Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Need Help With A Problem?

If you or a friend are experiencing any difficulties with school or home or anything that keeps you from learning, contact a Student Assistance Program Team member or fill out a referral form and drop in one of the boxes located outside the middle school office or the high school nurse’s office. The Student Assistance Program Team can help remove those barriers that keep you from learning and enjoying school.

High School Members:
- Tom Smith
- Josette Bet
- Dot Sciccitano
- Bridget Pollack
- Suzanne Merchlinsky
- Kate Orsulak
- Trinna Delia
- Andrea Caulfield
- Cathy Stone
- Pam Wetzel
- Carolyn Fishburn

Middle School Members:
- Jen Kern
- Sara Karnish
- Loretta Murphy-Birster
- Tracy Dudash
- Mike Heater
- Kate Orsulak
- Trinna Delia
- Andrea Caulfield
- Suzanne Merchlinsky
- Carolyn Fishburn

Student of the Month

Congratulations to the eighth grade Elks Students of the Month for October

MEGAN BABINSKY
and JUSTIN LETCAVAGE

Good Season For Cross-Country

Congratulations to the Middle School Boys Cross Country team! They won the third place team trophy in the SIAL league this year. Eighth grade student Willie Streisel was the overall SIAL middle school league champion this year taking first place at the middle school league meet held at Tuscaroura this year.

Sixth Graders Help Area Families

The sixth grade class joined forces with WNEP Channel 16 in their annual Feed A Friend Campaign. Non-perishable food items were collected in the middle school office or in any sixth grade teacher’s classroom until November 22. All donations helped families within Schuylkill County.

Students in grades 5-8 who would like to contribute to the next issue of the Paw Print should see Ms. Scicchitano in the high school art room any morning during remediation.
December is the 12th and last month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days. December starts on the same day of the week as September every year and ends on the same day as April every year. December is the month with the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the longest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. December in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to June in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological winter is 1 December. In the Southern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological summer is 1 December. In Latin, decem means “ten”. December was also the tenth month in the Roman calendar until a monthless winter period was divided between January and February.

December’s flower is the narcissus or holly. December’s birthstones are turquoise, lapis lazuli, zircon, topaz (blue), or tanzanite. The poinsettia December’s birthstone is the blue turquoise or zircon, and the recently added tanzanite. Its birth flower is the holly or poinsettia.

The Zodiac signs for December are Sagittarius (until December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 onwards).

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### Events in December

- World AIDS Day (December 1)
- Father’s Day (King’s Birthday) in Thailand (December 5)
  - Independence Day in Finland (December 6)
  - Constitution Day in Spain (December 6)
  - Saint Nicholas Day in Greece (December 6)
  - Pearl Harbor Day in the United States (December 7)
- Día de la Madre en Panamá (Mother’s Day) in Panama. (December 8)
  - Day of the Mary Immaculate Conception. (December 8)
  - Constitution Day in Romania. (December 8)
- Nobel Prizes awarded (December 10) on the anniversary of Alfred Nobel’s death.
  - Human Rights Day (December 10)
- Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, or Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, in Mexico (December 12)
  - Independence Day (Jamhuri Day) in Kenya (December 12)
  - Honolulu Marathon is held on second Sunday in December.
  - Monkey Day (December 14)
  - Bill of Rights Day (United States). (December 15)
  - Victory day of Bangladesh (December 16)
  - Day of Reconciliation in South Africa (December 16).
    - Hannukah (December 20 in 2011)
    - First day of winter (December 21)
- Solstice (called the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere and the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere) occurs on dates varying from December 20 to December 22
- The Emperor’s Birthday, a national holiday in Japan (December 23)
  - Festivus (December 23)
  - Christmas Eve (December 24)
  - Christmas (December 25)
  - Boxing Day (December 26)
  - Day of Goodwill (December 26)
  - Kwanzaa (December 26 to January 1)
- Independence Day in Slovenia - Independence and Unity Day, (December 26)
  - Proclamation Day in South Australia (December 28)
  - New Year’s Eve (December 31)
The induction was led by the newly elected officers which included: President - Brendan Bennett, Vice-President - Michael Hayes, Secretary - Elizabeth Matz, and Treasurer - Matthew Lewandowski. In order to be inducted students must maintain the proper grade point average.
December

BY: Meghan MacLeary

BEAUTIFUL  CELEBRATE  CHRISTMAS
CHURCH  CLAUS  COLD
COZY  CRISP  DECEMBER
DECORATE  EVE  FAMILY
FIREPLACE  JANUARY  LIGHTS
NEW  PARTY  PRESENTS
SANTA  SNOW  SNOWFLAKES
STOCKINGS  YEAR
Congratulations to...
7th grade award recipients

Manners Matters-
Bradley Sawecki

Most Improved- Dakota Sheipe

Student of the Marking Period-
Meredith Rhoades

Is this the face of the most perfect dog?

Imagine the perfect dog. It would be smart and healthy. It would not make you sneeze if you had allergies. It would not bark or yap. It would live a long time. And, most important, it would never lose its puppy face.

Dog breeders have tried to create a dog like this for many years. Now they have created the “cava-poo-chon.”

The cava-poo-chon is mix of a cavalier King Charles spaniel and bichon frise and a miniature poodle.

Cava-poo-chon’s are expensive. They cost $2,000 to $3,500.

Linda Rogers created this new kind of dog. She thinks a Cava-poo-chon can live for 20 years. That is a long life for a dog.

The dogs weigh 10-15 pounds on average. They are available in a choice of color. They also have two types of coat — curly or very curly.

Amy Wolf of Austin, Texas, says she found her perfect dog in the breed.

“I can’t tell you the number of times a day I look at her and say, ‘You are so cute.’”

Would you like a dog like this?

100 Years Ago...

The Mahanoy City Elks Lodge invites all students ages 8-13 to participate in their annual foul shooting competition this Sunday, December 15th. There will be 3 age groups: 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13 with one female and one male winner from each age group. Winners will receive a trophy and will move on to the Regional competition to be held in Danville. Registration will be in the middle school gymnasium at 12:00 and the shoot begins at 1. This contest is free to all students and will be followed by a free pizza party at the Elks lodge. Any questions, see Mrs. Kiine.

FOUL SHOOTING COMPETITION

The most commonly requested presents from 100 years ago:

1913:
1. Candy
2. Nuts
3. Rocking horse
4. Doll
5. Mittens/gloves
6. Toy train
7. Oranges
8. Books
9. Handkerchiefs
10. Skates

Now take a look at the items topping contemporary lists:

2013:
1. Furby Boom
2. Teksta Robotic puppy
3. LeapPad Ultra
4. Flying Fairy
5. Bug Hugs Elmo
6. Barbie Dream house
7. Giggly Monkey
8. Nerf Gun
9. Ninja Turtles
10. Lego
January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days. The first day of the month is known as New Year’s Day. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of winter) and the warmest month of the year within most of the Southern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of summer). In the Southern hemisphere, January is the seasonal equivalent of July in the Northern hemisphere.

January starts on the same day of the week as October in common years, and starts on the same day of the week as April and July in leap years. In a common year, January ends on the same day of the week as February and October, and ends on the same day of the week as July in a leap year.

January (in Latin, Ianuarius) is named after Janus, the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman mythology, coming from the Latin word for door (ianua) since January is the door to the year.

Holidays in January

- New Year’s Day – January 1
- Independence Day in Haiti – January 1
- Handsel Monday in Scotland and northern England – First Monday
- Three Wise Men Day, or Epiphany, in Latin America, Spain, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic, and is, although not celebrated as widely or in the same way as in countries with a Spanish history, an official holiday in many European countries, for example Austria, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Liechtenstein, Slovakia and Croatia, as well as in parts of Germany and Switzerland. – January 6
- Russian and Ukrainian Christmas Eve, also known as Svyat Vechir – January 6
- Coptic and Russian Orthodox Church Christmas – January 7
- Plough Sunday in Scotland and northern England – Sunday after January 6
- Coming of Age Day in Japan – Second Monday National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the United States – January 11
- Feast of the Santo Niño in the Philippines – *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the United States – Third Monday
- Third Sunday is Pongal in India.
- Republic Day in India – January 26
- Australia Day in Australia – January 26
- Makara Sankranthi (Festival of Harvest) in India – January 14
- Auckland Anniversary in Auckland, New Zealand – Monday closest to January 29
- Burns night in Scotland – January 25
- The uniting of Moldavia and Wallachia under the same ruler in 1859, Romania – January 24
- National Thank You month
- Snow in January January’s birthstone is the garnet which represents constancy. Its birth flower is the cottage pink Dianthus caryophyllus or galanthus.[2]
- The Chinese floral emblem of January is the Prunus mume.[citation needed]
- The Japanese floral emblem of January is the camellia (Camellia sinensis).[citation needed]

In Finland, the month of Tammikuu means the heart of the winter and because the name also means Oak, it can be inferred that the oak tree is the heart of grand forest with many valuable trees as opposed to the typical Arctic forests which are typically pine and spruce. The photograph of a large tree covered with ice against a blue sky is a familiar scene during Finland’s winter.

The Zodiac signs for the month of January are Capricorn (until January 19) and Aquarius (January 20 onwards).
Top 10 New Year’s Resolutions

1. Be a better/good person
2. I don’t have a New Year’s Resolution
3. Go to the gym and get fit/stronger
4. Lose weight
5. Save money
6. Get into a good college
7. Eat healthy
8. Get a job
9. Be happy more often
10. Do homework on time
11. Practice piano more often
12. Not eat sugar
13. Don’t swear
14. Don’t die
15. Get a day planner and use it
16. Write a journal
17. Make next year better
18. Be on the Honor Roll the whole year
19. Have a more positive outlook
20. Do ballet
21. Save $1000
22. Make new friends
23. Run a 7-minute mile
24. Make State for swim
25. Fight the tyrannical majority
26. Wake up earlier
27. Work harder on everything
28. Study the Book of Mormon more often
29. Be better to my family
30. Get good grades
31. Get a car
32. Do the right thing no matter how unpopular it is
33. Be a good friend
34. Smile all the time
35. Run a 1.2 marathon
36. Run a 10K race

What does “Auld Lang Syne” mean, and why do we sing the song at midnight on New Year’s Eve?

“Auld Lang Syne,” the title of a Scottish folk song that many English speakers sing at the stroke of midnight on New Year’s Eve, roughly translates to “days gone by.” The poet Robert Burns is credited with transcribing, adapting and partially rewriting it in the late 18th century. Its lyrics, which rhetorically ask whether “auld acquaintance” should “be forgot,” have been interpreted as a call to remember friends and experiences from the past. Though sung on New Year’s Eve since the mid-19th century, it became firmly cemented as a holiday standard when Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians played it during a radio broadcast from New York’s Roosevelt Hotel at midnight on December 31, 1929. The band went on to perform the hit every year until 1976, and loudspeakers continue to blast their rendition after the annual ball drop in Times Square.

Who were the first to make resolutions for the new year?

People have been pledging to change their ways in the new year—whether by getting in shape, quitting a bad habit or learning a skill—for an estimated 4,000 years now. The tradition is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot. (They would reportedly vow to pay off debts and return borrowed farm equipment.) The age-old custom of breaking one’s newly formed resolutions within several months—a fate that befalls the majority of would-be reformers, according to statistics—probably originated shortly thereafter.
MAHANOY AREA
ANONYMOUS DRUG ACTIVITY TIP LINE

570.773.3048

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Do you know someone who needs help with a drug problem?
Did you witness illegal drug activities?
Do you know of drug dealings taking place anywhere in the area?
Do you suspect of drug storage or processing in your neighborhood?

Help us combat drug activity by letting us know it.

Working in partnership, we can make a difference!

The Mahanoy City Police Department ANONYMOUS DRUG ACTIVITY TIP LINE is for the confidential and anonymous reporting of information and non-emergency incidents to the Mahanoy City Police Department. The line has been set-up so that members of the community and students of the Mahanoy Area School District can report information that they may otherwise be reluctant to report. The Tip Line is a voice mailbox with a recorded message. A caller can leave a message containing the information that he or she wishes to share with the police department. There is no way to identify the caller or the line the caller is calling from. A caller is welcome to identify themselves and leave contact information if they wish and are encouraged to do so if the situation requires follow-up contact. The information left on the Tip Line will be checked frequently, and investigated as necessary. The Tip Line is a non-emergency line. If an incident is an emergency or requires an immediate response, call 911.

Help us take back our community by reporting illegal drug activity on the tip line!

For more information on the Mahanoy Area Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition, go to: www.mobcars.net
“Selfie” is the Word of the Year

Michelle Obama shared one with her “first dog” Bo. Hillary Clinton tweeted one with her daughter Chelsea. Now “selfie” — the smartphone self-portrait — has been declared word of the year for 2013, according to Britain’s Oxford University Press. “Sudoku” in 2005.

Judy Pearsall, the editorial director for Oxford Dictionaries, said “selfie” appeared to have been first used in 2002 on an Australian online forum. The hashtag #selfie appeared on the photo-sharing website Flickr in 2004.

“But usage wasn’t widespread until around 2012, when ‘selfie’ was being used commonly in mainstream media,” she said.

Australian English sometimes uses the suffix “-ie” — such as barbie for barbecue — which helps to explain where “selfie” may have come from, Pearsall added.

Oxford usually assigns a separate word of the year to the U.S. and to the U.K. It said “selfie” captured the imagination on both sides of the Atlantic this year.

Also making the shortlist was “binge-watch.” This is a verb that describes watching many episodes of a TV show in rapid succession.

The words were chosen by a research program that monitors online content and collects around 150 million words of English in use.

“Selfie” was added to the online version of the Oxford dictionary in August. It is being considered for future inclusion in the more traditional Oxford English Dictionary.

Answers To Christmas Trivia

Question 1: Silent Night
Question 2: We Three Kings
Question 3: Joy to the World
Question 4: Deck the Halls
Question 5: Hark the Herald Angels
Question 6: O Come O Come Emmanuel
Question 7: O Come All Ye Faithful
Question 8: Away in a Manger
Question 9: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Question 10: The First Noel

- The word Christmas is Old English, a contraction of Christ’s Mass.
- The first president to decorate the white house Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.
- Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green.
- Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.
- The first Christmas cards were vintage and invented in 1843, the Victorian Era.
- “It’s a Wonderful Life” appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie.
- Rudolph” was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930’s for a holiday promotion. The rest is history.
- The Nutcracker” is the most famous Christmas ballet.
- Jingle Bells” was first written for Thanksgiving and then became one of the most popular Christmas songs.
- If you received all of the gifts in the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” you would receive 364 gifts.
- The poinsettia plant was brought into the United States from Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the early 1800’s.
- Holly berries are poisonous.
- Contrary to common belief, poinsettia plants are non-toxic.
- Mistletoe was chosen as Oklahoma’s state flower in 1893 and later changed to the state floral emblem.