



East Allegheny School District

Community Connection

FALL / WINTER 2014-2015

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Superintendents Message

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

Even though we had a late start, I have been very pleased with how our year began. The staff worked very hard over the summer to ensure that the buildings were clean and ready for the students.

This year, we reinstated the alternative education classroom at the high school, which will serve students in grades 7-12. We have found that keeping the students in-house better meets their needs. Also reinstated is the full day kindergarten program, housed at Green Valley Primary School. It is the belief of the School Board and Administration that increased efforts to ensure a better early learning environment will help

these students be successful in later years. We continue to support the efforts of the preschool program as a successful feeder program for full day kindergarten. We have also begun a robotics class, taught by Mr. Mark Pogue. It is evident that the students are enjoying this new programming!

The District has added a reading coach and another Title I teacher. Enhancing the reading at the elementary and middle school levels will help with the PSSA and Keystone exams.

We continue to strive each day to ensure that our school buildings are as safe as possible. Our security guards remain diligent in screening the visitors to your child's school.

We hold various drills throughout the school year so that our students and staff are aware of the procedures to follow in any event.

We encourage you to work with your children to support the East Allegheny School District's educational program and look forward to partnering with you to ensure the success of all students.

Roger D'Emidio
Superintendent



East Allegheny Schools

Green Valley Primary School

3290 Crestview Drive
North Versailles, PA 15137

Phone: 412-673-9737

Logan Middle School

1154 Jacks Run Road
North Versailles, PA 15137

Phone: 412-824-6053

East Allegheny High School

1150 Jacks Run Road
North Versailles, PA 15137

Phone: 412-824-9700

"School Board President's Corner"

Our approach to a more effective and quality education is highlighted through the East Allegheny School District Mission which recognizes that each student is unique and that through cooperation with parents, community and school, each student will have educational opportunities to achieve individual success within district fiscal constraints.

The East Allegheny School Board continues to recognize students for their achievements at the monthly meetings. We are encouraged by the number of students who are accomplishing so much.

We believe the East Allegheny School District is making a difference in the lives of many. Thank you for your support in this accomplishment. We welcome your continued and ongoing involvement in building the future through our greatest asset, the children of the communities of East McKeesport, North Versailles, Wall, Wilmerding and Duquesne.

Mrs. Gerri McCullough, President

East Allegheny Board of School Directors

REVISED DISTRICT CALENDAR

2014-2015

NOTES

August 2014						September 2014						October 2014								
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31				T=4						S=5	T=5						S=23	T=23		
November 2014						December 2014						January 2015								
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30		S=17	T=17							S=20	T=20						S=20	T=20		
February 2015						March 2015						April 2015								
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
			S=20	T=20						S=22	T=22						S=22	T=22		
May 2015						June 2015						July 2015								
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15-G	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31		S=20	T=20							S=11	T=15									

- HOLIDAY
- LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HOLIDAYS
- FLEX IN-SERVICE DAY TO BE TAKEN BETWEEN 8/13/14 & 8/27/14
- IN-SERVICE DAY (No school for students)
- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- ACT 80 DAYS (No school for students)
- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL/GRADUATION
- BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY
- KENNYWOOD SCHOOL PICNIC

INTERIM MARKING PERIODS	MARKING PERIODS
1ST PERIOD 10/24/2014	END OF 1ST PD 11/26/2014
2ND PERIOD 1/6/2015	GRADE SHEETS DUE 12/3/2014
3RD PERIOD 3/11/2015	REPORT CARDS ISSUED 12/10/2014
4TH PERIOD 5/13/2015	END OF 2ND PD 2/6/2015
	GRADE SHEETS DUE 2/13/2015
	REPORT CARDS ISSUED 2/20/2015
	END OF 3RD PD 4/10/2015
	GRADE SHEETS DUE 4/17/2015
	REPORT CARDS ISSUED 4/24/2015
	END OF 4TH PD 6/15/2015
	GRADUATION 6/15/2015

8/13/14-8/26/14 - Flex Clerical Days
8/27/14-8/29/14 - In-Service Days
9/1/14 - Labor Day Holiday
9/24/14 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
11/11/14 - Veterans' Day Holiday
11/27/14-11/28/14 - Thanksgiving Break
12/24/14 - 12/26/14 - Christmas Break
1/1/15 - Christmas Break
1/2/15 - SCHOOL RESUMES
1/19/15 - Martin Luther King Day Holiday
5/23/15 - Kennywood Picnic Day
5/25/15 - Memorial Day Holiday
6/5/15 - Baccalaureate Ceremony
6/15/15 - LAST STUDENT DAY/GRADUATION
6/16/15 - 6/19/15 - In-Service Days

SNOW MAKE-UP DAYS
ANY SNOW DAYS WILL BE MADE UP AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. GRADUATION WILL BE CHANGED.

PSSA TEST ADMINISTRATION DATES

English/LA - 4/13-17/2015 (Grades 3-8)
 Math - 4/20-24/2015 (Grades 3-8)
 Science - 4/27/2015-5/1/2015 (Grades 4 & 8 Only)

KEYSTONE EXAMS TESTING WINDOWS

WINTER - Wave 2: January 7-21, 2015 - Alg. I, Bio, Lit
SPRING - May 13-27, 2015 - Alg. I, Bio, Lit
SUMMER - July 27-31, 2015 - Alg. I, Bio, Lit

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HOLIDAYS

11/11/2014
 11/28/2014
 12/24/2014
 12/26/2014
 1/19/2015

GREEN VALLEY

STAR Program at Green Valley

At Green Valley Primary School, STAR is our Character Education Program. STAR stands for: **S**top, **T**hink, **A**ct, **R**eview, and these steps are used in making good choices. We kick-off the school year by explaining STAR and the **Decision Making Process** along with introducing our first theme: “**Be Here/Be a Listener**”. We explain why it is important to be at school and ready to learn.

“STAR Hearts Grow through Imagination” is the **overall** theme for the 2014-2015 school year. During this year’s kick-off assembly in early October, student helpers used their imagination to assemble a life-sized robot that displays our character education words: caring, respect, fairness, honesty, citizenship, responsibility, and confidence. These values are reinforced through all of our themes and during each day’s morning announcements. The morning announcements also encourage the students to use their imaginations and highlight different careers each month that the students can aspire to be when they grow up.

During our “**Be Friendly/Be Polite**” theme, we introduced our Anti-Bullying Program. One of the components of this program is to teach our students how to handle and resolve conflicts by using our “**Work It Out**” strategy. To support our Anti-Bullying Program, I applied for and received a grant from the Marcus L. Ruscitto Charitable Foundation to host a performance of the “Josh and Gab” Show. The Green Valley PTO provided the funds for a second show for our children so only two grades levels attended each performance. This presentation is an interactive musical comedy bullying awareness program, and Josh and Gab were impressed with the responses of our students when dealing with conflict and why it is important to not be a bully. We keep the anti-bullying message alive by incorporating their catchy lyrics and tunes at our STAR Assemblies and sometimes on morning announcements. Our students take an Anti-Bullying Pledge at school, and our parents are given detailed information about the strategies we use and how they can reinforce them at home.

I was thrilled to have the second grade students help present the “**Be Prepared**” theme. By using the tune from Carly Rae Jepsen’s song, Call Me Maybe, they wrote their own words to reflect different ways to be “prepared”. The students did an awesome job, and they are always so excited to perform in front of their peers. Other grades will be presenting and performing at future STAR assemblies.

During the first week of school, each classroom teacher takes their students’ pictures to be displayed on the STAR bulletin board by the office when a student is the STAR of the week. One of the main reasons for our STAR Assemblies is to recognize the students that have been chosen as STAR students for their accomplishments during the theme. Besides being chosen as the STAR of the week, each student can also earn PAWSITIVE Behavior coupons for going above and beyond the normal expectations. During the assemblies, two students from each grade level who have earned PAWs coupons are eligible to receive a prize like a floor size puzzle, football, basketball, or board game just to name a few. Last year, every student that earned a PAWs coupon was eligible to win two Season Passes and a Parking Pass to Sandcastle Waterpark for the 2014 summer season. In addition to the prizes the students earn for being a STAR student and the PAWs prizes, Perfect Attendance certificates are awarded at the end of each grading period to support our “Be Here” theme.

We always teach our students that “**STAR Hearts Give**”. Green Valley students sponsored a food drive in December to collect non-perishable food items for our three local Food Banks: Ma’s Pantry, Community Action Center, and Holy Angels Parish in Wilmerding. As we have done many times in the past, each Food Bank received multiple boxes of food. They are always so appreciative of our donations since the need is always increasing. We will be sponsoring another service project in the spring.

Please stay tuned for more information about our STAR program in the Spring newsletter.

Donna Grzyb
STAR Chairperson

The Students of the Month Program Awards

“Wildcat Behavior”

Students at Logan Middle School are encouraged each month to display positive characteristics through the Students of the Month Program. Each month the teachers and staff focus on a different “Wildcat Behavior” that we would like our students to display on an everyday basis. At the end of each month, two students from each grade level are selected as pillars of this behavior. These students are then awarded with a prize from the school store as well as a certificate. The students’ names are announced during the morning announcements and their pictures are displayed for the month in the showcase near the library. The monthly themes are:

September-Positive Wildcat Behavior
October- Positive Wildcat Attitude
November- Wildcat Participation
December-Improving Grades-Like a Wildcat
January-Wildcat Citizenship
February- Wildcat Responsibility
March- Good Wildcat Character
April- The Respectful Wildcat
May/June- Good Wildcat Attendance



Pictured above from left to right: Nate Alexander, Jodi Norman, Kayla Shearer, Omari Austin, Emily Johnson, Aidan Foscoe and Marleigh Johnson

ESL Night

The East Allegheny English as a Second Language Department held its first ESL Community night for the 2014-2015 school year at East Allegheny Family Center in Wilmerding on December 11th, 2014. The event was open to the entire community and Mr. Lorenzo, the ESL teacher, was pleased with the attendance of almost all ESL students from EA. In addition, parents, siblings, extended family, friends, and community members came to the event. It featured pizza, refreshments, and educational games. Students had a good time practicing their speaking, listening, reading and writing in English while playing games like Scattogories, Guess Who, Grammar Quest, Gold Rush (Synonyms and Antonyms), and charades. They were even able to use their language to help them interact socially in English. All in all, it was both a fun and educational night.

“The Cat Shack” Opens

Students have been busy filling the shelves of Logan Middle School’s school store with notebooks, binders, pencils and more to get ready for its first full year of operation. The Cat Shack is staffed by 7th and 8th grade students under the guidance of Mrs. Carlson, Logan’s Library Media Specialist. Following an application process, which includes an essay and teacher recommendation sections, students are interviewed by a team of teachers to fill several positions including a store manager, an accountant, advertisers, inventory clerks and cashiers. The Cat Shack” gives students the opportunity to learn real-life skills that go beyond what they are learning in the classrooms. The store is open Monday-Thursday during homeroom.



LOGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

School Safety

The East Allegheny School District continues to promote school safety on a district wide basis. We are actively working in a number of areas to institute measures that will keep our children and staff safe. We have started a safety link on the district website which provides information on various safety topics. We hope you will visit the site on a monthly basis to stay abreast of our efforts. We have also distributed to every parent/guardian a **School Emergency Guide for Parents**. The guide provides information on what they are to do in the event of a major crisis. Parents are instructed to read and clip the information card section and keep it in their wallet or purse.

We continue to conduct practice drills at all buildings on a monthly basis. We expect the full cooperation of all students during these important drills. We are working very closely with the North Versailles Police Department on safety matters. The district holds safety meetings the first Monday of every month in the Logan Middle School library to plan, discuss, and organize safety initiatives. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mr. Morton at the high school or your child's building principal. We want the community to know what measures the district is taking to keep our children safe.

Remember **"Safety is everyone's responsibility"**. **"If you see something say something"**.

Orchestra Festival

Nicholas Keleschenyi, Alyssa DePeoli, and Christopher Jewell will represent Logan Middle School at the PMEA District 1 Jr. High Orchestra Festival held at Pine-Richland High School, April 17 and 18. These students will rehearsing and performing with over 140 other students, com-

Stop Bullying!

REPORT BULLYING TO stopbullying@eawildcats.net

Or

412-824-3-6053 - Press 2 for Logan Middle School, Press 8 for the Bully Tip Line

COMMUNITY FITNESS DAY

Please join us at East Allegheny High School at 7 p.m. on Friday February 13 for an evening of personal fitness and health. We will have several informational and fun sessions based on living a healthy and happy lifestyle.

This is a Girl Scout Gold Award project.
Please contact :
jlruns@gmail.com with any questions.

2015 EAST ALLEGHENY GIRLS 7/8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

DATE	SCHOOL	HOME/ AWAY	TIME
Tues. Feb. 10	Derry	Home	3:45
Thurs. Feb. 12	Greensburg CC	Home	3:45
Tues. Feb. 17	Hempfield	Away	4:30
Thurs. Feb. 19	Southmoreland	Away	3:30
Tues. Feb. 24	Yough	Home	3:45
Thurs. Feb. 26	Derry	Away	4:00
Tues. Mar. 3	Greensburg CC	Away	4:00
Thurs. Mar. 5	Hempfield	Home	3:45
Tues. Mar. 10	Southmoreland	Home	3:45
Thurs. Mar. 12	Yough	Away	3:30

EA Band: Best Season in 9 Years

by Sarah Pais

After listening to “Schiffy-five” and “Bohemian Rhapsody,” Hanna Marcoz, senior at East Allegheny High School, fists bumps the entire band, and Matt Sanchez, sophomore, strokes the beard of Rob Tracey, their brass instructor. The list of the pre-game rituals that *must* occur before each performance goes on as the band takes the field and fills the stadium with their Beatles themed set this year. including songs such as “Magical Mystery Tour,” “Something,” and “Can’t Buy Me Love.”

East Allegheny marching band has had their best competition season in the nine years that Mr. Rosco, band director, has been working in the East Allegheny School District.

The marching band received first place overall in their first three competitions at Steel Valley, Woodland Hills, and a home competition. They also placed first in their class in the two competitions following those: McKeesport and their regional competition, Chapter 8 Championships, at Baldwin.

The EA marching band brought home a win of 5th place out of 19 bands at the Atlantic Coast Championships, ACC, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The ACC was the biggest competition the band attended this year. Many large schools attended this, and EA was not expected to place as highly as they did.

Mr. Rosco was overjoyed with this season, especially since 18 of the 40 members are in their first year of marching band, such as freshman Seth Fuller. Seth enjoyed his time this band season saying, “I would definitely do it again. I feel proud of myself and everyone else in the band.”

Senior Dylan Jackson was also very enthusiastic and shocked about the placing. He did not expect to go as far due to the younger students participating in the band.

Miracle Brocco, junior at East Allegheny and drum major, stated that this was “the best season I’ve done so far,” in her five years of participating in the marching band.



The East Allegheny marching band celebrates after - an outstanding performance at the ACC. Photo by Lynn Swaney

2 Staff Members Hold Leadership Positions out of School

by Sarah Pais

Mr. Stephen Ehrlich, orchestra instructor at East Allegheny, and Mrs. Emilia Peiffer, East Allegheny High School school counselor, both hold a high position on their corresponding district board groups, PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) and PSCA (Pennsylvania School Counselors Association).

Congratulations to Mrs. Emilia Peiffer, High School Guidance Counselor, on her invitation to visit the White House on January 30, 2015. Only a limited number of counselors were invited and the School Board and Administration are very proud of Mrs. Peiffer on her selection.



Following the competitions at McKeesport and Baldwin, the band met up at Denny's at convinced the waitress to write the score they received on pieces of French toast. Photos by Hanna Marcoz

New Faces at the Coffee Shack

By Shayna Barner

For the start of The Coffee Shack's third year, three new students took over and began to learn what it takes to run a successful business. These three freshmen are eager and excited to experience how the Coffee Shack works. Their teacher, Mrs. Price, has been a big help making sure everyone learns the ropes on how to be successful.

Josh DiNinno, Michael Bachorski, and Derek Howard started working for the Coffee Shack at the beginning of this school year. Some of the skills they are learning include: keeping a schedule, listening to management, dealing with money, and working with people. With these skills they will have the ability to get a job and be more outgoing.

For two and a half years, Mrs. Price's life skills class has run the Coffee Shack. They have many different drink choices which include hot coffee, hot tea, and their famous "Poor Man's Mocha."

Originally, the idea to start the Coffee Shack came from Mrs. Ripper, a Biology teacher here at EA. Mrs. Ripper shared an article with Mrs. Price that spoke about the Penn Trafford life skills students and how they started a coffee shop in the school's library during their study hall periods. Mrs. Price thought the idea of a coffee shack would be a great idea for her life skill students to learn in a new and fun way.

All of the proceeds the Coffee Shack earns go to the life skills community based instruction. The life skills students have the chance to go on monthly trips to experience real world activities. These activities include going to the cleaners, going grocery shopping, and going to the bank. The outings give the students the chance to experience real world activities that are included in everyday life.

WPXI POSITIVE ATHLETE AWARD

Football Captain: Gino DePaoli

By: Tung Nguyen

"Suck it up and do it, it's going to pay off" are the words Gino DePaoli lives by. Gino DePaoli, a senior at East Allegheny High School, was selected as WPXI's Positive Athlete of the week by Hines Ward for his positive attitude and outlook on the field and life.

On December 27th, DePaoli made an appearance on the Hines Ward Show and received the award from one of his inspirations, Hines Ward. There were nearly 1,000 nominations, and only 26 student athletes from Western Pennsylvania received this award.

DePaoli was one of the 26 awarded, and is now eligible to win a scholarship of up to \$2,500. DePaoli, who has no vision in his right eye, continues to stay positive on and off the football field. He started playing football at the age of 7 after trying every other sport. None of the other sports interested him, but when he picked up a football, he fell in love with the sport and has played ever since.

#HOCO 2014

(HOMECOMING 2014)

By Christina Branch

Friday October 10th, 2014 East Allegheny High students got "#hype with their homies" to celebrate another homecoming weekend. Tailgating lasted from 5:00 to 6:30 at the high school with kickoff at 7pm. Free hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, and Turner's Tea were available for tailgaters. That Saturday night the homecoming dance took place in the indoor court of the high school.

Many students were happy with the amount of school spirit that day and felt the game was "#turnt up" and #energized.

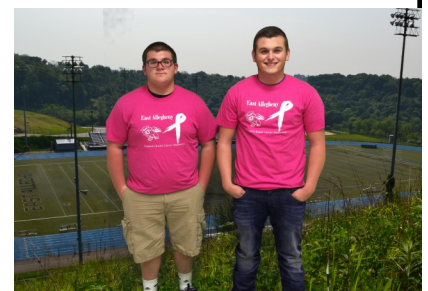
Mr. Baumgart and his graphics class created pink t-shirts for students and faculty to buy in support of breast cancer awareness for Friday's pink out. The majority of the high school participated by wearing some form of pink. Green Valley and Logan staff wore them as well. Close to 500 shirts were sold.

During the game, the East Allegheny Wildcats beat the South Allegheny Gladiators 20-13. "It was awesome the fact that everyone had pink on. The student section was unreal. That's how a student section should be," said high school math teacher Mrs. Ekis.

Senior football player Gino DePaoli said the student section "really got us pumped up." He was ecstatic on winning his senior homecoming. "It was very exciting and very prideful to do it in front of and for our alumni. It also felt very good to win against our rivals, South Allegheny."

During half time, senior Alexis Moore was crowned homecoming queen. "It felt good to know that I have a lot of friends!" said Moore. Those who also participated in running for queen include Jessica Edwards, Jamie Loeb sack, Chelsea Linhart, Hannah Richardson, and Mylee Pugliano.

The following night was the homecoming dance from 7-10pm. Students dressed in formal attire and their night was filled with music, friends, pizza, and soda. During the dance senior Sean Loving was announced as homecoming's 2014 king.



Jordan O'Keefe and Matt Smith, Graphics III students showing off the Breast Cancer Awareness Shirts Created.

East Allegheny School District Administration

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Roger D'Emidio

Coordinator of Special Education/School Psychologist: Dr. Joseph Howell

Director of Fiscal Affairs: Ms. Toni Valicenti

Automated Systems Coordinator: Mr. Jeff Mathews

Maintenance Supervisor: Mr. Daryl Dukic

Food Service Supervisor: Ms. Trish Puharic

School Board -

Mrs. Gerri McCullough, **President** Mrs. Dolores Brown Dr. Frederick Miller

Mrs. Jacqueline Gates, **Vice President** Ms. Karen Hensler Mr. Frank Pearsol

Mrs. Roxanne Eichler, **Treasurer** Mrs. Beverly Koch Mr. Stephen Volpe

East Allegheny High School

Principal/Assistant to the Superintendent: Mr. Donald MacFann

Assistant Principal: Ms. Betsy D'Emidio

9th Grade Principal: Mr. Raymond Morton

Logan Middle School

Principal (Grades 7-8)/ Director of Pupil Personnel: Mr. Mark Draskovich

Principal (Grades 4-6): Mr. Sean Gildea

Green Valley Primary School

Principal: Mr. Sean Gildea,

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Angela McEwen

Community Connection Executive Editor/Printing-

Mr. Carl Baumgart / High School Graphics Classes

Mrs. Kathy Chenot / Journalism Classes