

Notes From The Principal

As we find ourselves in the beginning of the holiday season, a sense of being overwhelmed seems to be a common reaction. This is also true in school. Teachers are pressing hard to teach as much as possible around all of the interruptions that seem to knock us off track. Students may not have kept up with their class work and now find that there is more to do than they have time to complete. What can we do to improve this situation?

First, please make use of eSchoolBooks to make sure your child(ren) are completing their work on time. Your support and encouragement can help to keep the children focused and productive. Ask questions about long term projects that the children are working on. Do they have needed materials? Are they completing portions of the project on schedule? Offer assistance. If you express interest in what your children are doing in school, those projects and assignments become more important to the children.

Secondly, help your children learn responsibility. Some children have regular chores others have none. Industry leaders from the community shared concerns with the district recently about the need for new employees to exhibit responsibility. What can you do at home to teach your student(s) this critical life skill?

Finally, even though everyone's schedule is packed to the brim, take time to interact in meaningful ways with your children. This is important for children of all ages. Parents hold a huge position in the lives of their children. They want to spend time with you doing things that are important to them. They need your approval and support. They also need your guidance and someone to set safe limits for them. Most families have extra time to spend with their children over the holidays. How will you use that time?

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Dr. Lindner

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Blossburg Kiwanis Club
Selects November Student of the Month

Congratulations!

Carolyn DeWitt

Carolyn DeWitt, a senior at North Penn High School, has been selected by the faculty and the Blossburg Kiwanis Club as Student of the Month for November 2011. She is the daughter of Andrew and Eileen DeWitt of Covington.

DeWitt is the president of Student Council and a member of the Key Club at North Penn High School. She has been a representative at Youth Leaders of Tomorrow and Tioga County Development Cooperation Youth Leadership. She also participates in Track and Field at North Penn. Within the community, DeWitt is active in various community service projects especially in relation to the Blossburg Fire Department. In her spare time, DeWitt enjoys playing sports with friends, painting, sculpting and building things.

Upon graduating from North Penn in June of 2012, DeWitt plans to join the Navy as part of their Medical Enlistment Commissioning Program (MECP) and will eventually pursue a career as a general physician.

Runners Up

Tori Bubacz
Zach Loudenslager

Kelsey Rudinski
Amber Landes

Honorable Mentions

Kathryn Baker
Autumn Long
Skye Stiner
Kirsten Berguson
Ryan Bogaczyk
Ashley Hunter
Zach Everett
Katie King
Cassie Frederick
Andrew Craig
Jason Pequignot
Cassie Dickinson
Rebeckah Erway
Karyana Kshir

Kim Roupp
Dan Prouty
Wes Kamerer
Raelyn Frost
Josiah Hicks-Lee
Clayton Pino
Katie Carrigan
Kaela Parker
Sydney Andrews
Chelsea Moran
Chelsey Smith
Alyssa Strausser
Tabitha Loudenslager

Health/PE Update

D. Jacopetti

As winter approaches and the hours of sunlight diminish, it's important that we remain physically active. In Physical Education, we focus on activities that provide the consistent physical activity necessary for optimal physical and academic achievement. Our students are participating in numerous fitness related activities such as our "Panther Pacers" which provides the heart with endurance training necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle. Students in Physical Education are also learning important lessons regarding sportsmanship, lifetime activities, and the importance of physical activity. Our health students are focusing on current events that are affecting both our economy and health of our nation through consumer reporting and reading comprehension. The focus on health and wellness is at an all-time high which reinforces our mission to create a learning atmosphere that focuses on the importance of healthy decisions and behavior.



Math Update

H. Smith



Consumer Math - The math labs containing laptops for everyone are up and running in Mrs. Smith's Consumer Math class. The teachers and students are utilizing the technology needed to readily research and design their real-life projects. The students have covered student loans, investments, career salaries, car loans, mortgages, homeowners insurance and property taxes. The technology labs allow the students to present their findings with ease. *Kerri Landes, Dan Buchanan, Jonas Choplosky and Donnie Aumick* are the leaders for this group of seniors.

The **ACE Calculus** class is learning that college courses are hard work. This course is a four-credit course offered through Corning Community College. Your child can earn college credit at a much lower cost and transfer those credits to the college of their choice. The students have course work and lab work to complete just like in college. They are required to take an exam at the end of the class. So far, the class has studied limits and derivatives. These help calculate rates of change in real life, like how fast a cancerous tumor will grow. All of these students are doing a great job: *Jason DeHaven, Ben Erway, Katie King, Shawn Barrett and Amber Landes*.

Trigonometry/Algebra 2 – *Sidney Andrews, Tori Bubacz, Rebekah Erway, Cassie Frederick, Kaden Krueger, Meredith Kline, Calynne Pino and Kelsey Rudinski* should be recognized for their hard work and dedication. While working on trigonometry and algebra, we have also been working diligently to prepare our juniors for the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) Test. Students in grade 11 have to take this state exam every year. When a student does not earn a proficient score or higher they are required to take the test again as seniors. At this time the PSSA is not a graduation requirement, but next year Keystone Exit exams will be required to pass Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. Please encourage your children to take their classes seriously, so they are well prepared for the exams and furthering their education.

The students have been taking practice exams and reviewing them. In the process we are sharing test-taking tactics and scoring methods for further understanding of the test. We also teach the "T" method of organization for the written portion of the math exam. These problems involve intensive problem solving methods and

organization of calculations. Through the usage of proper terminology the students demonstrate a higher-level of understanding. This test will be administered during April and May.

The **College Algebra** class is moving right along. *Jason DeHaven* is my academia student and *Ben Erway* is my main participator. The students in this class pride themselves in working as a team or with partners to improve their learning skills. College Algebra is the lowest level of algebra a university student can complete for credit. All students planning to attend a two year or four year college should take this course.

National Honor Society
H. Smith

The new applications for the year 2012 will be distributed after the third nine weeks grades are completed. Every student having a GPA of 3.25 or higher in grades 10 – 12 is given an application to be filled out and to be turned in to the advisor, Mrs. Holli Smith, by the stated deadline. As nationally chartered, a team of five faculty members will review each application and determine which student meets the qualifications to become a member of the honorary society. This is not a task taken lightly. It is very prestigious to be a part of this group. So students should work hard, to be recognized on their resume. Good luck to everyone!



By: C. Tierney

Student Council

There's no toying around in Student Council this winter, as members work to encourage students and community members to donate as many unwrapped toys as possible for Toys for Tots this holiday season. Although it's better to give than to receive, we've added an extra incentive: for each unwrapped toy brought to Mrs. Smith's room before December 9th, that student will get his/her name entered into a drawing. One lucky winner will receive a month-long pass which will allow him/her to go to the front of his/her lunch line.

Student Council members have also been working hard on fundraising, which has become increasingly difficult in today's economy. We are planning a Haunted Kids Night Out for Friday, January 13th and a middle school semi-formal December 9th. The theme of the middle school semi-formal is the Snow Flake Ball. We look forward to seeing the seventh and eighth grade students dressed to impress.



English 7

As the leaves fall from the trees and the days become shorter and darker, seventh grade students have been working diligently to get organized and adapt to the culture of North Penn High School. They are now experts (almost always) at using their agendas, opening their lockers, and staying organized. They are a fantastic group of students to have in class. Their positive attitude has brightened up the hallways upstairs and the spirits of their teachers. While adjusting to how we do things upstairs, the seventh graders have also been working hard on academics. They have mastered their 4-square vocabulary notebooks with a lot of help and guidance from Mrs. Glowatz and other I-Block teachers who work with them daily at enriching their vocabulary so they can communicate effectively.

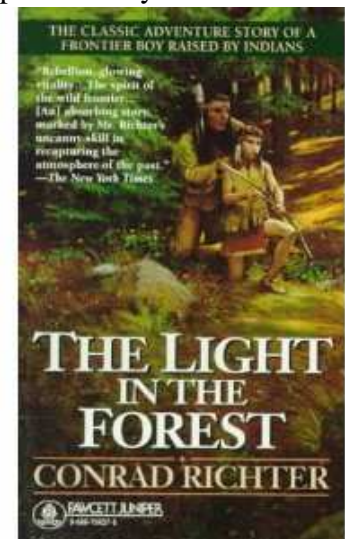
In English, seventh graders have just finished up their short stories unit. This unit requires students to analyze the parts of plot and literary elements that appear in short stories. They have been working hard to comprehend some difficult stories, learn new power vocabulary words, and apply knowledge to their lives. Now that they have mastered the short story, they will move on to one of the most difficult units of the year: parts of speech. I am confident that their extra effort to use words properly in sentences in I-Block will help them tremendously. Some students have been working extra hard to exceed my high expectations: **Brittany Weiskoff, Bryan Augustine, Jarrod Davis, Jenna Moore, and Rayna Minyo.**

English 8

Eighth graders have finally seen the light at the end of the tunnel after finishing [A Light in the Forest](#), a novel based on the life of True Son, an adopted member of the Lenni Lenape tribe. Students studied the interdisciplinary novel in both History and English classes. While investigating Native American history with Mr. Kathcart in order to better understand the historical background of the novel. In English we focused on elements of a novel, character and literary analysis, and responding to literature persuasively.

Students also began their electronic writing portfolio which they will develop throughout the year to document their growth as writers. Throughout this unit they have added several pieces to their portfolio including a compare contrast essay from History, a character analysis, and persuasive essay. This unit often overwhelms eighth grade students because they need to learn how to prioritize their time to complete reading assignments individually. Some students have really stepped up and done an excellent job on this unit: **Samantha Brubaker, Avery Montefusco, Charlie Andrews, Mike Pequignot, and Deidre Rolls.**

It's not all work and no play for the eighth grade, though. Their advisor, Mr. Novak, and field trip expert Mrs. Laurel Smith planned a team building field trip to His Thousand Hills. On this trip students were able to learn how to work effectively as a team to complete challenging activities such as trust falls, human foosball, and lifts. For these challenges students needed to use problem solving skills and learn how to take an active and productive role on a team. We are all very proud of how hard they worked and how well they represented NPHS. As a result, students have really improved how they work in both large and small groups.





W. WEAVER

The North Penn High School Key Club has been very active this month. We began the month by wrapping up our Trick-or-Treat for Unicef campaign. This year, we included the second grade students at Blossburg Elementary in our drive and raised nearly \$200.00 for youth in other countries. At the same time, we began our annual food drive, which we do in conjunction with 21st Century Realty in Wellsboro. Students are donating non-perishable food items for food banks in Blossburg and Covington, and they are excited to be helping our community. Finally, the week of November 7 through November 10 was Key Club Week. For Key Club Week, the Key Club sponsored a school-wide service project through their teachers, wrote thank you letters to servicemen and women serving overseas. These letters will be sent by Thanksgiving and arrive in the hands of soldiers before the holidays in hopes of making their holidays a little brighter.

In the month of December, the Key Club will be raising money to help adopt a family for Christmas through the Salvation Army. In this program, students are provided with information about a family in need and purchase toys, clothes and food for the family. Members will participate in a Day of Silence to raise awareness of poverty and how it affects people everyday.

Remembering those who cannot help themselves this time of year...



Mrs. C. Wilson

“One of the presents I always look forward to giving each year at Christmas is a donation of supplies to the animal shelter in Wellsboro.”

Animals Shelters are always in need of many supplies any time of the year but especially at Christmas time. I am asking for your help in providing donations to those who cannot help themselves, to those we call our best friends...Some much needed items are: blankets, cleaning supplies, toys, snacks, food, grooming supplies and don't forget those good old monetary donations.

I will have a box in my room for any donations. Let's all put forth an effort and make these homeless animals feel the spirit! Just come to my room, 9A, (Cherry Wilson) and I will make sure all of your donations get to the animals at Christmas!

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Enrichment Program

Mrs. K. Honeyfield

On October 25, 2011 students from Liberty, Mansfield, and North Penn participated in an afternoon of activities involving GPS (Global Positioning Systems) at Island Park. A group of eighth graders from North Penn were able to participate in the outdoor learning experience funded by a grant awarded to the district's enrichment program. Students were able to use handheld GPS devices to find items hidden at waypoints. They also were introduced to setting waypoints, routes, and the track/track back features of the devices. The North Penn students also created brochures to highlight areas of Tioga County. These brochures will be used to create caches for geocaching in the spring. To learn more about geocaching, visit geocaching.com. You might be interested in going out to find the treasures the students have created! They will be listed on the website before the New Year!

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA

Mrs. Caryl Snyder



The Future Business Leaders of America are working on a great project for this school year. The club members will be creating and presenting lessons on Cyber Safety at the Blossburg Elementary School. We feel it is important for all students to be safe when they are online. The members of FBLA working on this project include: Jon McFall, Josh King, Kerri Landes, and Zach Laudenslager.

NEW – ACE ACCOUNTING AT NPHS

Mrs. Caryl Snyder



A new dual-enrollment class has been added to the curriculum at North Penn High School. It is called "ACE Accounting" and is offered through Corning Community College. ACE stands for Accelerated College Education. The students will receive college credit for the class at a low rate of \$53 per credit. The students will also receive high school credit for the class. The required textbook is written at the college level; therefore, ACE Accounting is a challenge for the students to undertake. Good luck to our first class of ACE Accounting students: Shawn Barrett, Kirsten Berguson, Brandon Carlson, Jonas Choplosky, Andrew Craig, Colin Craig, Jason DeHaven, Zach Gaylord-Everett, Ashley Hutchinson, Michael Olson, and Ashley Setters.

COMPUTER SKILLS FOR LIFE SKILLS

Mrs. Caryl Snyder

Mrs. Jessica Lee's Life Skills students are spending some time in the computer lab. The students have already learned how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They will now utilize those skills to do a variety of projects including, but not limited to, reports, charts, cartoons, personal letters and individual projects of their own choosing. We are all looking forward to a great semester.



Student Council Dates to Remember

December 9th, Student Council will be holding a semi-formal dance for the 7th and 8th grades.

Student council will be having a Kids Night Out, so look for upcoming dates.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Class of 2013 Semi Formal	3
4	5	6	7 ASVAB 8:10-11:30 Auditorium	8 BES Chorus/Band Concert @ 7pm Act 80 Day 1:00pm Dismissal	9	10
11	12	13 NPHS Jr./Sr. Chorus/Band Concert @ 7pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 BES/NPHS Concert Make-up Date	21	22	23 1pm Dismissal Christmas Break	24
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26 Christmas Break No School	27 Christmas Break No School	28 Christmas Break No School	29 Christmas Break No School	30 Christmas Break No School	31