



Congratulations
Class of 2016

The time has come to say goodbye to your middle school years. You are now going to be Freshman! Congratulations on all your middle school accomplishments. I look forward to seeing you in the halls of the high school next year. Stay safe and have a great summer!

-Mrs. Green

**8th Grade:
Best of luck in
High School!
-Mr. Zack**

Get the facts on how America's birthday is celebrated

Variously known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence



from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

The Avengers: the must see movie of the summer

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Samuel L. Jackson, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo

Director: Joss Whedon

Release Date: 4 May 2012 (U.S. Dates)

Summer begins with the biggest crossover movie ever made. The confirmed line-up in-

cludes Iron Man, Thor, Captain America, Nick Fury, Black Widow, and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner). Mark Ruffalo is replacing Ed Norton as The Hulk. They all fighting Thor's brother Loki and, presumably, the Skrull army he helps invade earth. It'll be fascinating to see how the lead characters are balanced and how they play off each other, it really does feel like something unique is happening. Director Joss Whedon has a daunting task on his hands.



Mahanoy Area Hosts Music Fest



On Friday May 4th, Mahanoy Area hosted the PMEA District 10 Elementary Band and Orchestra Fest.

Made up of a 110 piece band and a 20 piece orchestra, students in grades 4th - 6th, from 3 counties and over 20 schools participated in this half day festival and performed a concert that evening. Guest conductors were, Mrs. Ann Cusano - Band and Mrs. Priscilla Hirschenhofer, retired music teachers from the Governor Mifflin School District, Shillington, Pa.

Each ensemble performed five pieces and then ended the evening with a combined performance. The audience was filled to capacity with satisfied listeners. These students put in many hours of work and did a fantastic job. Yet another reason as to why the arts ARE SO IMPORTANT in school.



Front Row: Morgan DeWitt, Kathryn McCarthy, Kendall Bernardyn, Skyler Teichman, Ryan Folk Back Row: Joey Gunoskey, Mr. Jason Wenrich, Billi Jo Yemm, Maddy Minalda

Fabulous Fifth Graders

Mason Burke, Tyler Clewell and Mike Ansbach

Cade Bleashka

Color: orange

Number: 3

Activities: drawing

Subject: science

Special class: computers

Pets: 7

Kendall Bernardyn

Color: purple

Number: 3

Activities: swimming

Subject: history

Special class: gym

Pets: 1

Kody McKenzie

Color: purple

Number: 69

Activities: baseball

Subject: math

Special class: computers

Pets: 11

Ryan Folk

Color: blue

Number: 7

Activities: hockey

Subject: science

Special Class: music

Pet: 1

Taylor Evans

Color: pink

Number: 3

Activities: karate

Subject: math

Special class: gym and art

Pets :1

Summer Vacation

By: Jacob Ulicny

Z L I X T V H G T W N H H T G P R A
 K I D T A M A N J T V C P H K V V V
 D I S N E Y D I W L A H C F Z S J G
 U G U N U E F T X E W P J H I D O M
 G W T T Y H F F B N Q M E X F D S M
 D O R N E Y P A R K R U F W W A K J
 H K T K O D L R B D J L Q R E F N U
 O A P R K I V R R P A C K J X B O Y
 W O W G M L A E C G I W C T A X E E
 U K C A A C E T S M J R K P S G B H
 H Q C E I H C A E B E H T Y B U L S
 S E Z A A I G W O Z R Z G D R N E R
 W U M U G N P X T A A A T H A N S E
 N A D M D J C S K J T O H S B O W H
 J V B J E Q S I R X V G W Z Z C R R
 T F X Y H R K C T W Z Q A M J D X Z
 Q N S E O I N I S Y E I X C A F K L
 R J R O U V H A T C H Z E D E I K W

CAMILABEACH
 HAWAII
 KNOEBLES
 SIXFLAGS

DISNEY
 HERSHEY
 OCEANCITY
 THEBEACH

DORNEYPARK
 JAMAICA
 ROADTRIP
 WATERRAFTING

Students Learn About Plants

Students in the 5th grade Science classes are studying plants. As part of an in-class project, students have enjoyed expanding their knowledge of plants by uncovering interesting facts about plants. Here are a few of the many fascinating plant facts students have uncovered through their research:

Cierra Abrachinsky: Chlorophyll means “green plant” in Greek.

Michael Ansbach: The duckweed plant floats on water.

Kendall Bernardyn: There are about 60 species of buttercups in America.

Topanga Berezwick: From the giant gum tree to a very small weed, every flowering plant started as a seed.

Zachary Blashock: In 100 years, the Earth may lose half of its wetlands.

Cade Bleashka: Papyrus is a giant reed that is used to make paper for writing.

Hunter Bloss: In a rain forest, some trees grow on top of each other.

Brian Boyle: Chloroplasts are cells in plants that collect sunlight. Green leaves are rich in chlorophyll.

Paige Brode: The largest of the redwood trees are the Giant Sequoias trees of California. One of them is 30 feet wide and over 290 feet tall.

Mason Burke: Plants can make fat from carbohydrates.

Maddie Byrne: Flowers with spots on them attract pollinating insects.

Isabel Casey: A flower can get pollen from another, different flower.

Madison Cavenas: The skunk cabbage is one of the earliest flowers to appear.

Tyler Clewell: There are about 67 species of sunflowers native to America.

Stephen Cole: Vines can grow anywhere.

Marcus Crespo: Some Redwood Trees are six stories taller than the Statue of Liberty!

Cade Cunningham: The Saguaro Cactus’ Latin name is “Cereus giganteus”.

Morgan DeWitt: The French cotton plant is a flowering plant used to produce latex.

Chris Donella: Poppy seeds are small and light, so they float easily on water.

Taylor Evans: Lilies and their relatives make up one of the largest families of flowering plants.

Colin Fegley: Kudzu, a fast growing Asian vine, has smothered millions of acres in the United States since it was planted in the 1930’s to control soil erosion.

DeAndre Fernandez: Redwoods are good at defending themselves. They can survive a fire.

Jazzmine Fernandez: Bees have special pouches on their legs to carry pollen from a flower.

Hunter Fisher: When a cactus dies, it becomes a home for many animals and insects.

Ryan Folk: Pine Blister Rust is a fungal disease that spreads to white pines from currants and gooseberries.

Joey Gunoskey: All cacti stems are especially made to store water. They have tiny rod-like structures inside them called vascular bundles.

Moises Guzman: Seeds fall into streams, ponds, rivers, and the ocean. They travel on the water until they stick to dirt along a shore.

Paige Hanerfeld: The yellow lady slipper has become scarce in recent years due to extensive picking.

Jacob Hartranft: There is a cactus called “Old Woman.”

Alexis Jones: Great Mullein is a very common European plant found along roadsides, in fields, and in waste places.

Cameron Jones: The Latin name for the Saguaro Cactus is *Cereus giganteus*. When a Saguaro dies, the container where birds nest falls out and the Native Americans used them as food containers.

Maggie Joseph: Small leaves are better able to withstand high winds.

Nickolas Kies: A “Maypole Bower” can grow up to up to nine feet and have a ring of moss on top.

Karlene Kleppinger: If you count the rings on a chopped-down tree, you will know how old the tree is.

Christopher Kondash: The Chink-A-Pin Oak has a leaf somewhat resembling that of the Chestnut Oak.

Amber Lawrence: Pickerel can grow from 1 to 3 feet high, forming extensive beds in the shallows of ponds and sluggish streams.

Brook Leinheiser: Squirrels help oak trees to grow by burying acorns.

Jordan Lipshaw: The Saguaro Cactus grows only in the Sonoran Desert.

Abbey McGee: White-winged doves drink flower nectar; doves can be pollinators, too!

Cole Macieunus: Red cedars live 1,000 years.

Kody McKenzie: Algae can remove radioactive chemicals from water!

Seth Maley: In addition, to the regular spines, some cacti have tiny, sharp bristles called glochids.

Dylan Marushak: Even though oil covered the grass after the BP Oil spill, by mid-July, new grass had sprouted.

Chase Mazlusky: The Saguaro Cactus can weigh up to 6 tons.

Nina Mooney: Cactus flesh stores water which the plant uses a bit at a time.

Christian Meyers: The rainforest has four floors.

Cody Palubinsky: There are 2500 species of cactus plants.

Summer Pavelick: Beach verbena grows all over the Southwest; it not only has to deal with severe droughts, but also with severe temperatures.

Meredith Rhoades: There are underwater plants that trap small fish! The bladderwort is one!

Allison Scheeler: Many aromatic plants, such as the Blue Curis, grow in fields and in dry, open places.

Kayleigh Sipple: The islands of the Caribbean and the islands of the Indian Ocean have each lost about 50 species of plants to extinction.

Brandon Snider: A Venus Flytrap closes its jaws in on third of a second.

Destiny Snyder: Kelps, the great, brown algae found in northern waters, are harvested on the Pacific coast. Thousands of tons of kelp are used yearly in the chemical industries.

Nico Streisel: Color is a means by which different types of algae are grouped.

Keely Sullivan: The stem holds up the plant so that it doesn't fall over.

Skylar Teichman: The trunks of Redwood trees can have craters in them that are as big as a car.

Austin Tobin: Bananas do not grow on real trees. They grow on a large stem.

Jasmine Treichler: A Fire Barrel Cactus has red spines that look as if they are tangled up.

Logan van Horn: Transpiration: Plants lose water through pores in their leaves. Warm, wet air rises into the sky. The wet air cools and forms rainclouds. Plants soak up the rain through their roots.

Miranda Vargas: The food onion is a bulb plant.

Anthony Walters: Algae are found in waters almost everywhere.

Michael Wargo: The beginning of a plant is curled up inside each seed. Food is stored inside the seed, too.

Jamielee Wilner: The Philippines are home to over 7,000 species of plants.

Envirothon 2012

On Friday, April 13, 2012, Mahanoy Area students participated in the Schuylkill County Envirothon, held at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds. Snoops Black Team (consisting of 4th grade students: Payton Martin, Anthony Martin, Caitlin Stone and 5th grade students: Morgan Dewitt, Colin Fegley, & Cameron Jones) AND Snoops Gold Team (consisting of 4th grade students: Caitlin Honus, Danny Lawrence, Anthony Merchlinsky and 5th grade students: Michael Ansbach, Madison Cavenas, & Meredith Rhoades) tested their knowledge in the areas of Pennsylvania: wildlife, forestry, aquatics, & soils. Snoops Black Team brought home a 5th place ribbon for their efforts! Go Bears!!!!!!

Mahanoy Musicians



The following 7th and 8th Grade students participated in Jr. Schuylkill County Band at Williams Valley School District.

Evan McKenzie
 Bryana Messerschmidt
 Adam Bahrey
 Amberly Blashock
 Madison Ansbach
 Amanda Meyers
 Chris Caravella
 Jessie Gunoskey
 Meghan Letcavage

Computer Fair Participants



Summer Travel Trivia!

Did you know...

- The average cruise ship burns approximately 1 gallon of fuel to move just 6 inches?
- The wingspan of Boeing's 747 is longer than the Wright brothers' first flight?
- Alaska has more coastline than the entire continental United States combined? That's over 47,300 miles of places to get your feet wet!
- By eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class, American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987?
- Carnival Cruise Lines puts more than 10 million chocolate mints on their guests' pillows every year?
- Royal Caribbean's 142,000 ton behemoth, "Voyager of the Seas," is the first ship ever to have its own zip code (33132-2028). Hosting up to 3,114 passengers, it's approximately 42,000 tons larger than the U.S. Navy's largest aircraft carrier, and features a 15,000 square foot fitness center, 9-hole golf course, 200-foot rock-climbing wall, two-story library containing over 3,000 books, and a regulation-size ice skating rink!

Celebrate Memorial Day

It was 1866 and the United States was recovering from the long and bloody Civil War between the North and the South. Surviving soldiers came home, some with missing limbs, and all with stories to tell. Henry Welles, a drugstore owner in Waterloo, New York, heard the stories and had an idea. He suggested that all the shops in town close for one day to honor the soldiers who were killed in the Civil War and were buried in the Waterloo cemetery. On the morning of May 5, the townspeople placed flowers, wreaths and crosses on the graves of the Northern soldiers in the cemetery. At about the same time, Retired Major General Jonathan A. Logan planned another ceremony, this time for the soldiers who survived the war. He led the veterans through town to the cemetery to decorate their comrades' graves with flags. It was not a happy celebration, but a memorial. The townspeople called it Decoration Day.



Five Ways a School Nurse Benefits the School

Attendance - School nurses improve attendance through health promotion, disease prevention and disease management. Students with a full-time school nurse have about half the student illness- or injury-related early releases from school where no school nurse is present.

Academics – Improved attendance means the healthy student is in the classroom and ready to learn. **School Nurses** enable better performance, which also contributes to reducing drop-out rates.

Time – School nurses save time for principals, teachers and staff. A school nurse in the building saves principals, teachers, and clerical staff a considerable amount of time that they would have spent addressing health concerns of students.

A school nurse in the building saves:

- Principals almost an hour a day
- Teachers almost 20 minutes a day
- Clerical staff over 45 minutes a day

“We know that students need to be healthy to learn. School nurses play a vital role in making sure children are healthy and ready to learn.”

– Arne Duncan, Secretary,
U.S. Department of Education

Staff Wellness - School nurses improve the general health of staff. According to school reports, principals, teachers, and clerical staff are **VERY** satisfied with having school nurses in their schools for several reasons:

- Teachers can focus on teaching
- Office staff spend less time calling parents and sending students home
- Healthy staff means increased attendance and productivity

Accountability - School nurses help schools stay accountable.

- Promoting compliance with federal and state law mitigates lawsuits
- Advocating for adequate staffing aligns with Healthy People 2020 recommendations of the ratio of one school nurse per 750 well students (1:750)
- Preparing for emergencies saves lives and property
- Addressing student mental health links to academic achievement

School nurses are instrumental in the identification and referral to community resources for health risks and are often the only health professional who see students on a regular basis.

School nurses are responsible for:

- Significantly decreasing the amount of days missed due to asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for more than 14 million missed days annually
- Managing students with chronic conditions such as diabetes and seizures to allow them to stay in class
- Identifying and treating accidents and injuries
- Counseling students about physical and emotional issues

School Nurses Economic Value

- ✓ Provide health services that increase school attendance
- ✓ Prevent and control the spread of communicable disease
- ✓ Administer specialized services to students (medications, insulin pumps, ventilators, tube feedings)
- ✓ Verification of immunizations
- ✓ Screening and make referrals for vision, hearing, BMI
- ✓ Provide health professional input and direction for school and community policies and programs
- ✓ Educate students and staff on managing their own health and wellness

Healthy Children = Academic Success
www.nasn.org