



The Eagle's View

A Newsletter of the Nazareth Area School District

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Spring 2005

Nazareth Helps Tsunami Victims: Spotlight on efforts of two schools

Beyond the Books and Paper

There was a time when going to school centered mainly on learning to read, write, and cipher (math to the modern world.) Today, thanks to ever increasing technological innovations, students have become much more aware and involved in the world around them. Not just the world outside their door or in their own community and state, but the world in general. They are part of a global society and all that it entails. Communication advances allow them to view and even respond to events happening in other lands or as far away as outer space. Wireless communication, instant messaging, website access brings the world not just to their doorsteps, but right into their homes and classrooms. They can witness space exploration, underwater recovery expeditions, medical advancements, and, unfortunately at times, natural disasters like earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, and most recently a tsunami.

It is in times of tragedies that children can realize that in a global setting they have the opportunity to be not just a spectator, but a participant. To this end, the Student Council at Lower Nazareth Elementary School decided to organize a relief drive to help the victims of the tsunami. Under the direction of Mrs. Jane Marshall, monetary donations and items such as summer clothing and medical supplies are being collected to be shipped to two specific sites in Sri Lanka. The Council members have displayed posters throughout the school alerting everyone to the need for their help in this drive. Response has been very good, and the items will continue to be collected at LNES for some time.

In addition to the Student Council's efforts, Mr Nick Kelley, a



fourth grade teacher, also got involved by collecting monetary donations and other supplies in his classes. He placed a large plastic container in his room and encouraged the students to give whatever amount they desired. Final count? Almost three hundred dollars! Other contributions included rolls of gauze, rubber gloves, a blanket, and canned goods.

A related but different example of students helping others is fifth grader Olivia Curzi, who is working on a service project for her Girl Scout troop. She calls her project "Knitting for the Needy," the purpose being to collect new scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, etc. for those less fortunate. From February 1st to March 1st a collection box will be in the LNES lobby for donations. Items collected will be given to Third Street Alliance, Camelot for Children, and the Catholic Social Agency.



Nazareth Middle School Students Reach Out To Tsunami Victims

The students and staff of Nazareth Area Middle School are lending a hand in the national tsunami relief effort. There were three fund-raising events running in the building, with a total contribution of \$4,000! With guidance from Mrs. Brandy Duffy and Mrs. Lisa Schultz, students organized a "Chinese" Auction. There were a total of 33 prizes that were on display in the main lobby and on the Nazareth Area Middle School Website. Students and staff bought \$2.00 chances to win the prizes. Special thanks to all of the parent volunteers and student council members who sold the tickets, the local businesses for their support, the cafeteria monitors for their help during lunch sales, and finally, all of the students who participated to make this fundraiser a big success. The fundraiser was up and running from February 7th through the 18th. The winners were chosen on February 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

The second fundraiser was entitled "Tsunami: Bring Back the Beauty." With the help of a few student volunteers, a colorfully decorated bucket was delivered to each team. Then the bucket was sent around to classes during the morning, lunch hours and activity period. When the bucket came around, students and staff would donate \$1.00 and receive 1 paper fish cutout or donate \$5.00 and



receive a paper gift cutout. Students and staff would then write their names on their fish or gift and they would be displayed in the main lobby. Mr. David Williams stated that their goal was to have the students realize the hardships that the people of Indonesia now face. We would like to thank Mr. Williams for organizing this event, with the help of Mr. Kroll who created the plane and Mr. Miller who constructed the island and waters. Thanks to Nazareth Area Middle School students, staff, and parent volunteers, Indonesia will be looking a whole lot brighter!

The third fundraiser was held by the staff, who made donations for the privilege of wearing jeans to school. This was done on two different days. There were also collections of cash donations throughout the length of the fundraiser. On Wednesday, March 23, an assembly was held for the student body to culminate the fundraiser, thank the students, and announce the \$4,000 total. The money that was raised is going to reach the tsunami victims through Oprah's Angel Network.

Dates to remember:



5/30/05 Memorial Day - no school

6/8/05 Last day for students

6/9/05 Teacher In-service

6/14/05-6/16/05 Teacher Academy

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Changes for 2005

On April 4 – 7, 2005, all third, fourth and fifth grade students participated in the reading and/or mathematics assessments as part of the 2005 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). Third and Fifth grade students took both the reading and math tests. This year, all fourth grade students took a field test of the grade 4 reading portion of the PSSA.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been administering assessments since the 1970's. The information obtained from the assessment serves as a valuable tool for planning future school programs, developing curriculum and in-service training of teachers, and informing the public about student achievement. The reading and mathematics sections of the assessment will yield individual student reports, as well as school, district, and state data.

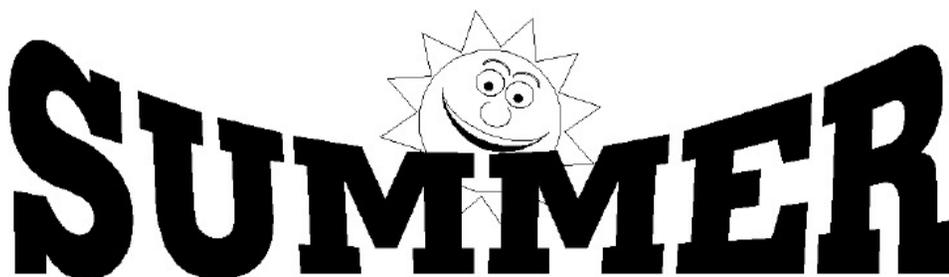
The reading and mathematics assessments should challenge all students with tasks requiring problem-solving and concept identification. In addition to multiple-choice items, there will be tasks requiring students to write their responses in paragraph form.

For the fourth and fifth grade tests only, students were permitted to use calculators on a portion of the math test. The school provided the calculators for this purpose. Third grade students were not permitted to use calculators. For the reading assessment, students were not permitted to use a dictionary, thesaurus and/or electronic spell checkers.

Summer School Programs

Nazareth Area School District will be offering an Elementary Reading (Grades K-2) and Elementary Math (Grades 3-5) Summer Program. The program is scheduled for July 11 through August 5, 2005. Daily sessions will be conducted Monday through Thursday from 9:00 - 12:00 AM. Letters of invitation to parents of students who qualify will be sent out in late April.

The Summer Program for the middle school and high school is scheduled for June 20 through July 29, 2005 from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and/or 10:00 – 12:00 AM. Letters to parents of students who are required to attend will be sent in early June.



SUMMER

Annual Notice - Eligible and Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Nazareth Area School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as part of its school program for the purpose of identifying students who may be in need of special education and related services (eligible students). If your child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, you will be notified of applicable procedures. Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

Autism/pervasive development disorder	Neurological impairment
Blindness or visual impairment	Other health impairments
Deafness or hearing impairment	Physical disability
Developmental delay	Serious emotional disturbance
Mentally gifted	Specific learning disability
Mental retardation	Speech and language impairment
Multi-handicapped	

If you believe that your school-age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or young child (age 3 to school-aged) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the needs of the child and his/her eligibility are available to you at not cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to your child's principal.

In compliance with state and federal law, the Nazareth Area School District will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student the child must be school-aged with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation and screening (including purpose, time and location), rights to due process procedures, you may contact in writing the Office of Pupil Services, One Education Plaza, Nazareth, PA 18064 (610-759-1170), or your principal.

Confidentiality: All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The District has a Pupil Records Policy that is available for review in each school building and the Central Office.

Floyd R. Shafer Elementary supports the American Cancer Society

On March 17, 2005, Floyd R. Shafer K-Kids sponsored the *Third Annual "Mini" Relay for Life walk-a-thon*. The event benefits the American Cancer society, Lehigh Valley Unit. Mrs. Sandra Newhard and the advisor of the K-Kids organized the event modeling the national fund raising event. A goal of 30 laps was established and students asked potential sponsors to donate money per lap or to make donations in a lump sum.



With the help of faculty and parent volunteers, 270 students walked 30 laps around Shafer Elementary. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in a community a chance to participate in the fight against cancer.

Last year 215 students participated and raised over \$7,000 dollars for the American Cancer Society. This year 270 students participated and Shafer anticipates the total donations to be even higher. Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten. It also provides those who face cancer with support, and the knowledge that one-day, cancer will be eliminated.

How did the Relay begin?

In May 1985, Dr. Klatt, surgeon and avid runner, took the first step of his 24-hour walk/run around a track in Tacoma, Washington. He clocked 83 miles, raising \$27,000 to support the American Cancer Society. The following year, 220 supporters on 19 teams joined Dr. Klatt in this overnight event, and the American Cancer

Society Relay for Life was born.

Over the last 19 years, Relay for Life has spread to 4,200 communities in the United States and eight foreign countries. What began as one man's statement in the fight against cancer has led to the development of a worldwide event to help banish cancer. (Some of the above information was gathered from the American Cancer website.)

The staff at Floyd R. Shafer school also participated in the American Cancer Society's *Daffodil Days*. Daffodil Days give individuals the chance to get pleasure from remarkable fresh cut flowers while making a great impact on the lives of cancer patients and their families. The daffodil is the first flower of spring signifying hope for a cancer free world. Money collected from the sale of the flowers are used for research, education, and advocacy. It also provides services to local cancer patients. Coordinated by Mrs. Sandy Swedar, the Shafer staff purchased \$714 worth of daffodils. This topped last year's total of \$520.

Fourth Grade Students at Bushkill Elementary Learn about Dolphins

Fourth grade students at Bushkill Elementary School recently completed a language arts unit integrating technology with reading. The students read two novels, *Dolphin Adventure* and *Dolphin Treasure*, by Wayne Grover. While reading the novels, the students had to answer questions like: describe the mental images that the text descriptions evoke, make valid judgments about characters in a literary text, recognize that the theme is the underlying meaning of the story, and recognize that nonfiction may be organized by sequence of events, main ideas, cause and effect, fact and opinion, and comparison and contrast. The students answered these questions using an E-Journal, an internet message board between the teacher and the students.

The students also completed a scavenger hunt using the internet. The students had to answer thirteen questions about Bottlenose Dolphins using the internet; all the information to answer the questions was located somewhere on the World Wide Web. In addition to the scavenger hunt, the students also conducted a Web Quest. The students used the internet to

learn about other types of dolphins and had to use their research to write an interesting report and present it to the class. It was at this part of the project that the students became very creative. The students expressed themselves artistically, verbally, and in writing to show to their peers and teachers what they have learned about dolphins.

The last part of the unit dealt with teaching the students how to adopt a dolphin. The students, through the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), actually raised money and adopted a dolphin. The objective of the society is to: reduce and ultimately eliminate

the continuing threats to whales and dolphins and their habitat, and, raise awareness of these unique animals and the need to protect them in their natural environment. The students were very proud of the fact that they were able to adopt and help a save a dolphin.

As you can see, this experience went well beyond the classroom walls. Projects like this are constantly happening at Bushkill Elementary School and the staff continues to provide meaningful experiences for their students. Bushkill Elementary School is a community school.



The Nazareth Area Youth Assets Initiative Provides Opportunities

Numerous community members have become involved in the Nazareth Area Youth Assets Initiative to develop and provide positive opportunities for children of the Nazareth community. The program began in the spring of 2004 with a primary goal of uniting all sectors of the Nazareth area in order for Nazareth to become an Asset Building Community. Launched through the collaboration and support of the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley and St. John's United Church of Christ in Nazareth, the Initiative provided a unique opportunity. It is supported by: the Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce, the Nazareth Area School District,

the Nazareth Borough Council, the YMCA of Nazareth, Keystone Cement Company, Moravian Hall Square, the Nazareth Memorial Library, and St. John's Lutheran Church of Nazareth.

Following a survey of the community's needs and concerns, a Town Meeting was held in October to obtain more feedback and suggestions. The Town Meeting served to educate community members about the 40 Developmental Assets that have been identified as building blocks that youth need to become healthy, responsible, caring adults. Asset categories include Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment

to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identity.

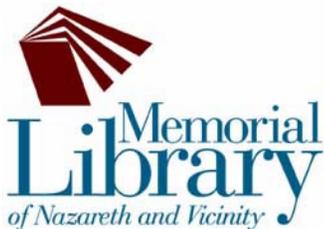
As the Initiative continues, the goal of the Assets Team is to continue working to unite all sectors of the community, including schools, businesses, religious organizations, government officials, as well as interested persons to work together to provide healthy opportunities for our children.

Anyone who would like more information or would like to become involved in the Assets Initiative should contact Alan Davis at 610-759-1730.

Keystone Cement



The Borough
of Nazareth



John's Lutheran Church



Moravian
HALL SQUARE

Kindergarten expectations have changed within the past several years.

Below is a list of skills that we suggest you practice prior to coming to kindergarten:

1. Practice printing his/her name. Please make sure they are holding the pencil correctly. They will need to use lower case letters except for the first letter. Please teach them to write the letters from top to bottom moving from left to right. Old habits are hard to break.
2. Show your child how to hold a scissors correctly and practice cutting with child size scissors.
3. Let your child dress himself/herself. Can they button their own pants? Zip their own coat? Open their own book bag? Tie their own shoe?
4. Encourage your child to clean up after snack and other activities.
5. Does your child take care of himself/herself when toileting? Make sure they are washing their hands afterwards.
6. As a safety measure, make sure your child is familiar with his/her phone number and address.
7. Play board games with your child. Have him/her count and move one space per number. Practice counting to 10 using small objects such as cereal. He/she should know how to point to each object as they count up to 10.
8. Can your child recognize the following shapes: circle, square, rectangle, triangle, oval and diamond?
9. Practice both upper and lower case letter recognition. Try to make this a fun experience through games, food, etc. The children are expected to recognize at least 80% of their letters by mid October.
10. Have your child practice how to hold a book and turn the pages. Show book handling, that you are reading starting at the left and moving top to bottom to the right.
11. Read to your child and have him/her recall the details of the story.
12. How long is your child's attention span? Give him/her an activity (other than television) and encourage them to stay with that activity for at least 15 – 20 minutes.
13. Give your child a responsibility and have him/her finish it within a time limit. It is important that your child is able to do his/her work in a reasonable amount of time.
14. Practice giving your child multi-step directions (such as: go to the living room, find a magazine and put it in the basket). Practice directional words, for example; up, down, top, bottom, over, under, left, right...
15. Encourage your child to use good behavior and manners. Does he/she refrain from interrupting others when they are talking? Does he/she keep their hands and feet to themselves? Does he/she follow directions? When he/she makes poor choices, does he/she understand and accept the consequences? Give your child opportunities to play with other children. Teach your child to take turns, play cooperatively, and how to appropriately settle differences.

Reviewing these skills with your child will hopefully provide him/her with an opportunity for a great start in kindergarten. Thank you for your time and cooperation.