



Donegal Directions

A newsletter for the Donegal School District

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INSIDE

- 2 Page Two**
- Top Ten Students Class of 2011
 - What Are Donegal Students Doing
 - Paper Cranes for Japan
 - Donegal Performing Arts
 - Donegal Senior Named Fair Queen

- 3 Page Three**
- Top Ten Students Class of 2011 (continued)
 - Take a Player to School Program
 - Prudential Spirit of Community Awards
 - Free and Reduced Meal Applications
 - Coffee Klatch
 - Alumni Receives Scholarship

- 4 Page Four**
- Maytown School - The Final Bell - Save the Date
 - Unplanned Delays, Early Dismissals, Closings
 - Vacation Planning - 2011-2012
 - Preferred Phone Number

Mentoring Marvel

by Lisa Conner

The Donegal School District thanks Dorothy Helm for serving as a mentor to students in our schools over the past nine years. Dorothy has spent many hours of her time meeting with several of our students helping with schoolwork, talking and playing games. She even attended a field trip to Boston one year and has been a wonderful source of wisdom and advice. She would often bring in healthy snacks for our students as well.



Prior to mentoring at Donegal, Dorothy mentored in the Elizabethtown schools for 12 years. She feels that volunteering is a way to take care of each other and give back in the world.

Dorothy turns 90 years old in January. Thank you, Dorothy, for all that you have done for our students!

If anyone wishes to volunteer in the Donegal Mentoring Program, please contact the school offices for more information.

Superintendent's Message

It is an honor to serve the Donegal School District as Superintendent of Schools. When I think about Donegal, two phrases come to mind: *Donegal pride* and *moving forward*. Our pride is clearly evident, especially in the areas of the arts and athletics. In fact, the often heard expression, *we bleed green*, rings true.

The concept of moving forward connects to both facilities and academics. Our new school will be under roof before the winter months, and we strive toward the goal of all students receiving their education in brick and mortar buildings rather than in temporary modular facilities. Turning to academics, we support increased academic achievement. Solid programs are in place; instructional practices are being refined, and our expectations and adequate yearly progress (AYP) expectations continue to rise.

By working together, home, community, and school, we will move forward in a positive and proud manner.



Susan Ursprung, Ed.D.
Superintendent (Substitute)

Donegal High School Project

by Amy Swartz, PRSBA



The new Donegal High School is taking shape. Most interior and exterior walls are in place and roof decking is being installed. A drive down Anderson Ferry Road provides a glimpse of how the school will look when it is fully complete. Contractors are installing HVAC systems, insulation, conduit, and windows in the building, and the excavators have completed the rough grading and initial coating on the future parking lot. The project remains "on time and on budget" for completion in the late spring of 2012.

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PROJECT FINANCING

Donegal School District recently received an additional grant of \$5,950,000 in interest-free bonds to help finance the Donegal High School project. Combined with the previous grant of \$17,000,000, these grants will reduce the future debt service by several million dollars, allowing us to reallocate resources to address needs in other district facilities.

RENOVATION PROJECTS

The Board and Administration continue to work with the architect to develop specifications to renovate the current Riverview/Middle School complex and the current High School. Renovations will focus on upgrading HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems to increase energy efficiency. Current plans call for bids to be released in late winter.

TOP STUDENTS Class of 2011



Jacob Bear is currently majoring in Bio-psychology at Messiah College and plans to go on to attend medical school to become a Pediatrician. His AP Biology class influenced him to make this career choice.



John Coleman was inspired by his Donegal Performing Arts class to major in Communications, with a focus in broadcasting, at Millersville University. He plans to work in the technical aspects of TV, radio station or theater as a technical director.



Kathryn Ferruzza is attending University of Pittsburgh. She currently has not declared a major.



Jessica Garber is majoring in Bio-psychology at Messiah College and plans to go on to attend medical school to become a Pediatrician. Her AP Biology class influenced her to make this career choice.



Anna Keener was inspired by her family who spent five years in Albania as missionaries. She is serving with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) for the fall and will then attend Eastern Mennonite University to follow God's calling for her life.



Taran King is majoring in engineering at Messiah College with future plans to improve the production and storage of alternative energy. He was influenced to choose this path through his Graduation project, AP Calculus and AP Physics classes.



Emily Neideigh is attending Millersville University majoring in Environmental Biology.

What are Donegal Students Doing?

The Wollman Semester School

by Susan Heydt

While most students returned to school-as-usual last week, 15 adventurous youth, including Lucy Scanlon, from Donegal High School, arrived in Nevada City to spend 16 weeks at The Woolman Semester school.

"An amazing variety of students are represented in The Woolman Semester," says Global Issues and Peace Studies teacher, Emily Zions. "Some students come purely for our rigorous academics, in order to strengthen skills before college. Some are attracted to the beauty of our rural campus, others are curious about community living. Of course, there are also those who are budding or seasoned peace and environmental justice activists, drawn to our uniquely empowering curriculum."

In addition to classes, students make documentary films, grow their own food in the school's CSA garden and orchard, backpack the Yuba River in a week-long wilderness trip, travel to Mexico to study immigration and border issues, and do service projects in the local community with groups such as Habitat for Humanity, the South Yuba River Citizens League, and the Food Bank of Sacramento.

Inquiry, self-reflection, collaboration and hands-on learning take place on multiple levels. The challenge of taking on this work is profoundly empowering as students learn how to effect change and build the leadership skills necessary to implement those actions. Lucy looks forward to returning to Donegal in January and sharing her experiences.



Eagle Scout

by Virginia Kendall

On June 20, 2011, Eddy Kendall achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eddy is a scout in Boy Scout Troop 39, Mount Joy. For his service project, he replaced the roof and repainted a storage shed for Maytown American Legion Post #809. He is currently a 9th grade student at Donegal High School. He is the son of Virginia and Ed Kendall of Marietta.

Paper Cranes for Japan

by Susan Roehm, STRUCTURE teacher

The students of the Donegal School District's STRUCTURE (Students who learn to Trust Reality and Understand Character, Truth, Uniqueness, Respect and Equality) Program folded paper cranes for Japan. STRUCTURE is designed for at-risk youth who struggle with a myriad of personal challenges. Many of these students are impoverished and can ill-afford a monetary donation, but wanted to help those affected by the earthquake and tsunami that swept Japan in March 2011. The concept of folding paper cranes became very therapeutic for my students. We all appreciated being able to reach out to support others in need.



Donegal Performing Arts

will present

A collection of one-act plays interspersed
with instrumental performances

- The Universal Language
- Words, words, words
(the words of David Ives)
- Sure Thing
- Variations on the Death
of Trotsky
- Captive Audience
- Degas C'est Mo

Nov. 18, 19
& 20

Tickets:

\$6 students & senior citizens
\$8 adults



Donegal senior, Danielle Brown, was crowned 2011 Elizabethtown Fair Queen.

Opportunities for DSD Students

Take a Player to School Program

Students and parents in the tri-state area have the opportunity to take part in the Take a Player to School Program!

The Take a Player to School Program is being sponsored by Farmers Insurance as a way to reach out and give back to their local neighborhoods.

Registration will take place between Sept. 5, 2011 and Oct. 30, 2011. The promotion is open to all parents or guardians, who are 18 years of age or older. Register your child online at www.TakeAPlayerToSchool.com, at the Farmers Insurance headquarters in King of Prussia, PA or at the Philadelphia Eagles Broadcast Network Tailgate Row prior to Eagles home games. CBS Sports Marketing will randomly select six winners at the end of the registration period. Wouldn't it be great if a Donegal student won!

2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Prudential recognizes students in middle school and high school who have demonstrated exemplary community service. Awards are sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and are presented annually on the local, state and national level.

Students grades 5-12 complete applications online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or www.nassp.org/spirit by November 1, 2011, then submit to their school principal. Applicants and their parents also must sign the application form's signature page and mail or upload it on the application site.

For complete details, please visit the Prudential Spirit website.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications

by Jeanne Kandra, Food Service Director

Free and reduced meal applications are available in the principal's office or on Donegal's website at www.donegal.k12.pa.us. Hard copies should be completed (one application per family) and returned to school with your child. Applications can also be completed and submitted online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Students who were on the free and reduced meal program last year are automatically on the program this school year up to October 1st. A new application must be completed and turned in by that date or benefits will cease.

Applications are processed in the order in which they are received. Avoid delays in processing by carefully following directions and writing clearly on the form.

All applicants will receive written notice of the outcome of the processing effort. Once approved for meal benefits, you are no longer required to report income changes that might occur through the school year.

Free and reduced meal status of students is strictly confidential. Our computerized cash registers in the cafeteria assure complete anonymity of students' meal status through the use of a personal accounting system. Students who are approved for free or reduced lunches also receive free or reduced breakfast (reduced breakfast is \$0.30 and reduced lunch is \$0.40).

If you have questions about free and reduced meals, contact Donna Sheaffer (492-1223) or Jeanne Kandra (492-1221).

Coffee Klatch

by Susan Ursprung, Ed.D.

You are invited to participate in a coffee klatch, a casual social gathering for coffee and conversation. The coffee klatch will be held on Monday, October 24, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the large group instruction room of the Donegal Springs Elementary School. I hope that you can drop in to chat and enjoy a cup of coffee. If you are able to attend, please call Stephanie McGloshen, 492-1302, or email stephanie.mcgloushen@donegal.k12.pa.us so that we have the appropriate amount of coffee and seats on hand.



TOP STUDENTS Class of 2011



Zachary Rubright is majoring in Bio-Chemistry at Millersville University. Chemistry class and Mr. Dougherty's passionate lectures have helped him choose to one day attend pharmacy school and become a pharmacist or obtain a Masters/PhD in Bio-chemistry and go into research.



Carissa Sherer is currently serving with Youth Evangelism Service (Y.E.S.) and plans to one day be a nurse.



Hannah Weyland was inspired by Miss Speer (Spanish IV teacher), who made her fall in love with the language and culture. She is majoring in Spanish and International Business as well as playing women's soccer at Messiah College. She plans to enter the marketing field hopefully overseas in a Spanish speaking country.

ALUMNI NEWS



Chamber President George Zook, left, and member Jan Johnson, congratulate Ben.

Mount Joy Chamber Scholarship Recipient

by Penny Andrick

Benjamin Andrick, of Mount Joy, was recently selected as the recipient of the first annual scholarship awarded by the Mount Joy Chamber of Commerce. Ben will be a 3rd year pharmacy student at the Mylan School of Pharmacy at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh during the fall 2011 semester. Ben is a 2009 graduate of Donegal High School.

FYI

Unplanned delays, early dismissals and closings

The district will again utilize its automated information notification system (Alert Now) to inform parents/guard-

ians about unplanned delays, early dismissals and closings. In the event of a delay or closing, families will receive a telephone call. For unplanned early dismissals only, the call will go simultaneously to five telephone numbers that are listed for each student (home number as well as both parents'/guardians' cell and work numbers). School status information will only be announced on WGAL TV (link on the district website). Please promptly notify the building office of contact information changes.

Vacation planning for 2011-2012

Families with children who are in grades 3-8 and 11 are asked to avoid family trips between March and April, 2012 (exact testing dates are on the district calendar). During this time period, students are scheduled to participate in the state-mandated PSSA reading, writing, science and math tests. It is important that each child participates in these assessments as results are used for monitoring student progress and for selecting appropriate instruction for students at each grade level.

Donegal Directions

Donegal School District
1051 Koser Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

www.donegal.k12.pa.us

Susan Ursprung, Ed.D., Superintendent
Administrative Office - 653-1447

Maytown School: The Final Bell ~ Save the Date!

by Linda Good

Plans are underway for a special celebration to commemorate the closing of the Maytown School buildings at the end of this school year. This celebration will take place during Memorial Day weekend, May 26, 27, and 28, 2012.

A committee has been formed of members from the community who have a wide variety of connections to the school. Maytown School has been in continuous operation for over 150 years and is the site of many fond memories for students, former students and teachers.

If you have a special Maytown memory that you would be willing to share with the committee, please contact the Maytown Elementary School office. Special activities are being planned for the entire weekend and they promise to be interesting to people of all ages. Watch the local newspapers for more information.

Please save the date and plan to be a part of this unique celebration!

**Preferred Phone Number**

by Susan Ursprung, Ed.D.

Parents/Guardians: Does the school have your preferred phone number listed as the initial point of contact? Any changes should be shared with the secretary of your child's school. This is especially important in emergency situations such as we experienced a few weeks back when school was closed early due to the effects of Tropical Storm Lee. When some bus drivers were unable to cross flooded roads, they correctly returned the students to district buildings. District personnel followed an established reunification process, making sure that our students were safely reconnected to the appropriate adults. As part of the process, we compare student information with a photo identification supplied by the adult. Thank you for working with us during our most recent event and for your continued cooperation and understanding as we work to make the process even smoother.

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