

# Bear FACTS



HOLIDAY 2011

MAHANOY AREA HIGH SCHOOL

FREE

## Volleyball Event Scheduled

There will be a faculty versus student volleyball game on Friday, December 23. The faculty team will consist of Ms. Franks, Mrs. Fegley, Mr. Kline, Mrs. Kline, Mrs. Pepe, Mr. Wiscount, Mrs. Gettig, Mr. Bet and Mrs. Kane. The student teams will be determined by those who donate to the American Heart Association through the Hoops for Heart campaign. Any student who is interested should see Mr. Kline or Mrs. Brylewski.

## Students Earn Pride Cards

The following students have earned a Pride Card. This is a special group of students who have completed the application process successfully. They must present the card to their teachers when they would like to take advantage of its benefits. It is up to the teacher's discretion to allow the student to use his or her privileges. at that time. The most favorite benefit to having a Pride Card id using the Pride Lounge, located across from the art room. The list of additional privileges is in the high school handbook. Advisors and coaches are asked to monitor pride card members participation in their respective activities. The Pride Card is coordinated by Mr. Jon Shirvinski. Seniors are Jacob Holman, Tyler Bernadyn, Adriane Schock, Cherise Yost, Christina Scheeler, Gabrielle Irvin, Codie Bradbury, John Miller, Douglas Wells, Frank Scicchitano, Andrea White, Leah Leahy, Pat O'Boyle, Jillian Wagner, Aaron Broomell, Joshua Hanrahan, Chelsea Wall, Neal Goodman, Taylor Pecika. Juniors who have earned the Pride Card are Christian Ulicny, Krystal Walinchus, Amber Wagner, Maria Rajkowski, Anne Swokel, Dana Snyder, Kaitlin Stramara, Miranda Evitts, Holly Sofka, Eric Williamson, Michael Wirtz, Breanna Bennett, Molly Yanchuck, Marissa Blashock.

## Band Honors



Congratulations to  
Anne Swokel, Holly Sofka,  
Michael Wirtz,  
Leah Leahy and Emma Fisher  
for making County Band

Congratulations to Emma Fisher  
for making  
District 10 Band

Congratulations to Emma Fisher  
for being  
selected for  
Susquehanna Honors Band and  
Leah Leahy, who was selected  
as an alternate for  
Susquehanna Honors Band

## Senator Rhoades Blood Drive

January 9, 2012  
12:00 to 6 p.m.  
High School Gym

Students in grades 9-12 who would like to contribute to the next issue of Bear Facts, should sign up in Ms. Scic's room any day during remediation or at 2:30. Topics are available or choose one of your own.

## Remembering Those Serving Our Country

Ms. Connie Jarrard's fourth grade reading classes are writing holiday cards and decorating the envelopes to send to soldiers. Students were asked to bring in names of family or friends that are serving in the military. If you know of anyone from the Mahanoy City area serving in the military, you may submit their address to the district by e-mailing [dscicchitano@mabears.net](mailto:dscicchitano@mabears.net). Many teachers incorporate the type of assignment that Ms. Jarrard is currently working on for the holidays at other times of the year as well

## SPCA PROJECT



A district-wide item collection for the SPCA is being conducted under the guidance of Mrs. Dot Scicchitano in memory of Mr. Jeff Donnelly. Students who participate will be getting a candy cane to take home. Donations will be accepted until December 23rd.

## Congratulations to Mahanoy Fifth Grade

The fifth grade was voted "BEST OVERALL" in the town window display decorating contest this year. Their window display is in the Sewer Authority window across from the Elks Lodge in Mahanoy City. Great job to all involved

## Quiz Bowl

On December 5th, Quiz Bowl traveled to Pottsville where they played Pottsville and North Schuylkill. Mahanoy won against Pottsville, and lost to North Schuylkill. The next meet will be held at home on January 9th in the LGI at 4:00. We will be hosting Blue Mountain and Tri-Valley. All are welcome to support the Quiz Bowl team.

## SHINE NEWS

The SHINE After-School Program students under the guidance of Mrs. Audra Kufro and Mrs. Megan Tomko participated in the Lights-On performance on October 20, 2011. They performed the song "Tony Chestnut" in front of parents, teachers, senators, representatives, LCCC administration, and judges from all over Schuylkill and Carbon counties, and were featured twice in the Times News. These students will be making Christmas ornaments that will be sold at the Elementary Christmas Musical as well as selling chances on a Longaberger basket, purse, and two gift cards. The money collected will be donated to the Elks Christmas party. Rush Printing Company donated both the tickets and some tablets.

## REWARDS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

Our school has joined the My Coke Rewards for Schools program. If your family purchases Coca-Cola products (Coca-Cola, Sprite, Dasani, Powerade, Minute Maid, Fanta, Vault, Barq's, Fresca, Pibb, Mello Yello, Nestea, or Seagram's Ginger Ale) please register on [mycokerewards.com/school](http://mycokerewards.com/school) and donate the points found on the product packaging to help our school. Donations will go towards rewards like sports equipment that will help our students learn, play, and have fun. In addition, please continue to send in the Box Tops for Education coupons found on Big G (General Mills) products.

## Meet Mr. Mentrikoski

By: Andy Kuzma

Mr. Donnelly was the Tech. Ed. teacher at Mahanoy Area for many years. He was a very good teacher and everyone liked him. Unfortunately he passed away in a terrible accident. There was not a replacement teacher right away so students did not have Tech. Ed. class. Then Mr. Mentrikoski arrived at Mahanoy.

Mr. Mentrikoski was born John P. Mentrikoski. He is now twenty-four years old. He attended Crestwood High School. He then graduated and went to college. He wanted to become a Tech. Ed. Teacher because he said that technology and hands on work are his passion. He attended Millersville University. He majored in Technology Education which is exactly the course that Mr. Donnelly taught.

Mr. Mentrikoski previously worked as a wood-working teacher at Hanover Area High School. He also was an Architecture Shop Manager at Marywood University. He said that he enjoys his new job very much. He also finds Mahanoy Area very nice and a very close knit district. When asked how he feels about taking over Mr. Donnelly's position he responded, "It is a very unfortunate situation, but I feel that I need to do my best so the students of Mahanoy Area do not miss the opportunity to have a Tech. Ed. class.

## Envirothon

By: Corrine Mensch



The Envirothon is a competition that is held once a year. Two teams per school are tested on their knowledge in soil and land use, aquatics, forestry, ecol-

ogy, wildlife, and environmental issues. Mahanoy takes teams from the elementary, middle, and high school. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join the Envirothon study sessions. They are held at least once a month to help prepare students for the Envirothon. Students need to have an interest in

## Book Fair Successful

The Rhoades Library held its 4th Scholastic Book Fair and it was the best to date!



Thanks to our students and their interest in reading the high school and middle school libraries earned a combined \$300 in free books! Stu-

dents are already hovering around Ms. Butcavage to get their hands on a new and interesting title.

One hundred dollars in books are going to be added to the AR carts in Mrs. Leshko's and Miss McGann's classrooms.

Special thanks to Mrs. Butcavage, Mrs. Zakrewsky and Miss Popalis for their help in running the fair. Mrs. Schappell, Mrs. Fegley and Mr. Wenrich also supported us by donating cups and cocoa to our fundraiser. Mrs. Scicc and Mr. Wenrich also helped in a needy hour with exchanging bills for rolled coin. Thank you to Mrs. Filanowski, Miss McGann, Miss Behler, and Mrs. Leshko for coordinating their schedules last minute to include all the 5th and 6th graders.

All these efforts combined helped to make the book fair a success. Thank you.... Michelle Wells

Pennsylvania ecology. If a student wants to participate they need to contact Mrs. Stone. Only ten students are able to go to the competition. Students need to go to the majority of the study sessions, have at least an 87 average in science, no more than one detention and no ISS. They also need to be part of the recycling program. Mrs. Stone is the advisor and has been for six years. Mrs. Brylewski was the previous advisor. It was then passed onto Mrs. Stone because she teaches environmental science and ecology. She also is interested in the environment.

There are currently fourteen members that attended three study sessions so far this year. The Schuylkill County Conservation District informed Mrs. Stone that the date for the Envirothon is Friday, April 13, 2012. It will be held at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds.

## Literary Society: a hands on organization

By: B. Alex Witiszin

Did you know that the Literary Society isn't a book club but, according to Mrs. Wells, is "an active and dynamic club whose mission is to further literacy throughout the district?" They want to show all students that reading is fun



and help other people experience books in a positive way. The club members read to elementary students, take field trips, and participate in events such as Teen Read Week, Scholastic Book Fairs, and National Library Week.

At the club meetings, Mrs. Zakrewsky mentioned that "we discuss and/or organize events and fundraisers and also come up with games and activities." Meetings are on every other Wednesday during remediation or after school. If you would like to join Literary Society you can do so by seeing Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Zakrewsky, or one of the officers who are Mike Handy, Andrea White, Shana Noon, and Shawna Welsh. Keep in mind that, as Mrs. Wells stated, "involvement and dedication is expected throughout the whole year to the club and it's a club where you can really be hands on."

## Bear Facts: get involved

By: Alyssa Lorah

Bears Facts is a club run by Ms. Scic. In Bear Facts you gather information for the high school newspaper, which is published at least four times per school year. You can join by seeing Ms. Scic in the art room. The number of students that are members vary for each issue. But they are always looking for new members. All students grades 9th to 12th are welcome. There is something for everyone. There are full staff meetings about once per month and staff members can meet with Ms. Scic individually



at any time during remediation or after school. Ms. Scic was asked many years ago to take the place of the advisor at the time while she was on

leave for six months. It ended up being permanent. "I enjoy desktop publishing, gathering information and working with interested students," says Ms. Scic. All issues of Bear Facts can be viewed on the mabears website. It allows alumni, current students, parents, and community members to see the latest happenings at Mahanoy Area.

# 2012 Yearbooks

## on Sale

\$76.00

see Ms. Scic in the high school art room

## Club Briefs

### SKI CLUB

Ski Club is selling Pascoli's pizza coupons. Cost is \$10 for a large cheese pizza. Anyone interested in purchasing a coupon can see any Ski Club member or sign up in the office.

### Nutrition

#### Advisory Council

Support the local food bank and watch the Grinch! Bring a canned good in to your homeroom teacher by December 22nd and get a ticket to see How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and be entered in the annual NAC holiday basket drawing.

## Notices

Any student wishing to play in the faculty student volleyball game on Dec. 23 must donate to the American Heart Association. All interested students should see Mr. Kline or Mrs. Brylewski. Donations are due by Dec. 21.

Attention all students: please return the transportation emergency form to your 1st period teacher immediately. These forms need to be returned even if you do not take the bus on a daily basis. These forms are used for field trips where bus transportation is provided.

Mahanoy Area Phys. Ed. shirts are now on sale. Cost is \$9. Please see Mrs. Brylewski if you are interested. There is a sample and order forms in the high school office.

## Talent Search

By: Jade Wuttke

Talent Search is a federal grant funded program that helps students explore education and career options. The program is open to everyone but is highly recommended for students who are the first generation in their family to go to college and have good grades, behavior, and attendance at school. The program is continuous through graduation and is intended to aid students in applying and being accepted to any type of post-secondary institution, whether it is a 2 or 4 year college, business, trade, or technology school. Talent Search is a great supplement to guidance services offered at Mahanoy Area.

The advisor is Miss Fritz, the Talent Search Academic Specialist. Entry to the program usually begins in 8th grade in Mrs. Kern's Career Education classes, but Miss Fritz has taken students based on guidance and teacher recommendation. In Talent Search, Miss Fritz takes students to career places to explore various fields of work and to post-secondary school campuses to expose them to public and private schooling options.

Students have said they benefited from this program and that they would be lost in the admissions and financial aid process without the additional help of being in Talent Search. They also gain good stress relief and study and interviewing and skills tips along the way.

Attention all students. If you are interested in borrowing books from the high school library during the day please do not remove the book from the library without checking it out. If a teacher is not available to check out the book you would like, please leave your book on the circulation desk. Label it with your name and first period teacher. The book will be checked out to you and delivered

to your homeroom teacher. The process may take more time but it's the responsible thing to do.

Jr. class will be having a meeting on Wednesday, December 21st at 7:40 in the gymnasium.

Attention Volleyball players who ordered Fleece Jackets and Vests from the Volleyball Fundraiser. Please see Mrs. Leshko to pick up your orders, Middle School Room F-230.

**50% OFF!**  
**On all Library**  
**FINES!**

\*DOES NOT APPLY TO MATERIAL REPLACEMENT\*

# Mahanoy Area Wrestling

By: Bobby Wozniak

Are you thinking of joining a club or sport? Well, then you should consider joining Mahanoy Area wrestling team. The team is coached by Mark Lawrence and Sam Quick. Coach Lawrence has around twenty years of coaching experience. Coach Lawrence said, "I coach for the love of the sport and for the kids." Wrestling is a sport unlike any other. "It teaches you to work through more adversity than any other sport," Coach said. Wrestling consists of one-on-one matches, where the two wrestlers try to win by pin-fall or by having the most points at the end of the match. One thing to keep in mind though is that wrestling is actually both a team and an individual sport. "I think it is a great team and individual sport, there is no truer team sport," said Coach Lawrence.

The wrestling season consists of dual meets, which are school vs school matches, and individual tournaments. The season starts in November and ends around March. "It is tough, physically and mentally..." Coach Lawrence said. The practices are not by any means a walk in the park. The practices are daily and start at 4 p.m. and end around 6:30 p.m. The only things needed to join the club are a hydration test, physical, wrestling shoes, and a never give up attitude. If you want to join the team, talk to anyone on the team or to one of the coaches. To those people that are scared to join because of a lack of experience, "talk to Woz! And there is no better way to overcome those fears than just joining and trying it out," said Coach Lawrence. The sport is lacking in numbers and more people would be a great help to the program.

# Making Memories Last

By: Dylan Mahmood

For this news article I have interviewed Frank Scicchitano, for the Yearbook Club. When I interviewed him it was during remediation in the nurse's office where it was quiet and no interruptions. I picked the yearbook club because I wanted to get a better understanding of what goes into the yearbook and how much dedication it actually takes. Before the interview I always thought that the yearbook club only took pictures and that's it. Throughout the interview I got a better understanding of what goes on in the yearbook club.

The yearbook club consists of many students that want to contribute to the yearbook in some way. The yearbook club does not use the normal setup of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary. This club only has editors instead. Frank said, "If you want to be a member of the yearbook club, you need to be willing to spend time, pay attention to detail, have writing skills, and/or photography skills." By Frank saying this it made me realize that being a part of the yearbook club isn't an easy task.

The yearbook club affects our school in many ways, but the main way is that it is important that they have a nice yearbook because it is how our memories will live on. Throughout this interview I have not only gained respect for the yearbook club, but I have also gained respect for the people in it that do such a good job to make our yearbook look as good as possible. The yearbook committee will do whatever it takes to reach the goal of the year for the club. Some of the tasks that they do that shows their dedication to the yearbook would be working after school, having meetings all the time, and always having close deadlines that they work extra hard on. All these tasks show off when they complete their goal of the year. The goal that they try to meet by the end of the year is to publish a yearbook that will make memories that will last forever!



**Elementary Yearbooks!**  
**\$15.00!**

See Mrs. Zawada or  
Mrs. Amershek in the  
elementary school

# Student Council at Mahanoy Area High School

By: Gregory Merchlinsky

What would the school be like without its clubs? Students who want to express their personal feelings and interests would be lost. That is why at Mahanoy Area, there are so many clubs in the school that any student could join. One of the most interesting and fun filled clubs is Student Council. Student Council is an organization at Mahanoy Area that is made for the students at the school to be able to make decisions about what is going on in the school. The club is a very popular club to join with new people joining every year. The student council members just want to make the school a better place by helping out with jobs that need to be done at the school. It's an amazing experience to be able to join Student Council and joining the club would help any student's college memory. Any member of the club knows that and it gives a little taste of what it would be like to be the superintendent of the school!

Now that the basic idea of what Student Council really is, there is more than one Student Council in the district. There are two different student council bodies. One of those bodies is in the middle school and it is run by Mrs. Kline. In the high school, however, Mrs. Brylewski, or how most people know her by, Mrs. B. is the advisor. She has been the leader for many years and does a wonderful job as being the leader of the club. She is very nice, considerate, an excellent gym teacher, and an overall great person to be around. Without the leadership of Mrs. B the club wouldn't nearly be as good as it is now, but there are also officers that make Mrs. B's job easier. There are four officers and each officer has to be a senior. These four students show true leadership and are great to have as officers. There is a large amount of students who are in Student Council. There are exactly 36 members in the club at this point in time. It is extremely easy to join Student Council; however there is only one chance at joining. To be able to join a person can simply go to the administration office in the beginning of the year and write down his or her name on the ballot of new club members who want to join. Although it seems very easy there is a catch to the whole joining process. Once the students name is on the ballot, at the next meeting current members vote on eight newcomers that will be allowed into the club. The eight that receive the most votes are allowed into the club. There is also another catch to joining the club. The other catch is that a student has to be freshmen to be allowed in unless there aren't enough members in each grade and each grade is only allowed 8 members to represent student council. However, the senior grade is allowed 12 students to represent Student Council. Once a student is voted in though, he or she is automatically in the club for four years. A student can leave the club willingly or be forced to leave due to disciplinary reasons.

Well now students know how to join the club, the next thing that needs to be established is when and where the club meetings are held. The club meetings are usually held about

once a month. Mrs. B will announce over the loud speaker or have a message put on the announcements to inform members about the next meeting. The meetings are usually held during Remediation in the morning. The meetings are usually no longer than 10-15 minutes. The meetings are held in the large instruction room (LGI) by the administration office or in the high school gym. There are many different types of conversations and discussions that go on at Student Council meetings. The discussions are usually based around small issues in the school that need to be fixed. For instance, the bathroom doors in the high school are broke and off the hinges. The club will meet on a certain day and will discuss how the issue could be fixed. Mrs. B said herself "The student council body wants to help with the small issues that are in the school so that the bigger and more problematic issues can have more time and help to be fixed and have the school administration worry about those small issues."

Student Council is not all about working on small issues in the school; it is also about helping the community. One thing that the Student Council does to help the community is the club always attends the local Pearl Harbor and Veterans Day ceremonies held at the tank memorial in Mahanoy City. The club also helps out by sponsoring different types of organizations. Mrs. B said that "the Student Council helps out in the community by helping out our local veterans because they deserve true recognition for what they have done for the United States". There is also many other trips that the Student Council goes on that are extremely fun and a unforgettable time. There is always an annual field trip that the Student Council goes on every year. This year the field trip is to the great city of Baltimore, Maryland! That is an amazing experience to be able to go to such a great city and be able to be with fellow students to share the experience with. The trip is very educational as well as an amazing experience to be able to see the life of a different city other than Mahanoy City.

Many students believe that some clubs are a waste of their precious time, when they do not realize that they are missing out on a great and possibly once in a lifetime chance to be in such an amazing club. How is the Student Council club doing at Mahanoy Area? The club is doing very well and is at its best right now, but with more interest into the club, the club could become extremely popular in the school. The club is operated well by all the people who have a position of power within club. Although the club isn't fit for every person to join in a grade, every student should still place their names on the ballad that will be place out during the beginning of the year. The club is just so incredibly well organized and it's just a great feeling to be able to be part of such an honorable club. There is only one shot to join the club, so every student who wants to join should take hold of the opportunity in front of them because in the words of Mrs. B "you'll never know what an amazing experience you missed out on."

## UPWARD BOUND

By: Brooke Kifrovich

Upward Bound is found at many universities around the country. This club is advised by Mr. Nester and he has been the advisor for two years. He was also in this club when he was a student at Mahanoy Area. "Upward Bound helps first generation college students accomplish their post secondary goals. It also helps improve academic and social development over high school years," says Mr. Nester. This club is funded through TRIO. TRIO also funds Mahanoy Area's Talent Search program. Students involved in this club spend six weeks during the summer at Bloomsburg University. They meet with other students involved in Upward Bound from different schools. They experience college to the fullest during this six week program. They stay in a dorm and they get a jump start on some of their courses. They have plenty of opportunities for personal development when they go on field trips and visit colleges.

Currently, Upward Bound meets every Tuesday and Thursday between 2:30 and 3:30 in Mr. Nester's room (134). To join this club you must fill out an application and send it to Bloomsburg University. The school also has information sessions during the year. If you would like an application, contact Mr. Nester. During meetings, students play games, do homework, talk about issues, and prepare for college. The club focuses on students setting their goals and improving grades. Students who attended Bloomsburg in past summers have a reunion at the University. They attend seminars and receive a yearbook. Seniors in this club are busy applying for college and preparing for graduation. Upward Bound is a great club if you would like to know more about the college experience before you actually go to college.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

are still ON SALE

COST is \$25.00.

Students may pay for the yearbook in installments. Payment in full is due no later than March 16, 2012.

Students can see Mrs. Cavenas or Miss Scheeler for an order form.

## Ski Club

By Jen Jackowiak

The Ski Club is a club for students interesting in skiing or snowboarding. Lessons are available to those new to the sport. The Ski Club is run by Miss Grochowski and Miss Behler. The club visits Big Boulder Ski Resort near Lake Harmony, PA. The trips will begin on Friday, January 6, 2012. On average, the Ski Club takes 5 trips per winter season. The club is open to students in grades 5-12.

To sign up, a student can get the forms from either Miss Behler or Miss Grochowski. Both advisors are located in the F-Wing of the middle school. Since it can be expensive to go on these trips the club has various fundraisers during the year. The 3 fundraisers this year are: Tastefully Simple Products, Pascoli's Pizza Coupons and Dry Dip Mixes.

When asked her opinion on the club, Miss Grochowski responded, "We have some great students in our club. They are always well behaved and respectful while having a blast on our ski trips!" Currently, the Ski Club is fundraising with Pascoli's Pizza, selling pizza coupons to their pizza shop. Since most ski resorts are a distance from this area, this club gives students a chance to go somewhere they would not be able to go to often. Also, the Ski Club is getting ready for their upcoming trips. The Ski Club is a fun club to be in. Join, you will not regret it!



### Mahanoy Gear For Sale

umbrellas \$15.00

blankets \$25.00      socks \$8.00

baseball style hats \$25.00

e-mail [dscicchitano@mabears.net](mailto:dscicchitano@mabears.net)

to purchase items

profits benefit

Mahanoy Area Youth Wrestling