

paw PRINT

Mahanoy Area Middle School

SUMMER 2013



By: Simolena Edgar

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

Students, Parents, and Faculty:

Writing this message brings mixed emotions as it signifies the passing of another school year but the start of another journey for our 8th grade class. In my second year leading the Mahanoy Area Middle School I realize that I learn as much from our students as they learn in class each day. Our students are able learn and grow in ways we could not imagine just a decade earlier. I thank each and every member of our 2012-13 student body for their contributions in and around the classroom. Academically and socially, the students at Mahanoy Area Middle School are consistently showing their best effort. Nearly half of the student population made the honor rolls each marking period. Students participated in more than ten clubs, organizations, and sports.

I am also very thankful for our staff, family members, and community partners who helped to make this school year a success. Our staff strives giving every effort to make Mahanoy Area a positive place to learn and develop. Our families and community members provide the foundation needed to sustain the lessons learned each day.

To the 8th grade class of 2013 I offer encouragement, gratitude, and another challenge. Continue to push yourselves and follow your dreams. Do not settle for average, but push yourselves to be exceptional. Good luck in all that you do and do not ever give up. Congratulations class of 2017, you will be missed.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Heater Jr.
Middle School Principal

Congratulations to the
Eighth Grade
Students of the Month for April

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS and
TREVOR FLYNN

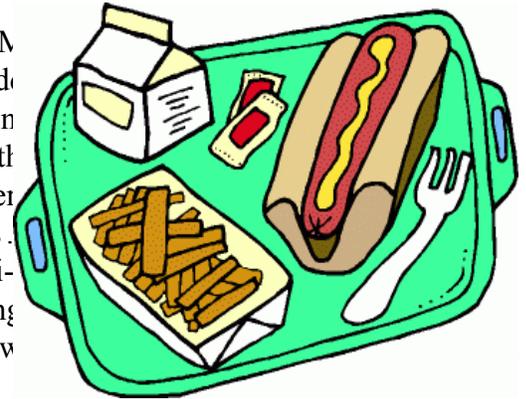
New Rule For School?!

By: Simolena Edgar

Students in Mahanoy Area Middle School don't clean up in the cafeteria after themselves.

Instead of janitors cleaning after kids, we kids cleaning

Eight teachers and fourteen students agree this rule should be passed. Students say this rule already passed, but it seems kids do not clean up anyway. "Some children are very sloppy. "Even if they don't do it at home, they should do it at school," Mrs. Ulicny says. It proves that students don't care about other student's areas, I talked to students about this rule and over eighty disagree. "They must not care for other people that care about cleaning after themselves," says Mrs. Dietrich.



CRAFT ITEMS FOR SALE

The Sewing and Fashion Club has an assortment of hand-made craft items including: purses, bracelets, hair accessories, necklaces, and key chains for sale. Please stop by Mrs. Pepe's room to purchase or place an order for a special request!

Mrs. Pepe's Classes:

Any 7th grade student who left their backpack project with Mrs. Pepe for demonstration purposes should pick them up by May 30th. Any unclaimed bags will be donated to charity.

SHINE Program Needs Funding

As many of you know, SHINE is an after-school program in our elementary school, which offers academic, social, and family support to members of our student body. This program is funded through federal money, that is passed down to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and then to Lehigh Carbon Community, which runs the program. Over the past nine years the program has run successfully in Schuylkill and Carbon County schools with no gaps in service. Unfortunately, SHINE does not have the funding to continue the kindergarten-fourth grade part of the program after June 30, 2013. Our SHINE staff is aggressively searching for funding. We can use your help. Please write a letter addressed to "Elected Officials" and hand it in to one of us. We will be mailing the letters from you, our students, and their parents in bulk in the near future. Some activities that we complete at SHINE include: homework help, test preparation, remediation activities, enrichment activities (including STEM), physical activities, social skills, hygiene education, and a hot meal. We also offer a monthly family dinner, summer home visits, GED and ESL courses, and summer camp, all free of cost.

Thank you for taking this time to offer your support to our SHINE students.

-Megan Tomko and Audra Kufro

Students Compete in Envirothon

The following students attended the Schuylkill County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 7. Eighth Grade: Matt Derr, Sam Gnall, Dylan Minahan, Liam Mansell and Peter Osifat. Seventh Grade: Megan Babinsky, Megan Bisco, Jordan Hannon and Justin Letcavage. Sixth Grade: Michael Ansbach, Madison Cavenas and Meredith Rhoades. Fifth Grade: Alexis Perez, Anthony Martin, Tony Merchlinsky, Caitlin Honus, Payton Martin, and Macie Mazalusky.

Summer Kid Flicks

Planes

The animated Disney flick of 2012 was about a curly-haired girl named Merida who lived in mythological Scotland, but in 2013, we're going into the future with Disney's Planes. The Cars franchise spin-off follows Dusty, a small-town plane that wants to participate in a round-the-world air race. Given the merchandising that surrounds the Cars franchise, this is bound to be the toy aisle hit of the Summer with its Aug. 9 release.

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters

The Percy Jackson series continues with Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters, in which Percy and friends must enter the Sea of Monsters to find the Golden Fleece. The flick hits theaters on Aug. 7.

The Smurfs 2

Get ready to start humming the Smurfs theme song again on July 31. Neil Patrick Harris, Sofia Vergara, Christina Ricci, and Hank Azaria appear in The Smurfs 2, in which the lovable blue creatures team up with their human friends to rescue Smurfette, who is taken hostage by Gargamel.

Despicable Me 2

The voices behind the animated characters in Despicable Me 2 are enough to make any parent want to head to the theater — Steve Carell, Al Pacino, Kristen Wiig, Russell Brand, and Miranda Cosgrove, to name a few — but given the popularity of the first movie, there'll be something for everyone when the flick hits theaters on July 3.

Monsters University

Disney's fun monsters return on June 21 for the new Monsters University. The movie takes us back in time to when Mike and Sulley first met — in college — and went from mismatched monsters to best friends.

Epic

You'll recognize most of the voices in the new Epic film — Steven Tyler, Jason Sudeikis, Beyoncé, Amanda Seyfried, and Pitbull — about a teen who's transported deep into the forest where good battles evil. The flick opened May 24.



Elementary School Corner

MRS. SUSAN C. SCHEELER, PRINCIPAL

DEPARTMENT DOINGS

Social Studies Chairperson Jeanette Amershek on behalf of the entire department would like to thank Mr. Jason Wenrich for celebrating National Tuba Day with the Elementary School on May 2nd. Mr. Wenrich visited every classroom and played selections on both the baritone and the tuba. The Elementary School also celebrated National Dance Like a Chicken Day on May 14th. Mrs. Scheeler led the student body in "The Chicken Dance" in the gymnasium.

GRADE LEVEL NEWS

Kindergarten in a Nutshell was held on May 1st. Parents of incoming kindergarten students attended the program from 6-8 to learn more about the curriculum expected of their children. After a brief introduction by Mrs. Scheeler, parents were divided into groups and rotated through sessions in the classrooms that addressed various topics. Mrs. Tracy Gennarini-Bro and Mr. Thomas Dulsky gave a brief overview of what will be expected next year in both math and reading. Miss Keri Kardisco developed a brochure that included excellent resources such as websites for parents to use to practice skills. A book list was distributed to parents for use over the summer to prepare students for kindergarten. Mrs. Angela Trainer, in conjunction with Mrs. Michelle Wells and Mrs. Judy Kane, developed this helpful list. Mrs. Tish Malarkey handed out bags full of items to use to help with literacy and math skills over the summer (chalk, dice, letter/number formation cards). Other presenters included Mrs. Melissa Honus, Mrs. Loretta Murphy-Birster, Mrs. Nancy Kaczmarczyk, Mrs. Peg Popalis, Mr. Bob Novatnak, and Mrs. Judy Kane. Thanks to all the teachers who contributed to the success of this program and to Child Development for "babysitting" the children in the gymnasium during it.

MINI RELAY FOR LIFE

Mahanoy Elementary will be holding an American Cancer Society Relay Recess on Thursday, May 30th during the school day. The Relay Recess is being planned by Mrs. Kelly Gregg, Mrs. Amy Dobeck and Mrs. Angela Trainer, along with Leslie Wagner from the American Cancer Society. Students will be walking around the

track at various intervals throughout the day and are raising money for the ACS. Also, each classroom will be making a banner to carry during their laps! What a wonderful way our teachers are showing our students how to make a difference!

CAREER DAY

Mrs. Heather Yarnitsky planned our annual Career Day on May 17th for our third and fourth grade students. We had five speakers per grade for a total of ten. Speakers include a pharmacist, WYLN camerawomen, engineer, chiropractor, an OR nurse, pilot, auctioneer, sergeant in the Marines, and our own superintendent. Speakers stayed in an assigned room for the entire time, and classes rotated to them. Each of the three classes was with them for twenty-five minutes. They were asked to try to include the following in their presentation: why they chose their job, job description, description of training and/or education that would be needed for their job, discuss their likes about their job, skills needed for the job, etc. Also they could bring any objects, props, and/or visual displays that might give more information about their job. The day was to provide our students with knowledge about the various careers that are available in the world of work.

ENVIROTHON

Select students in 4th through 12th grades recently participated in the Schuylkill County Envirothon. It was held on Tuesday, May 7 at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds in Summit Station. The 4th graders that attended were Ean Chelak, Josh Ramos, John Babinsky, Meghan Macleary, Autumn Moss, and Isabella Kramer. The teams competed in topics that include forestry, aquatics, wildlife, and soils. We are very proud of our fourth and fifth grade team for coming in third place!

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

The elementary students celebrated "Children's Book Week" in the library during May 6-10, 2013. The theme was "Elephant and Piggie" in honor of Mo Willems' popular beginning reader series. All classes performed a choral reading of Mo Willems' book "Watch Me Throw the Ball". The students enjoyed the opportunity to read together, use expression, and celebrate great children's literature. The students learned that

Elementary School Corner cont'd

they never grow too old to read and enjoy quality children's literature.

In addition, the students participated in a week long book trivia contest for Children's Book Week. Each day a different grade level had an opportunity to answer a trivia contest question correctly. One winner was announced each day. Each winner won a book and poster of their choice. The winners were: Daniel Gutekunst, 4th grade, Madilyn Rick, 3rd Grade, Colin Krainik, 2nd Grade, Emma Price, Kindergarten. (1st Grade winner had not been selected at the time of writing.)

HAWK MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP

Third grade enjoyed a field trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary this month. Students saw raptors, scientists, a real Great Horned Owl (indoors), and many other things in nature as they hiked and ate lunch on the trails. The trip coincided with their science curriculum. Students were well behaved and gave us all great Bear Pride. (Thanks for funding the buses Mrs. Scheeler.)

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAHANOY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mrs. Michelle Wells announced that the elementary school will receive \$400 to purchase prizes for the Sum-

mer Reading Challenge for grades K-4. Mrs. Wells is working on the details of the program so that our students will be informed of it before they leave for their summer vacation.

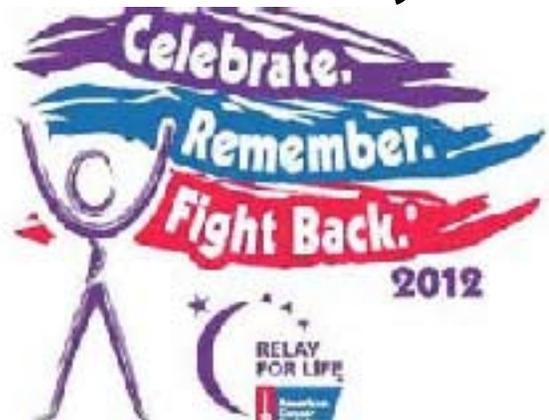
We will also receive \$300 for books to be housed in the middle school library which will be owned by the MCPL. Mrs. Wells will be able to enter the books into our circulation system for the 2013-14 school year and receive credit for our records. They will be returned to the MCPL at the end of the 2014 school year. The MCPL Board hopes that the students understand about the collaboration between our two libraries and will visit the public library for more terrific books. Both of the former initiatives were funded by former Alumnus David Huebner.

The Board of the MCPL has expressed an interest in attending our Meet the Teacher Nights or any other gathering of students and parents to promote the public library. Mrs. Wells is also preparing a proposal to have them sponsor an author for PA One Book Every One Child.

Special thanks to Mrs. Wells for all of her efforts in promoting reading and the MCPL.

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.

Relay for Life Scheduled for Mahanoy



Northern Schuylkill County Relay for Life is scheduled for June 8-9 at the Mahanoy Area Football Stadium. We encourage the community to take part in this worthy event. Thank you for your support!

CHAINED

By: Sierra Ward

“Come on, Rory, we’re going to miss our flight because you decided to go to bed at 2:30 last night.”

“RORY get up!” my Dad yells practically in my ear.

“UGH! Fine,” I say, getting out of our car.

“Anyways it isn’t my fault I couldn’t get to sleep. I was too excited.”

“I know,” my Dad sighs. “A Disney world trip is a pretty exciting birthday present.”

This is going to be the best birthday ever, I think to myself. If I say it out loud I might jinx it and trust me, my luck is bad enough already.

“Hurry up and get your suitcase out of the back seat,” my Dad tells me, suddenly breaking my daydream.

“Alright,” I call back and start trying to yank my giant suitcase out of the back seat. As I reached for it I noticed a man was watching me. Creepy I thought to myself.

Creeper, I thought to myself. Just then my giant suitcase decided it was sick of being in the car and came flying out. It almost hit me in the face, but decided to land on my foot instead. I picked the wrong day to wear flip-flops. I knew I was fine-no broken toes, but it still hurt. Who would have thought that’d be the highlight of my day. I trundled my suitcase in the doors and I thought I was going to go deaf. Every noise imaginable seemed to be reaching my ears; babies crying, toddlers screaming, and moms yelling at kids to hurry up. I put down the suitcase and looked around at the board displaying flight delays and cancellations. “I hope our flight isn’t delayed,” I said aloud. My mom tapped me on the shoulder and gave me a twenty.

“Why don’t you go buy something?”

“Ok,” I said, surprised, “Thanks,” I said, gave her a

hug and ran off. I went straight to the f.y.e to get some new ear buds and I saw that guy again but this time he walked right up to me. I could clearly see the outline of a gun in his pocket. I turned to run but he grabbed my arm. He yanked me back towards him and covered my mouth with his hand.

“Say nothing,” he said, “Don’t try to run.”

Without thinking for a second I bit his hand hard.

“You little,” I heard him say as he ran after me. He must’ve thought something like this may happen because he had backup. His backup grabbed me as I ran by and threw me to the ground. Then he picked me up and carried me outside. He stopped in front of a black van. He held my hands behind my back and duct taped my mouth shut. Then his buddy put hand cuffs attached to a short chain on me and put me in the van. I could see a boy my age across from me. He was only chained to the wall, no duct tape.

“Hey,” he said, “Looks like you need some help.

I turned and he crawled backwards in my direction. He grabbed the tape with his fingers and I immediately asked questions.

“What’s going on?”

“Where are we going?”

“You don’t know?”

“He said, “You really don’t know.”

“Have I been kidnapped?” I asked no one in particular.

”Ha! No, you’d probably be safer with some trigger happy goon. Your parents are selling you to white slavery.”

...to be continued in the next issue of Paw Print

Book Fair Held

There was a Scholastic Book Fair in the Middle School Library on May 21, 22 and 23. Most books for sale appealed to teens and tweens. Many students stopped by to grab some summer reading material!

All purchases were Buy One, Get One Free!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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 Wetzel
 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

Top 5 Most Anticipated Games of Summer 2013

#5. At number five, we have the re-release of "Lego Batman", but this time it comes bundled with the blu-ray version of the original "Batman" movie. You know, the one with Michael Keaton! What's even better is how ridiculously inexpensive this is priced at. It's scheduled for release on May 30th and is available for a whopping \$19.99.

#4. Sure it's been out in Japan for a while now. And there are plenty of gameplay videos on YouTube. However, for those of us who don't know how to read Japanese or don't live in Japan, the new "Animal Crossing" will be released in the good ol' U.S.A. on June 9th.

#3. Who knows how this game will play? Does it even matter, though? It's got one of the most popular comic book characters in it and you play as him. 'Nuff said. "Deadpool" will be released on June 25th for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3.

#2. "Remember Me" is a futuristic action adventure game that takes place in Neo-Paris 2028. "Personal memories can now be digitized, bought, sold, and traded." The game has a very interesting concept where social media has blown up so much that privacy and intimacy are almost non-existent. You play as Nilin, a former memory hunter, who has her own memory wiped. Now she is on a mission to recover them. The game is set to launch on June 4th for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3.

#1. "The Last of Us" is not just another game about zombies. The game tells a dynamic story about a man who is tasked with bringing a girl from one quarantine zone to another, but turns into an epic journey of survival and friendship. Early gameplay footage has shown that in times of need, one must do whatever it takes to live. You can expect this to be a top contender for game of the year. "The Last of Us" is slated for release on June 14th and is exclusive to the PlayStation 3

Top 10 Summer Activities

Summer is here, and the weather is hot, hot, hot! But don't let the heat get to you down. Here is a list of the top 10 summer activities to keep you active and energetic this summer!

No. 10: Summer Cleaning

Summer time gives you the perfect opportunity to go through all your old toys and clothes and get rid of what you don't need any more. Instead of boxing it up and storing it for months in your basement or attic, you can put it straight into your garage sale and earn some extra bucks for slurpees and waterslide passes!

No. 9: Get Chalky!

Feeling artistic? Why not try your hand at some street art? Get some sidewalk chalk and go to town. Who knows? Maybe you'll create the next masterpiece

No. 8: Fly a Kite

What do you do when it's a nice day out, but just a little bit too windy? Why, fly a kite, of course! Find a park, beach or large open field with few to no trees that will get in the way, run like the wind and let your kite soar.

No. 7: Water Fight!

It's hot out. You've got ten friends together. And about 50 water balloons. But there's nothing to do. Wait a second...water fight! Nothing beats the heat better than popping a water balloon over your head or getting drenched by a super soaker.

No. 6: Scavenger Hunt

If your parents or friends' parents aren't too busy, ask them to set up a scavenger hunt for you! It could be around the house, around the yard or around the block. Maybe the winner could get a prize, like a free

ice cream!

No. 5: Pool Time

If you have access to a pool, cool off with some pool time. If you're not into lounging and catching some rays, play games like marco polo, relay races, or, if you have access to sinkable toys, have an underwater scavenger hunt!

No. 4: Picnic in the Park

Nothing says summer like a picnic in the park. Pack some sandwiches, chips, crackers and cheese and juice boxes, and head out to you local park with your family or friends for a nice outdoor lunch in the sun.

No. 3: Get Active

You spend 10 months of the year sitting at your desk in school. So while the weather is nice, get outside and get active! Ride your bike, rollerblade or skateboard with some friends. Or play outdoor sports, like frisbee, badminton or football, in your backyard or local park.

No. 2: Day at the Beach

When the weather is good, why waste your time sitting at home when you could be at the beach, snorkeling, surfing the waves or catching some rays.

No. 1: Camping

Taking the number one spot in our top 10 list of summer activities is camping. It encompasses every - thing - the beach, sunshine, outdoor sports, picnics, campfires and braving the elements. Nothing defines the ultimate summer activity better than camping.

