

June 2009

Muhlenberg School District • Laureldale, Pennsylvania

Honor graduates

Congratulations to the 2009 Honor Graduates!

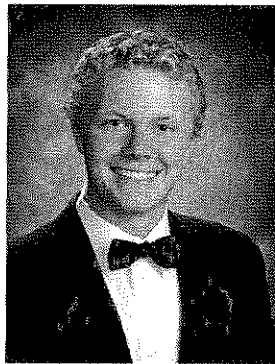
Sarah Garner is the daughter of David and Lisa Garner. She has one brother, Tyler, who will be a junior at Penn State University, and one sister, Rachel, who will be a sophomore at Muhlenberg High School. She has been accepted into the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia for the Fall semester of 2009 to begin her studies in Pharmacy.

Jonathan Michael Steiner is the son of Jack R. and Lori L. Steiner. He will be attending the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, majoring in mechanical engineering. Jonathan has two brothers Justin T. who is employed by Jack Steiner Plumbing, and attending Berks Career & Technology Center for his plumbing apprenticeship, and Jack D., who graduated from Kutztown University with a Bachelors Degree in Music Performance and is attending University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he is in his first year of a graduate assistant program for music performance.

Nancy Suarez is the daughter of Ana Hernandez. She has a younger sister in the high school and an older brother in college. Nancy is planning on attending Muhlenberg College in the fall and majoring in chemistry. Her future goal is to become a pediatrician.



Sarah Garner



Jonathan Steiner



Nancy Suarez

A blast from the past: Teacher mailing “time capsules” prepared by class of 2004

A letter from Mrs. Goeltz:

Think back to all the hype when the year 1999 became the year 2000. It wasn't the actual end of the millennium, but it sure felt like it! (Remember the Y2K bug?) If you were a student in one of my eighth grade English classes during the 1999-2000 school year, you created a personal time capsule to commemorate the transition to the year 2000. And now, ten years later, it's time to open them up!

Background: The project started out as a simple writing prompt in which I asked my students to write a letter to themselves about where they hoped to be and what they hoped to be doing in 10 years. The students thought it would be interesting to actually read these letters ten years in the future but they were confident in their ability to lose the letters or to forget about them during the intervening years. I suggested that the students turn in a self-addressed stamped envelope, and I promised to mail the letters in 10 years. It was then that the project took on a life of its own. Students began asking if they could include pictures, newspaper articles and other mementos. As word spread about the project, other students stopped by the classroom and asked to slip notes into their sibling's or friend's envelopes. Some parents also sent along their own letters to be added to the envelopes.

Now, after 10 years of carefully guarding these time capsule treasures, I am ready to send them out! If you – or your child – participated in this project, please watch the mail in the next few weeks.

If you have had a change of address, please let Mrs. Goeltz know. For project and contact information, log on to her teacher page at the Middle School on the district website [need the actual address] and click on the 1999 Time Capsule tab.

**Muhlenberg High School
Hall of Fame
Official Nomination**

Circle Category of Nominee Athletic Scholastic Career
(please print or type all information)

Name _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

High School _____ Year of Graduation _____

Please list in detail seven special awards or accomplishments by the nominee. Further explanation or resume may be attached.

This nomination submitted by:

Name _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please complete and return this form by June 15, 2009
Muhlenberg High School
Attention: Kerry Ciatto
Sharp Avenue and Frances Street
Laureldale, PA 19605

Muhlenberg High School Hall of Fame

The annual Muhlenberg High School Hall of Fame will be honoring another class of inductees on Friday, November 27, 2009, at the Riveredge Hotel and Banquet facility.

In order to have an outstanding cross section of Muhlenberg's finest, the Hall of Fame committee needs your help.

Structure

The Hall of Fame is divided into three categories: Athletic, Scholastic and Career. The Athletic will be open to athletes, coaches, administrators and others. The Scholastic will be open to those who have excelled in academics, in the arts or in the vocational area. The Career will be open to those who have excelled in the area of service or those who have achieved noteworthy accomplishments or prominence.

Qualifications

Individuals will be considered as nominees for the Hall of Fame only after five years have passed since their graduation from high school or the termination of their coaching or employment with the Muhlenberg School District.

• ATHLETIC:

Athlete – An athlete who has achieved recognition at the national, state or district level; or who has won a championship at the national, state or district level; or who has been a dominant athlete during his/her period of competition. A Muhlenberg graduate who has achieved intercollegiate or national prominence in athletics.

Coach/Administrator – A former coach or administrator who contributed immeasurably to the Muhlenberg School District athletic program.

Other – An individual who has contributed immeasurably to the Muhlenberg School District athletic program. This person need not be a Muhlenberg graduate or resident.

• SCHOLASTIC

Any Muhlenberg graduate who has contributed to the pride of the school through his/her achievements of high honors in the areas of academic, vocational, art or music and has continued to achieve honor or recognition through postsecondary institutions or his/her vocation.

• CAREER

Any person who has been distinguished in a postsecondary achievement or who has contributed immeasurably to the Muhlenberg School District through his/her contribution or act of altruism.

Nomination Process

Individuals may be nominated by themselves, by a Muhlenberg graduate, by a resident of the community or by a member of the Hall of Fame Governing Committee.

Selection Process

Nominees will be considered by the Hall of Fame Committee only after the above described nomination process has been followed. Committee members will determine the procedures for selection, as well as the number of selections to be made, based on the number of nominations being considered for each of the three branches.

Please use the nomination form at left.

www.muhlenbergtwp.com

Muhlenberg School District 2009 summer aquatics program

Registration for all Summer classes will be held Thursday May 28 from 6-8 pm in the Pool Lobby at the High School. You may register for classes AFTER these dates by phone as long as spaces are still available; some classes fill quickly so don't wait too long to sign up. All activities require a

District NEWS

minimum number of participants in order for them to run.

REGISTRATION: Please bring identification of District Residency. There is an additional \$5 fee for Non-Residents interested in any classes except Recreational Swimming, which is only offered to residents of the Muhlenberg School District.

All fees are non-refundable unless classes are cancelled!

Payment: All checks must be made out to Muhlenberg School District

Swimming Lessons

There will be "Two" three-week sessions to choose from:

- June 23 to July 9
- July 14 to July 30

**Class size is limited to 5 students per instructor to ensure a positive learning environment for your child.

Classes held Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday for three weeks from 5:30-6 pm or 6:10-6:40 pm.

The first night of each session children that don't know their level will be tested so they are in their appropriate levels.

There are a limited number of spaces available; classes are filled on a first-come/first-served basis.

COST: \$40 per session

Parent/Tot Swim Classes

June 23 to July 23

Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:45-5:15 pm

This class will be available for children 6 months to 4 years old. Each child must be accompanied in the water by an adult. Basic swim skills and water adaptation will be taught.

COST: \$40

Recreational Swimming

June 15 to August 20

Monday thru Thursday 1-4 pm
(Closed during the day 6/15-6/18)
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
7 -8:30 pm

REC swim is provided for

Muhlenberg School District Residents only of all ages. Proof of residency is required at all Recreational Swims. Memberships will be given to those who wish to join for the session. Otherwise, the cost is on a daily basis. **Children 12 years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult at all times.** Two lanes will be available for those who wish to swim laps. **NO NON-RESIDENT GUESTS**

COST:

Family Membership - \$70
Individual Membership - \$35
Daily - \$3

Competitive Swim Practice

Monday thru Friday 8:30-10:30am-
June 22 thru August 7

(For Advanced Competitive Swimmers Only)

Ages: going to 8th grade thru college

This swim practice is geared for those interested in competing competitively over the summer or for college swimmers staying in shape for the upcoming season.

COST: \$60

Competitive Diving Practice

Monday and Tuesday 11am-12pm
Wednesday and Thursday, 6-7pm
June 17 thru July 30

Ages: All ages

This practice is designed for students who want to learn or improve on their competitive diving skills. Learn new dives while perfecting your skills.

COST: \$40.00

Water Polo

Teams are now forming for the Kingfish Summer League. Grade school children thru college may participate in their respected league. If you are interested in participating, please visit their website at www.kingfishpolo.com for sign ups.

Pool Rentals

The pool is available on most Saturday & Sundays to hold birthday parties and or pool rentals.

COST: \$100 hour

If you have any questions regarding any of our programs please feel free to contact the pool office at 610-921-8078 ext. 4223 or e-mail Mike Stambaugh at stambaughm@mail.muhlsd.berksiu.k12.pa.us

Summer office hours

School offices will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday June 22 through August 14. All offices are closed Fridays. The week of June 29 offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on July 3 for the July 4 holiday. Parents/guardians may register their children directly at the school office for the grade level their children will be attending:

Elementary Center - Grades K through 4

Cole Intermediate School - Grades 5 and 6

Middle School - Grades 7 and 8

High School - Grades 9 through 12

Farewell to retirees

The administration, staff, and students at the Muhlenberg School District bid a fond farewell to the 2008/2009 retirees. Retirement brings the time and freedom to follow your heart and pursue new interests.

Mrs. Laurie Biehl – Business Education Teacher •
Mrs. Raye Watson - Kindergarten Teacher • Mr. John Yocum - Health & Physical Education Teacher • Mrs. Merillene Zodel – Art Teacher

MUHLENBERG HIGH SCHOOL RENAISSANCE PARTNERS

(CONFIRMED AS OF 11-24-08)

1-800-CONTACTS • "3001" The Hair Connection • Aamco Transmissions • Advance Auto Parts • Abt Electronics • Allposters.Com • Amc Entertainment • Amerihost Inn • Amf Bowling Centers • Amf Hiester Lanes • Appleby's • Auntie Anne's Pretzel Perfect • Baymont Inn & Suites • Best Western • Big Boulder & Jack Frost Mountain • Blair's Sweet Spot • Blockbuster Video • Borders • Brookstone • Buca Di Beppo • Burlington Coat Factory • Can Do Karate, Inc • Carnival, The Fun Ships. • Carvel's Ice Cream Store • Carx Auto Service • Ce Gee's Drive In • Checkers • Cinamark • Cindy's Bridal & Tailor Shop • Claire's Accessories • Clarion • Cliffhangers • Cold Stone Creamery • Columbia House Dvd Club • Comfort Inn • Comfort Suites • Country Inns & Suites • Dave's Lawn Care • Days Inn • Deb • Delia's • Del Taco • Dick's Sporting Goods • D.J. Mex • Dunham's Sports • Ebags • Econolodge • Emusic • Esportsonline.Com • Fairground Square Mall • Fantasy Skating Center • Fashion Bug • Finish Line • Florida Vacation Station • Ftd.Com • Foot Locker • Four J's Electronics • F.Y.E. • Garnet Hill • Godfather's Pizza • Goodman Vending Service • Great American Cookies • Dr. Theresa Haught, Superintendent • Hollywood Video • Howard Johnson • Icing By Claire's • Innovative Hair Designs • Jack O'reilly Tuxedos • Junior Women's Club Of Muhlenberg • K-B Toys • Knights Inn • Lane Bryant • Laureldale Garden Club • Lenscrafters • Lindee Gift Baskets & Balloons • Steve Little, World Boxing Champion (Deceased) • Loews Cineplex • L'official Family Hair Care Centers • Mainstay Suites • Maui Wowi • Microplay Video Game Store • Media Play • Meineke Car Care Center • Mhs

Athletic Department • Midas • Monterey Mushrooms, Inc. • Movie Gallery • Mrs. Fields • Muhlenberg Athletic Boosters Club • Muhlenberg Community Partnership • Muhlenberg Pto • New York & Company • One Hour.Photo Labs • Ourhubbub • Overstock.Com • Ozzy's Sports Fun Center • Pearle Vision • Perfume.Com • Personal Creations • Pinnacle Sports • Pizza Como Usa • Pizza Hut • Rodeway Inn • Pollo Loco • Pretzelmaker • Pretzel Time • Quality Inns • Quiznos • Radio Shack • Radisson Hotels & Resorts • Rainbow • Rally's • Ramada • Reading Phillies Baseball • Red Roof Inn • Regal Entertainment Group • Riverview Nursery Garden Center And Floral Shop • Roadway Inn • Sally Beauty Supply • Salon Jp • Mr. Scott Schwenk, Principal • Sleep Inn • The Sharper Image • Sheetz • Shoes.Com • Sketchers • Snapfish • Starbucks Coffee • Suburban • Super 8 Motel • Super Shuttle • Symons Plumbing • Target.Com • Travelodge • United Artists, Inc. • United Artists Theatres • United States Army • Universal Studio • Waldenbooks • Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers • Wetseal • Wingate Inn • World Market • Www.579.Com • Wyndham Hotels & Suites • Yourmusic.Com • Ms. Denise Hasenauer Zielinski, Renaissance Coordinator

Make A Difference In Our Teenager's Lives!

Please Call Denise Hasenauer Zielinski at 610-921-8078 to find out how you can contribute to our nationally known incentive program!

The logo features the word "Wellness" in a large, cursive, grey font. Below it, the letters "TIP" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline. A horizontal line is positioned below the word "Wellness".

Fast school breakfast facts

School breakfast in our district and how it has and will continue to benefit our students and their day.

- School breakfast provides at least one – fourth of the nutrients needed by a growing child.
- Research shows that children have a improved memory, problem – solving skills, verbal fluency and creative abilities.
- Research points to improved class room behavior, with breakfast – eating students being more alert, happier and ready to learn.
- An increase in math test scores is seen in children who eat a good breakfast.

Sources: School Nutrition Association, www.SchoolNutrition.org & The Food Research Council, www.frac.org.

District libraries earn grant

All four district libraries earned the grant award We the People Bookshelf, Picturing America. The award includes a collection of 22 books portraying the history and culture of America. District librarians reviewed the list of titles and developed ideas for lessons and programs that emphasize the diversity of the American experience as represented by the Picturing America books.

To encourage long-term use of the bookshelf, district librarians will make all materials part of their permanent collections. After evaluating the success of the first year's programs, librarians will continue to develop and refine lessons using the books from the We the People bookshelf. The goal will be to reach a greater number of students. Our schools are among four of the 4,000 award winners.

The "Picturing America" Bookshelf features the following books, selected by the NEH in consultation with members of ALA and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the ALA:

- Kindergarten to Grade 3: Walt Whitman: Words for America by Barbara Kerley; Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull; Cosechando esperanza: La historia de César Chávez by Kathleen Krull (translated by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy); The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Sweet Music in Harlem by Debbie Taylor.
- Grades 4 to 6: The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich; American Tall Tales by Mary Pope Osborne; On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck; Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule by Harriette Gillem Robinet; The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe by Roland Smith.
- Grades 7 to 8: The Life and Death of Crazy Horse by Russell Freedman; The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving; La leyenda de Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving (translated by Manuel Broncano); Across America on an Emigrant Train by Jim Murphy; The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain.
- Grades 9 to 12: Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation by Joseph J. Ellis; Restless Spirit: The Life and Work of Dorothea Lange by Elizabeth Partridge; Travels with

Charley in Search of America by John Steinbeck; Viajes con Charley - en busca de América by John Steinbeck (translated by José Manuel Alvarez Flórez); Democracy in America by Alexis de Tocqueville.

• Bonus: Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out by The National Children's Book and Literary Alliance; 1776: The Illustrated Edition by David McCullough.

District NEWS

DEP urges students to stay out of old mines, quarries

As warm weather approaches and students spend more time outdoors, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) warns everyone to stay away from mines and quarries. Active and abandoned mine sites, with their steep cliffs, hidden shaft openings and deep murky waters, appeal to adventure seekers. But they're often deadly.

Pennsylvania has the largest abandoned mine lands problem in the country. Approximately 1 million Pennsylvanians live within one mile of a dangerous, abandoned mine, while active mining operations are found in all but one of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

These sites are often popular for swimming, exploring or off-roading. Each year dozens of people are killed as a result of trespassing at mines and quarries. Since 2000, 31 people have died in mine and quarries in Pennsylvania. Nationwide, 249 people have lost their lives in these dangerous sites. In addition, rescue personnel risk their own lives each time they respond to such an incident.

For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us. Keyword Stay Out Stay Alive.

Alumni NEWS

Chris Zimmerman, class of 2008, completed his freshman year at the University of Pittsburgh in its Honors Program. He has accepted a summer internship/fellowship at the California Institute of Technology. He will be working in their Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory, part of the physics observatory.

Kick BUTTS Day event



Front Row Left to Right: Mrs. Burnham, Advisor, MacKenzie Krott, Devon Noble, President, Sashantaa Mullings, Miki Onwudinjo, Alexander Nunez. Back Row: Chris Krott, Yuliana Cabrera, Linny Gutierrez, Darlene Joseph, Jessica Belizaire, and Luiz Gutierrez.

Muhlenberg's BUSTED! Club participated in a county-wide kickball tournament on Kick Butts Day, an event that empowers youth to speak up and take action against Big Tobacco. Twelve club members and club advisor Beth Burnham participated in the tournament which was held Saturday March 19 at The Boyertown Community Park.

The team came prepared with matching T-shirts and confident attitudes, while finishing the day with a record of two wins and one loss. Other teams participating included two teams from the Reading School District and one from Boyertown High School. In the final game, Muhlenberg was defeated by Boyertown, but the true meaning of the day was not about who won or lost, but why tobacco is something we all need to stand up to. Money was raised for the American Cancer Society and this event will become an annual celebration of our youth's power to fight against tobacco.

Written by Mackenzie Krott

Scholarships awarded

Caitlin DeAngelo and Noel Diem, both seniors both have been selected as winners of the Carpenter Technology Corporation Scholarship.

This award is in conjunction with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Winners of these awards were chosen on the basis of their skills and accomplishments from a pool of candidates who fulfilled the sponsor's criteria and scored high on the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2007.

Poetry Club Trip to Wordstock 2009

The newly established Muhlenberg Poetry Club and some friendly poetry enthusiasts attended the eighth annual "Wordstock" symposium at Wyomissing Jr./Sr. High School on April 17. English teacher and coordinator Mrs. Joan Mathews provided a delicious continental fruit and pastry breakfast for more than 90 students from eight different Berks county high schools, who then convened in the school library for the first session of the day.

Dr. Heather Thomas, a published poet laureate and Kutztown University professor, led a discussion on finding inspiration in everyday images and experiences and listening for the sounds, both inside and out, that we hear when we write. She encouraged the students to write down any

words or phrases that spoke to them as she performed readings from several of her books. In workshop style, the students then used their lists to create found poems or inspire original poetry of their own. The room, literally bursting at the

seams with teenagers, was silent for twenty solid minutes without any prompting, a sea of pens moving at the speed of thought.

The second session involved at least 70 students voluntarily reading a preselected poem out loud in front of the whole group. Our students represented Muhlenberg with energy and eloquence and supported one another uproariously. During the readings, three students from each school were asked to select their favorite poems in about ten creative writing categories and submit those before lunch.

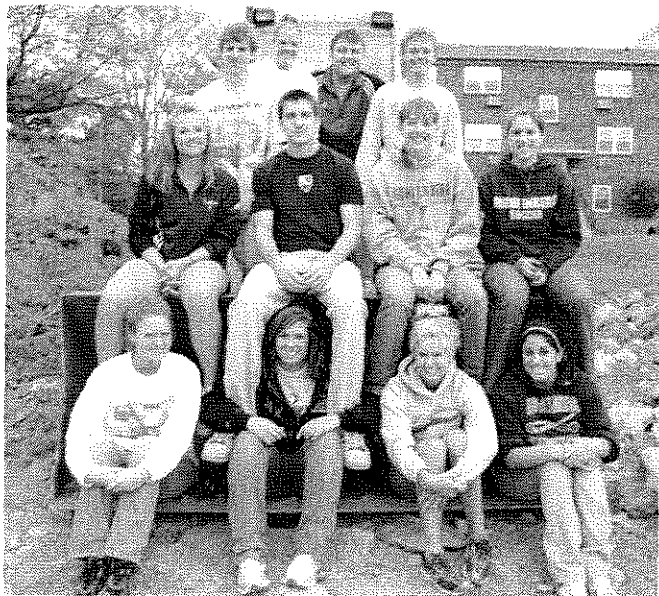
In the afternoon session, Rose Chiango, the Wyomissing student organizer of the event, announced the winners. Muhlenberg's own **Miki Onwudinjo** won in the category of "Best Political Poem" with her piece entitled, "Ism" and **Jackie Burke** won in the category of "Best Nature Poem". They received generous gift cards from local businesses.

The day concluded with an open mic and the students' receiving photocopied anthologies containing two poems (handed in that morning) by every student who attended Wordstock 2009. The day was like none I have had during my career in education. Never have I shared such pride, appreciation, inspiration and unfettered laughter with a group of young adults. The experience was extremely worthwhile, one which I am grateful our administration allowed and funded and one which I hope to repeat in future years.

Written by Jennifer Vroman

Highschool NEWS

National Honor Society volunteers



Front row left to right: Emily Vogel, Devon Moyer, Ashley Bauer, Kelly Geras; Second row: Chelsea Undheim, Nate Daniels, Ellen Polyniak, Kirstie Potteiger; Back row Colin Mengel, Paige Molusky, Neal Fessler, Jon Steiner

Senior National Honor Society Members spent a day volunteering for the Reading Berks Habitat for Humanity. Students spent the day digging 3-and-one-half-foot holes to position four 36-inch sono tubes to support the construction of four town homes in Glenside. Students then had to backfill and level with dirt all areas. National Honor Society annually participates in "Hats on for Habitat" a fundraising event for the Reading Berks Habitat for Humanity and also volunteers to help build houses at their service project for NHS.

Muhlenberg results from Reading-Berks Science and Engineering Fair

Muhlenberg Middle School

Dakota Downing, seventh grade – Champion, 7th grade, all divisions; 1st place, 7th grade, natural science division

Jared Bartholomew, seventh grade – 3rd, 7th grade, natural science division; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award; Penn State Berks Summer Camp

Aubrie Potteiger, seventh grade – 4th place, 7th grade, natural science division

Brianna Hnath, eighth grade – Honorable mention, 8th grade, physical science division; Penn State Berks, En-

Muhlenberg Renaissance activities

The Renaissance Committee held its annual "March Madness Activity Night" on Thursday, March 26 from 7 to 10 pm in the high school. For only \$2, students could play basketball in the gym and bingo and other board games in the cafeteria. Snacks and sodas were provided by the committee members.

Muhlenberg Night at Hoss' restaurant was held Monday, March 30. The restaurant, in Leesport, provided a successful Renaissance fundraiser for the Muhlenberg High School friends and family.

On Thursday, April 23, Muhlenberg High School held its seventh annual Talent Show. **Mackenzie Krott**, Renaissance president, welcomed guests while **Devon Moyer** and **Neal Fessler**, senior Renaissance committee members, served as hosts for the evening presentation which was free and open to the public. Bands, singers, dancers and piano players entertained the crowd.

Participants were **Nick Baziuk**, **Ivette Bruno**, **Mariah Burton**, **Mark Cheeseman**, **Ryan Constein**, **Christian Didyoung**, **Courtney Fichthorn**, **Shelby Foster**, **Jerry Geleff**, **Taylor Haines**, **Ethan Hardy**, **Bobby Hunt**, **Tim**

Kleckner, **Taylor Lawrence**, **Breland Moore**, **Ruby Mora**, **Lisette Negron**, **Elvis Peralta**, **Adam Rudderow**, **Zuleyka Santiago**, **Chad Sharp**, **Nick Shaw**, **Nick Williams** and **Evan Wilson**.

High School NEWS

"It is absolutely amazing to see the amount of talent we have here at Muhlenberg," said Denise R. Zielinski, Renaissance coordinator. "No one would ever know what these students can do without an opportunity like this."

gineering and Technology Program Award; RACC Summer or Saturday College program award; United States Navy and Marine Corps Award

Sean Slater, eighth grade – Berks County Amateur Astronomy Society Award; United States Army Award

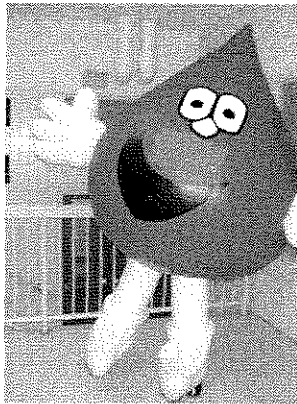
Muhlenberg High School

Alex Quaintance, senior – 3rd place, high school engineering division, Met Ed Award and United States Navy and Marine Corps Award.

MHS hosts annual blood drive

Miller-Keystone blood bank recently held another successful blood drive sponsored by Muhlenberg High School.

This year 33 registered donors participated on April 14 and 36 registered donors participated on April 15. The blood bank collected 24 usable units of blood on both days of the drive. Senior student coordinator **Heather Weidner** did a great job recruiting and signing up donors and helping on the days of the drive. Senior **Joe Plants** played a big part in recruiting donors on March 30 during lunch in the cafeteria by playing the role of "Blood Buddy" in a costume provided by Miller-Keystone to help promote the blood drive. Best of luck to Heather as she was able to apply for scholarship money through the blood bank because of her role as senior student coordinator. Heather was assisted by juniors **Alex Miller** and **Laura Mauroschadt**.



High School NEWS

Art students awarded at juried show

Muhlenberg art students received several honors at the highly competitive juried 2009 County Art Show held at the Goggle Works. **Alison Hangen** won first place in oils and also the Berks County Arts Council Award for best overall piece which included a \$100 cash prize. Alison also won an Honorable Mention in charcoal.

Tyler Seisler won second place for his jewelry design and **Laura Wentzel** won a specialty award of \$40 for her innovative weaving. The award was given by Dr. Ralene Divine, for the student willing to take risks in art.

In addition, **Devon Noble's** oil painting was singled out in the article written by John Fidler in the "Reading Eagle." In Fidler's review of the show, he said:

"You'll see the poignant allure of Devon Noble's oil painting of a child crouched in a field of pale green, his back to the viewer. On his left are five yellow tulips. A brown cap is perched on his head. The colors are soft and enveloping, like the child's curiosity and ours. What is he doing, crouching there? Only the Muhlenberg High School senior knows..."

Bridging the Generation Gap

As the years progress, it seems as though the generations are growing farther and farther apart from each other, and it seems as though people from each generation will not be able to relate to one another.

However, BCTV's show "Bridging the Generation Gap" works to try and correct this problem. The show's goal is to try and bridge the generation gap that has developed over the years in regards to a variety of topics such as politics, moral issues and even simple rules of etiquette.

Muhlenberg High School's seniors have had the privilege to participate in this show on many different occasions over the course of the 2008-2009 school year. Wherever the opportunity arose to participate, the students would quickly accept and work to figure out a topic for that show's discussion. Topics ranged from the 2009 Presidential campaign to the decline of civility in today's society.

The last show in which the students appeared on was aired Friday, April 24 with the featured topic of discussion being crime and punishment. Out of all the topics that students have discussed on the show, this topic was by far their favorite. The students featured on this particular date were **Joana Ciocan, Neal Fessler, Ashley Homan, Kelly Russo, James McCarty, Amanda Sayer** and **Jon Steiner**.

The topic began like any other, but after a few calls from home viewers on punishments such as the death penalty, it turned into an exciting and heated debate.

The students have truly enjoyed the discussions on the show and hope that Muhlenberg will continue its participation in the show once these seniors have graduated.

Student on "The Today Show"

Miki Onwudinjo, a senior at Muhlenberg High School, appeared on "The Today Show" on Monday, April 27 as a recipient of the New York Women in Communications Inc Foundation Scholarship. After the segment on NBC, Miki and the other scholarship winners attended the NY Women in Communications 2009 Matrix Awards Luncheon, hosted by Meredith Vieira. The luncheon honored women in the industry such as S. Epatha Merkerson, Julianne Moore, Joan Ganz Cooney and many others.

FACS apply lessons in classrooms

Middle school students turned a classroom lesson into a real life experience. Eighth graders from Mrs. Williams' Family & Consumer Science class learned it is very important to read to children. It not only helps with their growth, development, and understanding of the world, but it also shows them that someone is willing to take the time to read to them.

The students read books from a variety of multi-cultural folk literature picture books geared toward small children. Folk literature consists of stories that are thousands of years old and passed down from one generation to another. The stories not only provide entertainment, but also teach children about the world around them and how to interact with others.

On May 8, fifty eighth grade students paired up with a partner and assigned to a first, second, third or fourth grade classroom at the elementary center. To extend the story time and interaction among students from two different buildings, an accompanying craft was also presented.

The elementary students thoroughly enjoyed the guest readers and the FACS students were pleasantly surprised by the warm reception they received.

This is the third year to include an extended community lesson in the required eighth grade Family & Consumer Science course, and hopefully it will continue for a long time.

Junior County Music Festival

The Junior County Music Festival was held at Boyertown West Junior High School on Saturday, April 18. The following students represented Muhlenberg:

Orchestra – **Cheyenne Baisch**, eighth grade; **Chorus** – **Erica Ligenza**, **Evan Wilson** and **Drew Leib**, all ninth grade; **Abraham Cruz**, eighth grade; **Jeffrey McNeill** and **Anthony Lattanzio**, seventh grade.

Band – **Alison Weiler**, **Larissa Sweitzer**, **Emily Hall** and **Charlotte Manmiller**, ninth grade; **Sean Slater**, eighth grade; **Katie Cornelius**, **Jeffrey McNeill** and **Sean O'Brien**, seventh grade.

The Middle School Jazz Band performed at the Governor Mifflin Jazz Festival on Saturday, April 25, where they received a rating of "Outstanding." Eighth grade drummer **Joey Russo** also received an award for the outstanding Rhythm section soloist.

Berks County Reading Olympics

The Muhlenberg Middle School Team was among 33 teams from 12 school districts competing at the 11th Annual Berks County Reading Olympics. The event was held at Twin Valley Middle School in April. The team included eighth graders **Carl Williams**, **Kyle Pogue**, **Kate Turner**, **Lynda Selegean**, **Zachary Vicario**, seventh grader **Thu Vo**, and sixth graders **Leah Sweitzer** and **Taylor Koziol**.

The students read many fiction and nonfiction books from the 42-book Reading Olympics list and used their knowledge of setting, plot, and characters to answer questions in three rounds of competition. The Muhlenberg Team complimented each other in team effort by reading different books from the list, by using an internet-based spreadsheet to enter the important information about each book, and then by collaborating during the competition to finish with the second place teams in points scored. Imprinted on the back of their shirts was "We read. We came. We conquered." And that's exactly what they did.



Middle School Reading Olympics Team

Jazz workshop offered

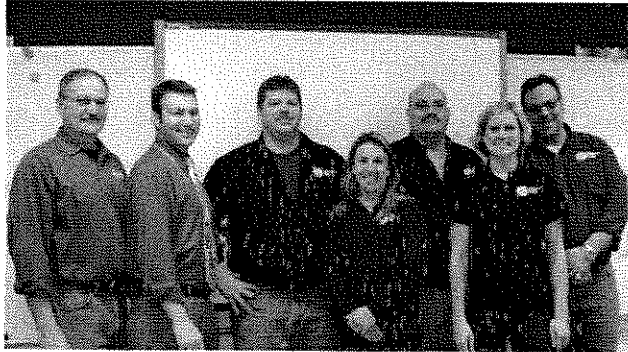
Mr. Mike Eben will once again be running his summer jazz workshop from July 6 through July 17. His jazz sextet, From the Hip, will perform at Gerald Veasley's Jazz Base on Thursday, July 9, and will tie in their performance with the summer jazz program.

Middle School NEWS

Dynegy team up for improvements at C.E. Cole Intermediate School

C.E. Cole School NEWS

Dynegy employees (Ontelaunee Township) recently teamed up to supply Smartboards at the C.E. Cole Intermediate School. The project included purchasing and mounting the Smartboards in classrooms. Smartboards are interactive whiteboards used by teachers within their classroom. By adding more Smartboards to the school's collection, more teachers are able to reach out to all types of students, visually, audibly, and interactively.



The project was made possible through Dynegy's Education and Youth Program, which empowers the company's employees throughout the U.S. to identify and lead volunteer projects benefiting education-related non-profit organizations.

"In this technologically advancing world it is our job as educators to prepare our students to compete in the

ever-changing global world. At Muhlenberg, we pride ourselves on providing an effective education everyday in our classrooms. The use of technology promotes student engagement, a key to academic success and retention of newly acquired information. The two Smart Boards that were purchased through the Education and Youth Program have

found their place in one fifth and one sixth grade classroom. Our school now has a total of 14 Smart Boards! We are very thankful for the donation by Dynegy and the employees who took the time to install the two new Smart Boards in the classrooms" Ryan R. Giffing, Principal.

Dynegy Inc. produces and sells electric energy, capacity, and ancillary services in key U.S. markets.

Muhlenberg first grade celebrates the Magic of Reading!

Muhlenberg Elementary Center's, first grade students participated in a UGI-Reading Is Fundamental (RIF®) Celebration and book distribution in March.

Throughout the day, books were distributed to all of our first grade students. Guest readers visited classrooms to read aloud their favorite stories. Readers included Superintendent Dr. Theresa Haught, Assistant



Elementary NEWS

Superintendent Dr. Vracia Campbell, District Principals, PTO President, and teachers. The day culminated with an appearance of "The Reading Wizard," a life-size, UGI-created character who symbolizes the enjoyment and importance of reading with a read aloud by David Trego, President and CEO of UGI Utilities, Inc.

MISSION

Muhlenberg School District is dedicated to providing a program of educational excellence that enables all students to attain their potential.

SHARED VALUES

- All students have the potential to become responsible citizens in our society.
- The home, school and student have shared responsibility for student achievement.
 - An informed and involved community is essential to the development of strong educational partnerships and quality programs.
- An effective school provides a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment.
 - Embracing diversity and individuality within the context of mutual respect promotes a positive learning environment.
 - Outstanding programs and effective instruction produce academic excellence.
- Participation in extra-curricular activities fosters self-confidence and positive attitudes.
 - Learning opportunities that integrate technology and develop higher level thinking skills empower students to succeed in a global society.
 - High expectations and commitment to continuous improvement are fundamental for high achievement.

VISION STATEMENT

The Muhlenberg School Community will promote academic excellence in a safe and nurturing environment, while celebrating unity, respecting diversity, and empowering all students to become contributing citizens in a global society.

SCHOOL BOARD

Otto W. Voit III, president

Lee R. Reiniger, vice president

K. Scott Long, secretary

Richard E. Hoffmaster, treasurer

Terry L. Heckman, assistant secretary

Cindy L. Mengle

Barbara A. Nagle

Chris W. Okonski

Donald B. Raifsnider Jr.

ADMINISTRATION

Theresa D. Haught, Ed.D., Superintendent

Vlacia Z. Campbell, Ed.D.,
Asst. Superintendent

CALENDAR

June

- 3 Early dismissal, grades 9-12
Baccalaureate HS 7 pm
- 4 Early dismissal, grades 1-12
Last day for students
Graduation, Sovereign Center, 7 pm
- 5 Teacher clerical day
- 6 SAT, TBA
- 10 Music Assoc., HS 7 pm
Committee-of-the-Whole, HS, 7 pm
- 17 School Board meeting, HS, 7 pm
- 19 Last day to make changes to 2009-2010 HS schedules

August

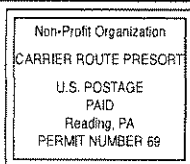
- 26 Teacher Clerical Day
- 27 Teacher In-Service Day
- 31 First Day of School for Students

Heads UP!

Summer Aquatics Schedule page 4

Newsletter Deadline for next newsletter: July 10. Published for citizens of the Muhlenberg School District, **Newsletter** is printed at Key Printing, Reading, Pa. Submit news of school or community interest to Brenda Stein, Newsletter, at return address. Include your name and phone number for verification purposes. Timely articles will be used as space allows. <http://www.muhsdk12.org>

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Resident

It is the policy of the Muhlenberg School District not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, and national origin in its education programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX should be directed to office of the assistant superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Muhlenberg School District, 801 Bellevue Ave., Laureldale, PA 19605, telephone (610) 921-8000, or to the Director of Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, DC.