

Bear FACTS



FALL 2011

MAHANoy AREA HIGH SCHOOL

FREE

Dear Mahanoy Area High School Students,

I just would like to take this opportunity to wish you the best of luck in exceeding your goals this upcoming school year. My personal goal this year is to extend myself to the student body and open the lines to positive communication. With your help I believe we can work together to make our school the best it possibly can be. We have been through so much here at Mahanoy Area and you have shown your strength and resiliency through it all. I am very proud of you. At times we all will have our disagreements and misunderstandings but at the end of the day we all come together as MAHANoy AREA. I am here to help and assist you in any way I can. My door is always open and my office is not just the place where you're in trouble.



Sincerely,
Mr. Thomas Smith
Mahanoy Area High School Principal

MAHANoy AREA CLOTHES CLOSET

Because of the transition to this year's uniform, a Mahanoy Clothes Closet has been created. Since this is the first year, the supply of clothing is minimal. Donations of clean, slightly worn clothing are being accepted.

The following apparel is being accepted: dress code approved pants, shorts, shirts (long & short sleeve), sweaters, vests, dresses, skirts, shoes, sneakers as well as jackets and coats, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and NEW socks are all.

Donations to the clothes closet can be dropped off in the elementary, middle or high school offices during school hours.

Once the closet has a satisfactory amount of clothing, times will be available for families to trade or purchase clothing. If families donate outgrown clothing they can trade for clothing in the closet. If families do not have clothes to donate they can still purchase clothing from the closet. The cost will be \$1.00 per item. All monies collected will be used to purchase more clothing for the closet.

The clothes closet will take the place of the monetary reimbursement for next school year.

TEEN READ WEEK SCHEDULED

Teen Read Week is October 16-22. Mrs. Pepe's High School Helpers have a variety of activities planned. Two helpers will be available throughout the week from 8:00-8:50 as guest poetry and local scary story readers.

In the Rhoades library, tables will be set up with activities inspired by this year's *Picture It* theme. There will be a book vs. movie voting booth set up on the study carol. A middle/high school friendly game of "Silent Library" will be available for playing. Matching the picture to the book title game, and drawing your favorite book activities will also be present. Please sign up and stop by with your class for hands-on, reading and artistic fun.

Blood Drive A Success

Thank you once again for making another Blood Drive a success here at Mahanoy Area. Special thanks to our maintenance and cafeteria staff. I want to thank our first time donors, you did great! Our next drive will be in January in memory of Senator Rhoades and will be open to the public. -Nurse Merchlinsky

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.



Homecoming King Dom Mercuri poses for a picture with fellow Seniors, John Miller and Jon Palubinsky.

Homecoming 2011

Candidates and Escorts

- Kristy McCarthy/Doug Wells
- Emma Fisher/Pat O'Boyle
- Natalie Morrison/Dustin Yeager
- Gabby Irvin/Frank Scicchitano
- Meghan Flaim/Zack Chiao
- Andrea White/Zack Gallagher
- Paige Mahmood/Tyler Bernadyn
- Kyra Manjone/John Miller
- Cherise Yost/Michael Wirtz
- Jess Rago/Dylan Messerschmidt
- Christine Ware/Andy Kuzma
- Christina Scheeler/Josh Hanrahan
- Leah Leahy/John Brill
- Chelsea Wall/Nick Scicchitano
- Adriane Schock/Dylan Cruz



Kristy McCarthy reacts to the announcement that she won Homecoming Queen.

Spirit Day Held



The district held a Spirit Day fundraiser on Friday, September, 16th. Students were given the opportunity to pay \$1.00 to wear a jersey, cheer-leading top, Mahanoy Area t-shirt or sweatshirt. Bottom garments still were required to follow the dress code. The money collected was split evenly between the student activities fund and new uniforms for our Cinderella Closet. The district wide Spirit Day was strictly voluntary. Money was collected in homeroom prior to Spirit Day.

Mr. West *quick questions*

One day, Junior Reporter John Brinich decided to ask history teacher Mr. West a few quick questions. Here's just a part of this controversial interview

John Brinich - What is your opinion of Mahanoy Area as a school?

Mr. West - It is a good place to work, the kids are nice and everyone gets along.

JB - Do you think our football team should be 4-2?

MW - Probably not, but you lose some tough games, you have to

dust yourself off and keep going.

JB - What is your favorite thing to teach in history?

MW - Definitely World War Two

JB - What is your favorite sport?

MW- Golf

JB - Something you want to try?

MW - Sky Diving

JB - How many fingers do you have?

MW - 10?

JB - Boxers or briefs?

MW - Im not sure that is an appropriate question, John.

JB - Boxers or briefs?

MW - Boxers...

STUDENT COUNCIL

Seniors

Jake Holman, Neal Goodman, Christina Scheeler, Gage Cara, John Miller, Taylor Pecika, Kristy McCarthy, Doug Wells, Michael Gaval, Frank Scicchitano, Aaron Broomell, Jonathan Palubinsky, Jillian Wagner

Juniors

Bobby VanHorn, Michael Wirtz, Chrisitan Ulincy, Anne Swokel, Maria Rajkowski, Kellie Linkchorst, Miranda Evitts, Amber Wagner

Sophomores

Tyler Cavenas, Christy Evancho, Shaina Leshko, Kelsey Macieunas, Greg Merchlinsky, Erin Noon, Ruby Rodgers, Alex Witiszin

Freshman

Marcus Schmerfeld, Jason Richmond, Peter Luddy, Noel Bernardyn, Jacqui Pitts, Anne Stramara, Katie Babinsky, Kiera Burke

Remembering Mr. Jeff Donnelly

Last year after the fire, all of the elementary classes had to be assigned to a high school classroom. I was a little worried when my class was paired up to Mr. Don's room (power tools and 4th graders don't always go well together) but it worked out great. Mr. Don was so welcoming, friendly, and understanding of the ten year olds that had taken over his room! He was a great man and will truly be missed. -Janelle Blozousky, 4th Grade Science Teacher, Mahanoy Elementary

I'll miss Jeff's silly sense of humor, our "talks" after every faculty meeting, and more than I can mention. There's a void I can feel every time I walk down the hallway. Captain Cray, as he referred to me, was always proud to have him on his crew. I consider myself to be a better person for having known Jeff. -Mr. Kieran Cray, English Teacher, Mahanoy Area High School

Although I didn't know Jeff very long, his kind hearted and easy going nature was a joy to be around. The school will not be the same without him! I hope you are playing your fishing game on your phone with the volume set loud Jeff! -Elise Popalis, English Instructor, Mahanoy Area High School

As a student I remember Mr. Don staying after school with me multiple times to help finish up my final project, a letter lamp, for shop class. I still use my lamp in my house now. As a faculty member I always think of him being friendly and offering to help me any way he could. Overall, I just remember that he was always friendly and helpful to me and he had a great sense of humor! -Jennifer Kern M.Ed. School Counselor, Mahanoy Area Middle School

I will always remember the peeled oranges that he provided to the varsity girl's basketball team at half time of the games. They seemed to always be the best oranges around and I always asked him where he got them because I could never find oranges as good as those he had. He seemed to pull these magic oranges out of his rather large rolling bag that he carried everywhere. The girls would always look forward to having the bagged oranges at half time and if they weren't there it was total devastation. Mr. Don and his oranges will sadly be missed.

I will always remember his smile and hello in the hallway as you passed by him. He always would stop and

have a conversation with you. He was always so humble and pleasant.

I will always remember how patient he was with Coach Tobin, especially when one of the starters went out of an important game hurt. Mr. Donnelly would thoroughly check out the girl to ensure they were capable of getting

back into the game, as he was doing that Coach Tobin would be pacing the side of the court while stating that we need her back in and the examination needed to be speedy. Mr. Donnelly would then state yes Coach Tobin she will be back in there as soon as I can get her in. His patience and understanding will be missed. -Heather Berresford, Elementary School Counselor, Assistant Girl's Varsity Basketball Coach

Jeff would always have time to say hi. It didn't matter what he was doing, if you walked by his room he would give you a big wave and a pleasant smile. We also had a running joke that he would often see me coming and say here comes the "Big Man" and I would quick turn around and say where. We had some good jokes about my lack of height. -Jason E. Wenrich, Mahanoy Area School District, Department of Music

While others were collecting food for people at Christmastime, Jeff and I collected for the animals at the SPCA. Jeff was a long time co-worker and friend and one of the few people left at Mahanoy that remembered "the good ole' days" I will miss him greatly. -Dot Scicchitano, Art Educator, Mahanoy Area

Jeff, A smiling face...A kind heart...Many funny memories. That's how you will be remembered. We will miss you. -Christine Evancho and Family



Remembering

Mr. Jeff Donnelly cont'd

Although I did not have the opportunity to talk to Jeff frequently, during the time I spent with him, one thing was very clear: he genuinely cared for people, especially kids. Jeff was one of the good ones. -John S. Berta

I will always remember Jeff "waking" me up as I day-dreamed walking through the hallway. He would shout a quick hello that would bring me back to reality. Jeff was always ready to lend a helping hand when I had a broken item in my classroom, he even offered to help me fix a kitchen chair that broke. I will miss him. -Mrs. Cathleen Stone, Mahanoy Area High School Science Teacher

I always remember Mr. Don entering the faculty lounge and saying his famous phrase "Hey Gang!" -Val Kane



Students gathered outside before school on September 22 to remember Mr. Don in the second "Prayer Around The Flagpole" held this school year. The first was held just ten days earlier in remembrance of 9-11.

2012 Yearbooks on Sale

\$76.00

(\$15.00 deposit is necessary to order)

see Ms. Scic in the high school art room

all books must be ordered before
December 15, 2011

Club Briefs

Congratulations

to our Marching Band, which received an "Excellent" rating at the Tamaqua Land of the Running Waters Adjudication. Also, they received a "Very Good" rating at the Blue Mountain Calvacade of Bands Competition.

Quiz Bowl Results

The quiz bowl team traveled to Blue Mountain to compete against both Blue Mountain and Nativity on Monday October 3rd. Mahanoy Area's Varsity and JV teams fell to both Blue Mountain and Nativity with varsity scores of 50-20 and 60-15 respectively. The JV scores were 35-20 vs Nativity, and 55-25 vs Blue Mountain. Their next meet will be on November 7th, at Tri-Valley. They will be competing against Tri-Valley, Blue Mountain, and Pine Grove.

The Sewing and Fashion club will be attending the PA Renaissance Faire on October 19th to study early European fashion.

**Elementary
Yearbooks!
\$15.00!**

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

SOCKS NEEDED

Student Council is collecting new socks for Make a Difference Day. Socks are due by October 24. They may be delivered to the elementary, middle or high school offices.

National Honor Society Induction November 2 6:00 p.m.

Congratulations to new members Breanna Bennett, Monica Cameron, Miranda Evitts, Alyssa Hay, Brittany Lindenmuth, Deanna Mackalavage, Kendall Peel, Maria Rajkowski, Dana Snyder, Holly Sofka, Anne Swokel, Christian Ulicny, Amber Wagner, Eric Williamson, Michael Wirtz, Molly Yanchuck and Emily Davidson.

Congratulations to NHS officers:

President - Jake Holman
Vice-President - Frank Scicchitano
Secretary/Treasurer - Jill Wagner

The Nutrition

Advisory Council would like to announce and congratulate its new officers:

President - Jake Holman
Vice-President - Neal Goodman
Treasurer - Frank Scicchitano
Secretary - Christina Scheeler

Thank you to all of the patrons and supporters of the Sewing and Fashion clubs craft table during the homecoming chili contest and craft fair. Proceeds are being donated to the Hillside SPCA in memory of Jeff Donnelly.

Congratulations to the new
Literary Society officers.

President - Mike Handy
Vice-President - Shawna Welsh
Secretary - Andrea White
Treasurer - Shana Noon

Lit society will be attending the Poe Evermore performance soon.

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

DOES NOT APPLY TO MATERIAL REPLACEMENT

Sports

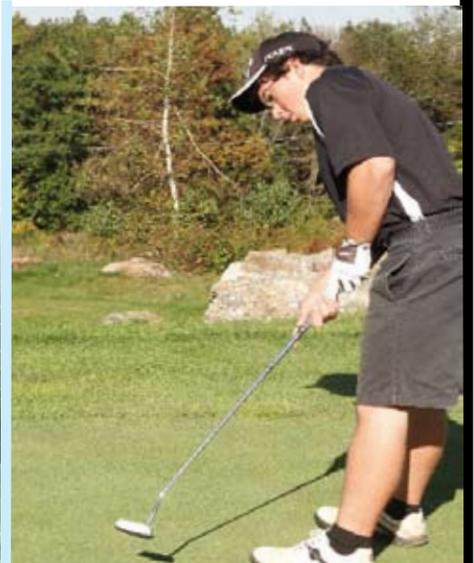
Golf Season Wrap Up By Nicholas Scicchitano



Forced to start three freshmen (Colin "Sweet Hips" Casserly, Nick "Salty" Scicchitano, and Zack "McGliven" Chiao), our golf team was picked to finish in last place in the Schuylkill League this year. It can be argued that this fact is what encouraged them, led by Junior and Captain, John Brinich, to start practices early this spring for the fall season. Under the coaching of Mr. Bob "Big Bobby K" Killian, these four starters, along with Josh Shoup, Tyler Davies and lone Senior Dylan Messerschmidt, started the season off with two back to back wins against Nativity (378-453) and Minersville (378-435). These wins put them at first place in the division, but they lost this title after being defeated by Williams Valley in the third match of the season. This lit the flame that has become a rivalry between the two teams. This was followed by a win against Nativity and a loss to Marian. Now 3rd in the division, they stormed through the rest of the

season, winning ten matches in a row to make them tied for second in the division (ending the season 13-3). They were tied for the wild card with Williams Valley and were forced into their first playoff match in four years, against WV at Mahoning Valley, a neutral course. The season came to an abrupt end when the team lost to Williams Valley by one stroke (383-384).

Also in districts (3 days before the playoff match), John Brinich missed the cut by 2 strokes, shooting an 82. And at Leagues (6 days before the playoff match) John Brinich tied for thirteenth(93) out of 36, Colin Casserly T23 (103), and Nick Scicchitano 25th (105) with tendonitis in his right wrist. This among a few other things could have caused the playoff match to end differently, especially because of the slim margin by which they lost, but at this point the golfers can only say "What if".



Frank Scicc's Sports Spot



When the Mahanoy Area football team stepped on the practice field for their first day of "two-a-days", they were determined to prove to everyone in the area that last year was not a fluke. After finishing with an 8-4 record and winning the Class A Eastern Conference Title, the Golden Bears lost a core group of seniors that included three starting running backs and many key defensive players. These graduates certainly left large shoes for the Class of 2012 to fill, but seniors like Taylor Pecika are sure that they can lead the team to another successful season. "We've always been together and we have a lot of varsity experience," said Pecika when asked about this group of seniors. "And even our [senior] newcomers have been terrific additions to our team."

"They bring a lot to the table and display excellent leadership qualities," said Junior Bobby Van Horn, offering an underclassman's perspective of this year's graduating group.

Pre-season critics hammered the Bears young defense. But even with a plethora of new starters, this unit has been impressive. The Golden Bear defense has played a key part in their 5-2 record. They were able to shut down the high powered rushing attacks of Panther Valley and Nativity, and a phenomenal performance against Marian led to their second straight victory over the hated Colts. Even the individual efforts by Bear defenders have been outstanding this year. On October 8, against Carson Long, Alec Jackson returned an interception 90 yards for a touchdown, an area record for this season.

While the defense has had to prove itself week to week, the Golden Bears' high-powered offense is a well-respected threat. Coach Wally Hall's version of

the triple option has once again turned Michael Gaval and his army of talented running backs into superstars. With 787 rushing yards (through six games), the senior quarterback is the area's third leading rusher. The Bears have also introduced an improved aerial attack to its offense this season. Gaval has thrown seven touchdown passes and just one interception. His favorite target is Senior Neal Goodman. "Goody" leads the area with 23.8 yards per catch and is fifth in total receiving.

Two major contributors to the Golden Bears this year are two seniors, Jimmy Baker and Jordan Renfrow, who are both first year players. Baker has earned a spot as a starting running back and scored on long touchdown runs against Minersville and Jim Thorpe. Renfrow has been a key player on defense, swarming to the ball and intercepting multiple passes. "Coming into this year as a senior and a first time football player, my teammates took me under their wing," said Renfrow about his experiences on the team. "We have formed a brotherhood that will last forever."



Coming off of a 52-14 thumping of Jim Thorpe, the Golden Bears have North Schuylkill, Schuylkill Haven, and Shenandoah remaining on their schedule. With this win against the Olympians, the Bears take momentum into their matchup with an excellent North Schuylkill Spartans team. A win there will certainly be an upset, but it is not impossible. With a District 11 Playoff berth in sight, the Mahanoy Area Golden Bears need to play well down the stretch and continue last year's success.

Congratulations to the Cross Country teams and Coach Holmes for clinching the Division II Championships for the first time in Mahanoy history.

Safe Trick or Treat Night Planned

Mahanoy Area Education Association will be one of many organizations sponsoring a table for the Safe Trick or Treat Around the Track on Sunday, October 30 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Alumni Stadium.

This event was a lot of fun last year so get your costumes ready (not necessary but fun!)

National Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, October 29, 2011
10am to 2pm

Mahanoy Area Police Dept/Borough Building

ESSAY CONTEST

Attention students: the Knights of Columbus is running an Essay Contest. Please pick up a copy of the information packet in the high school office if you are interested.

Mahanoy Gear For Sale

umbrellas \$15.00

blankets \$25.00

socks \$8.00

baseball style hats \$25.00

e-mail dscicchitano@mabears.net
to purchase items

profits benefit
Mahanoy Area Youth Wrestling

Red Ribbon Week

October 24-28

Monday October 24 "Don't Let Drugs Tie You Down"
- Wear Neckties

Tuesday October 25 "Being Drug Free is No Sweat"
- Wear Sweat pants and sweat shirt

Wednesday October 26 "Put a Cap on Drugs"
- Wear a cool hat

Thursday October 27 "Sock it to Drugs"
- Wear crazy socks

Friday October 28 "Say Boo To Drugs"
- Wear Halloween costume

Chili Cook Off

Winners

Elise Popalis
Ashley Longo
Gina Rang



Senior Frank Scicchitano places flowers near the flagpole in remembrance of the tenth anniversary of 9-11, as Michael Wirtz plays taps, while Doug Wells and Jake Holman remember the tragic events of that day. "Prayer Around the Flagpole" is strictly a student run event.

Art Club Activity

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

The Art Club, advised by Ms. Scicchitano, is sponsoring a Pumpkin Decorating Contest. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12. Pumpkins must be decorated, not carved and will be judged on creativity. Faculty members will be judges. A \$50.00 VISA gift card will be the top prize. Second and third prizes will be collections of Halloween goodies. Pumpkins may be delivered to Ms. Scic's room between October 19-27. They will be displayed in the cafeteria, where students and faculty will vote for their favorites on October 28. Winners will be announced during eighth period on October 28th.

Art Club officers were elected on Tuesday, October 11. Voted as president is Frank Scicchitano, Vice-President Jake Holman, Secretary Jess Rago and Treasurer Andrea White.

Thirteen members will be traveling to Italy in March 2012. They will tour Venice, Florence, Rome, Pompeii and more. The group will fly overnight to Milan and travel through Italy for eleven days. The members enrolled on this tour are Gage Cara, John Miller, Brandon Schwank, Kaitlee DeWitt, Andrea White, Natalie Morrison, Codie Bradbury, Alex Clark, Kelsey Macieunas, Breanna Bennett, Frankie Scicchitano and Nicholas Scicchitano.

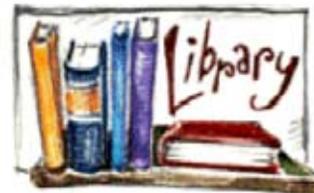
**MAHANoy AREA DRUG
AND
ALCOHOL PREVENTION
COALITION MEETING**
MONDAY NOVEMBER 7
8:00 A.M.
High School LGI room

SPCA Collection

Ms. Jarrard's fourth grade Reading classes are collecting cat/dog food and supplies for the Hillside SPCA, which is a no kill shelter, for their Make a Difference Day Project. This is being done in memory of Mr. Donnelly. If anyone is willing to donate, the due date is October 21. Take all items over to room 105 in the Elementary and come sign our banner.

Mrs. Wells announces...

The HS library will be open during remediation to high school students. Students must visit the library in advance to receive a pass. That pass must be signed by Mrs. Wells and the home-room teacher. All students visiting the library must sign in upon arrival. Students are welcome to visit to browse and borrow books and magazines. Students may also print documents and use the internet for school assignments. Students must return to homeroom/Period 1 at the start of instruction for period 1. All are welcome to the Rhoades Library.



Guidance Corner

Sophomore students interested in being considered for the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Representative should pick up an application from Mr. Nester or the guidance counselor. Completed applications are due Monday, October 24.

A representative from Bloomsburg University will visit on October 17, and reps. from Villanova University and Alvernia University will visit on Oct. 19. Seniors interested in meeting w/ a rep. should speak with Mr. DiCasimirro.

Any senior who plans on submitting a Common Application to meet the early deadline should have their Secondary School Report form sent electronically to Mr. DiCasimirro by Tuesday, October 18.

Cap and gown fittings will be held in the auditorium November 10th at 1:30 pm.

Elks scholarships are available for seniors. The Elks National Foundation "Most Valuable Student Scholarship" and a second is available to students who have family that are Elks members. Please see Mrs. Green for details and applications.

“FOR LASTING
MEMORIES”

Daniel's



PHOTOGRAPHY

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Mahanoy City, PA 17948

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