer looks for all the components in the various locations. The defrag tool (Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Disk Defragmenter) does its best to reorder your hard drive. Your computer may need to reboot to complete the work, so give yourself some time to run the utility. Defragmenting reassembles and rearranges files that have become scattered across the

drive, ensuring that your computer can get to each file as quickly as possible.

### Protect your computer against spyware

Spyware collects personal information without letting you knowing it or asking for permission. From Web sites you visit to usernames and passwords, spyware can put you and your confidential information at risk. In addition to privacy concerns, spyware can hamper your computer's performance. To combat spyware, you might want to consider updating your anti-virus software weekly and running weekly scans to check for viruses and spyware.

### Keep Windows up-to-date

Windows Update is a service provided by Microsoft that provides updates for the Microsoft Windows operating system and its installed components, including Internet Explorer. An optional feature disables access to Windows Update, enabling instead access to Microsoft Update, an expanded version of the service which provides updates not just for the operating system and Internet Explorer, but also for other Microsoft software running under Windows, such as Microsoft Office, Windows Live applications, and Microsoft Expression Studio. You should check to make sure that you have Windows or Microsoft updates turned on and checked regularly. Security updates or critical updates eliminate vulnerability to known malware and security exploits. Other updates correct errors and enhance functionality. I hope this helps you and your computer run effectively and efficiently.

## Elementary Students Use Technology for Science Fair

Windber Area Elementary students recently presented science curriculum-based projects using technology skills at the Science Fair in April. Students in grades K4-5 completed projects under the guidance of Barb DiLoreto, computer education teacher. Project topics per grade included: K4 - Butterfly Cycle; K5 - Five Senses; Grade 1 - Classification of Animals; Grade 2 - Under the Sea PowerPoint; Grade 3 - Solar System PowerPoint; Grade 4 - Tornado vs. Hurricane PowerPoint; and Grade 5 - Animal PowerPoint. Each class worked diligently for numerous weeks to complete their projects. Technology skills utilized varied from keyboarding and formatting text to insertion of graphics and extensive research.

# Music & the Arts

## High School Art Department Receives Award

Oakbridge Academy of Arts awarded Windber Area High School's Art Department with an Award of Excellence for their commitment in educating creative, talented, and outstanding young artists. The representative from Oakbridge who presented **Kelly Robatin**, HS art teacher, with the award noted that any student from Windber who has ever applied to Oakbridge had a very strong portfolio. This year, three students will be attending Oakbridge after graduation. They are **Angela McAndrews**, **Lindsai Kotch** and **Angie Zankey**. Angie received a scholarship to Oakbridge to study Visual Arts.

## Relaxation Stimulates Creativity for Artists

Twenty-four senior art students attended a workshop at the Windber Medical Center on May 7. Instructed by **Rachel Allen**, a certified music practitioner with the integrative medicine department at Windber Medical Center, the workshop focused on relaxation and meditation techniques that can be used to stimulate creativity for artists. The students learned about guided breathing exercises and labyrinths and how to use them as tools for inspiration.

# Sports & Athletics

The **Softball team** ended up finishing 2nd in District 5, losing in the Championship game. Final record was 11-8. The team finished as Co-Champions in the Lincoln Division of the Somerset County Principals' Association. WestPAC All-Conference selections were **Chloe Huston** and **Kayla Kormanik**.

The **Baseball team's** WestPAC All-Conference selections were **Cameron Ursino** and **Brad Ditzler**.

The **Girls' Varsity Track & Field team** won the WestPAC Conference and Relay Meets this season in addition to finishing as Co-Champions in the Lincoln Division of the Somerset County Principals' Association. The team sent 17 participants on to the District 5 meet on May 19 at Northern Bedford HS including: **Angie Beahr**, **Sara Bibby**, **Tonya Bibby**, **Cheyenne Feathers**, **Hannah Kovach**, **Rachel Lovely**, **Ashley McMullen**, **Hannah Navarro**, **Danielle Nihoff**, **Courtney Petrunak**, **Caitlyn Pingatore**, **Ashley Pipon**, **Laura Reeves**, **Paula Singer**, **Sammi Smith**, **Katie Tokarsky**, and **Nicole Vasas**. WestPAC All-Conference selections were **Sara Bibby**, **Katie Tokarsky** and **Ashlee McMullen**.

The **Boys' Varsity Track & Field team** sent 19 participants on to the District 5 Meet including: **Jeff Borischak**, **Davie Burkett**, **Dominick DiLoreto**, **Kyle Gipe**, **Eric Heinrich**, **Patrick Hoffman**, **Mike Mash**, **Trevor Neri**, **Dylan Pileski**, **Jake Polca**, **Tim Roddy**, **Eric Soler**, **Tyler Shetler**, **Cody Stenger**, **Tim Tallyen**, **Cody Vara**, **Forest Watkins**, **Same Weaver**, and **Chris Walerysiak**. WestPAC All-Conference selections were **Kyle Gipe**, **Mike Mash**, **Sam Weaver**, **Tim Roddy**, **David Burkett**, **Dominick DiLoreto**, and **Forest Watkins**. Finally, **David Burkett** finished 4th in the State in the 300 Hurdles with a time of 39.45 (school record) and **Tim Roddy** finished 10th in the State in the 3200 Meter Run with a time of 9:49.3 (school record).

The following Track and Field athletes qualified for the PIAA State Meet: **Ashlee McMullen**, **Kyle Gipe**, **Mike Mash**, **Same Weaver**, **Tim Roddy**, **David Burkett**, and **Dominick DiLoreto**.

Our **Boys' Junior High Track & Field team** did a tremendous job this season, finishing with a perfect 9-0 meet record.

Seniors who have signed on to play sports at the collegiate level.

**Kegan Ashbrook** - Football (Frostburg State)

**Levi Allison** - Football (Waynesburg)

**Tim Roddy** - Cross Country/Track & Field (Hagerstown Community College)

**Dominick DiLoreto** - Soccer (Bloomsburg)

**Jen Rasko** - Basketball (Fairmont State)

**Beth Weaver** - Basketball (Carlow)

**Alyssa Ott** - Volleyball (Millersville)

**Tonya Bibby** - Soccer (Mount Aloysius)

**Sara Bibby** - Soccer (Mount Aloysius)

## Senior High Art Show

The 4th Annual Senior High Art Show was Monday, May 17. The exhibition features the finest artwork done throughout the school year by students in grades 10 through 12. The show is designed and put together entirely by senior art students. The Planetree Committee at Windber Medical Center selected five works at the Art Show by Windber students to be on display in the hospital's lobby for the next year. Chosen pieces include those by **Eric Bahorik**, **Kady Ruane**, **Ambra Rowles**, **Maria Bonitz**, and **Suzie Bodziak**.

## PIAA Physicals in June

PIAA Physicals will be administered on the dates listed below. All physicals will be given at the high school for students entering grades 7 – 12. The physicals will cost \$10 per athlete. Sports physical forms are available at the high school and online at [www.piaa.org/resources/forms.default.aspx](http://www.piaa.org/resources/forms.default.aspx). For more information, please contact **Joe Gironda**, Athletic Director, at [jgironda@windberschools.org](mailto:jgironda@windberschools.org).

### Tuesday, June 22

JV/Varsity Football – 8 a.m. (Nurse's Office)

### Wednesday, June 23

Junior High Football – 10 a.m.  
(Nurse's Office)

### Tuesday, June 29

JV/Varsity & Junior High Cheerleading – 8 a.m. (HS Cafeteria)

Varsity Cross-Country & Junior High Girls' Basketball - 8:45 a.m. (HS Cafeteria)

Junior High Soccer - 9:15 a.m.  
(HS Cafeteria)

### Wednesday, June 30

Girls' JV/Varsity Soccer & Girls' Varsity Tennis – 8 a.m. (HS Cafeteria)

Girls' JV/Varsity Volleyball & Boys' JV/Varsity Soccer - 8:45 a.m. (HS Cafeteria)

Varsity Golf - 9:15 a.m. (HS Cafeteria)

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# Kudos and Accomplishments



Congratulations to **Eric Bahorik** who will be joining the Air Force Academy upon graduation. Eric is ranked 11th in his graduating class with a GPA of 97.812. Eric plans to study aerospace engineering at the Academy.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Bracken** who participated in the 2010 Outstanding Young Woman Scholarship Program representing Windber Area High School and Somerset County. As First Runner-up, Stephanie received a \$3,000 scholarship and an additional \$200 scholarship for the Aerobics and Fitness Award. Way to go Stephanie!



Juniors **Breanna Robinson**, team captain for Windber High School's Relay for Life Team, Ramblin for a Cure and Hannah Gowaty, team captain for Hope, Cure, Faith, raised over \$9000 for the American Cancer Society. Both teams spearheaded several projects over the course of the year to raise money including: The Big Sister Dress Project, a collection of formal dresses donated by high school girls were sold to middle school girls for their Valentine's Day dance; a FLOCKing of social birds landed at homes and businesses in Windber seeking donations before migrating to the next location; a golf outing at Windber Country Club; and penny wars at schools throughout the district.