

paw PRINT

Mahanoy Area Middle School
Spring 2013



Paw Print can also be viewed at mabears.net. Click on "district"

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
 Artie DiCasimirro
 Kate Orsulak
 Trinna Delia
 Andrea Caulfield
 Cathy Stone
 Casey Moyer
 Carolyn Fishburn
 Joie Green
 Pam Wetzal
 Carolyn Fishburn

Middle School Members:

Jen Kern
 Joie green
 Sara Karnish
 Loretta Murphy-Birster
 Gloria Dudash
 Tina Leshko
 Maggie Fessler
 Tracy Dudash
 Mike Heater
 Kate Orsulak
 Trinna Delia
 Andrea Caulfield
 Suzanne Merchlinsky
 Casey Moyer
 Carolyn Fishburn

Student of the Month

Congratulations to the
 Eighth Grade
 Students of the Month

January -- JESSIE GUNOSKEY and

KYLE LOUGHLIN

February -- LIAM MANSELL and

PETER OSIFAT

March - MARK LAWRENCE and

ANGEL RAMOS

Lost Your Pen?

Submitted by:: Karin Scalamonti

lost your pen = no pen

no pen = no notes

no notes = no study

no study = fail

fial = no dimploma

no dimploma = no work

no work = no food

no food = skinny

skinny = ugly

ugly = no love

no love = no marriage

no marriage = no children

no children = alone

alone = depression

depression = sickness

sickness = death

Elementary School News

Kindergarten Screenings April 22, 25, 26.
 in the auditorium

Students Attend Computer Fair

The following students attended the Middle School Computer Fair on Friday, March 1 at IU29.

Grade 7: Aaron Lawrence, Brandon Haller, John Wiekrykas, Elizabeth Matz, Jazmyn Hauck, Riley Marion
Grade 8: Chris Dimmick, Jeremy Dom-browski and Joshua Kafka.

Lit Society Members Volunteer

Sixteen members of the Lit Society in grades 7-12 have been volunteering their time one day after school to read with first grade students. First grade students benefit from this opportunity to read aloud and practice their reading fluency and comprehension. The high schoolers enjoy making a difference and sharing their enjoyment for reading. The first grade teachers are very pleased to have these volunteers encourage strong reading habits and build confidence in young readers. This is truly a win-win situation and would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of the high school volunteers. Keep up the good work.

Mahanoy Area Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition

next meeting:

**Monday, April 15, 2013 at
2:30 pm in the
High School Library**

Students Compete in Spelling Bee

Middle School students Courtney Blackwell, Sophia Granados, John Henry Schroeder, and Sierra Ward represented Mahanoy Area at the Schuylkill County Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 2 at Blue Mountain High School.

What is Bullying?

Just calling someone a name is not bullying. Superintendent Green is looking for suggestions from students on what to do if they feel they are bullied. For example, should students contact the guidance counselor, write a letter and put it in the SAP box, or maybe even write a letter to the principal and drop it off in the office in a sealed envelope. If you have ideas you would like to share on this topic, stop in to see Dr. Green.

The true definition of bullying is...

“A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.”

This definition includes three important components:

1. Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

In order for it to be bullying, those three components must ALL be present, not just one.

What does PSSA stand for?

A. The Pennsylvania State Standardized Assessment.

Q. What is the PSSA test?

A. The PSSA test is a series of standardized tests created by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Currently, students are tested on Reading, Math, Writing and Science.

Q. What is the purpose of the PSSA?

A. The PSSA is a test on the core standards that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States No Child Left Behind Law feel students should know. This test helps school districts, educators, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and others check to see what students can do and what needs to be done to help them improve. The No Child Left Behind Law expects that all students must be 100% proficient on the test by 2014.

Q. What do the scores mean that the students can get?

A. There are four different possible scores that students can get, advanced, proficient, below basic and basic. Advanced means that student displays more than enough understanding of the skills being tested. Proficient means that the student is able to correctly complete the skills on the test. Below basic means the student can complete some of the skills. Basic means that students skills and understanding of the material are poor.

Students in grades 5-8 that would like to work on the next issue of Paw Print may see Ms. Scicchitano in the hs art room any day during remediation. The deadline for the next issue is May 15, 2013

SPCA Collection Appreciated

The Jeff Donnelly SPCA collection was greatly appreciated by the animals at Hillside SPCA in Pottsville. This annual collection at Mahanoy was begun by Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Scic a few years ago. Ms. Scic honors Mr. Don's love of animals by continuing to organize this collection. The animals at the SPCA sent the following letter to all who donated.

Dear Mahanoy Area,

There are no words to ever, ever thank you for all the wonderful gifts for our buddies! We were overwhelmed with your generosity & kindness. We cried when we saw your beautiful flyer! Mr. Donnelly was a very, very special person who is very proud of you and looking over us from Heaven. Without people we could not be here because we are completely cared for by donations. You are making a tremendous difference in the lives of so many animals in our world. We will never forget your kindness and love and always know how special you are and always know we love and appreciate you!

*With great love & gratitude,
Hillside SPCA
All paws salute to you!*

**Dress code reminder
shorts & skorts are
not permitted to be
worn until April 15.**

Bully or Bystander, End the Torment Now

There are two types of people in this world: good and bad.

I know you may have been expecting some Britney Spears lyric there, but this is something far grander than her platinum hit. This is about bullying.

Regardless of your religious, racial or gender-based convictions, we all believe and engage in certain stereotypes. Let's face it, this is human nature. What isn't, however, is the need to taunt another being you consider inferior, maybe even trivial to you.

National Anti-Bullying Month in October may be quite significant to some, most of us go on about our lives living unknowingly of this fact. This concept of unacceptable torment should be emphasized for one thing only — to make it stop.

I bet every single person reading this can say they have felt, at one point in their lives, that they've been victimized through bullying. Some of you can even say you were the bully. Regret or not, we have to change this new era of behavior

in students (maybe even adults) now more than ever.

If you witness any form of crude behavior, don't even pause to think about the fact it's your friend who's the bully or what might happen to you as a result of that situation. Just report it! The fact of the matter is you might not have to put up with nearly as much as the victim who would've been subject to this far longer than if you had not stopped it. The saying that "there are no innocent bystanders" is correct. Embrace this and don't be afraid to patrol the halls every once in a while. If you see it, believe it and tell an adult right away.

As to anyone who might be feeling pain now, please confide in your parents. They are your greatest supporters and will work genuinely to help you in every aspect. Don't be afraid to tell people because the more they know, the more you can stand up to the beast — with an entire army behind you.

To any bullies out there, I ask you to stop and live a life better than what you ensue now.

By KRIYANA REDDY: SPECIAL TO THE LEDGER



April is one of only four months that has exactly 30 days. The others are June, September & November.

April begins on the same day of the week as July every single year.

Diamonds are the birthstones of people born in April.

April is also known as a rainy month. Have you ever heard the phrase, "April showers bring May flowers?"

In America, April is when we celebrate National Poetry Month, Earth Day, and of course, April Fools' Day. April 15th is also notorious for being Tax Day.

But around the globe, April is an important month, too. Bataan Day in the Philippines is celebrated on April 9th, the Thai New Year is celebrated in Thailand on April 13th, and Freedom Day is celebrated in South Africa on April 27th to commemorate the first post-apartheid elections held in that country in 1994. And of course, Easter and Passover are celebrated all around the world during this month.

April Facts

The 4th month of the year is an outstanding one

According to early Roman calendar, April was the second month but became fourth when they started to use January as the first month. The name originally came from Aprilis, meaning 'to open'. In April, small animals that were hibernating usually come out and the birds fly back northward to settle, bees and butterflies begin to gather nectar. In some parts of the world, April is planting time but in other parts, it's the harvest season. Because of the nice warm weather of April, amateur athletes begin to go outside while the professional baseball begins. People usually do huge spring cleaning and mowing. The first day of April begins with April fool's day.

Below are some fun facts about April:

1. The birthstone for April is the diamond.
2. The zodiac signs for April are Aries (March 21 - April 19) and Taurus (April 20 - May 20).
3. The birth flower of April is typically the Sweet Pea or the Daisy.
4. Global Child Nutrition Month
5. Humor Month
6. Mathematics Awareness Month
7. The Revolutionary War in America began on April 19, 1755.
8. April 23rd is known as the Feast day of the Patron Saint of England.
9. On April 30, 1975, General Duong Vanh Minh surrendered and the Communist forces captured Saigon which led to the end of the Vietnam War.
10. On April 4, 1818, a flag that contained 1 star for each state and 13 stripes was adopted by Congress.
11. In Fayette, N.Y. on April 6, 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was founded by Joseph Smith.
12. On April 6, 1917 the United States declared war on Germany in World War I.
13. On April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed.
14. On April 11, 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled to the island of Elba and he was abdicated as Emperor of the French.
15. Good Friday - Friday before Easter Sunday
16. April 1 - April Fools' Day
17. April 5 - Arbor Day
18. April 22 - Earth Day
19. Thai New Year in Thailand
20. Khmer New Year in Cambodia



The first National Autism Awareness Month was declared by the Autism Society in April 1970.

The aim of this month is educate the public about autism. Autism is a complex mental condition and developmental disability, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people. Autism can be be

April is National Autism Awareness

present from birth or from during early childhood (typically within the first three years). Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no single known cause.

Autism Is Widespread, Awareness About This Condition Is Not

In the United States, autism affects 1 in every 110 children. National Autism Awareness Month aims to make the public more aware about this widespread disability and the issues which arise in the autism community. As about 1 in 150 people in America have autism, the chances are that you know someone with this disability. A better informed public will be more empathetic and supportive towards people with autism.