



The Eagle's View

A Newsletter of the Nazareth Area School District

*For a full-color edition, please visit: www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

Fall/Winter 2004

Nazareth Schools Receive Keystone Achievement Award

Four schools in the Nazareth Area School District, Bushkill, Lower Nazareth, Shafer, and the Middle School, were recently notified that they were honored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for having met the rigorous requirements established by the commonwealth for meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years. The High School also met the overall requirements in Math and Reading, but is not eligible for the award because it did not meet AYP in all subgroups. The first-ever Keystone Achievement Award is being presented to schools where students have exceeded the math, reading and other standards required by the state's accountability system and the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. The

award is a public recognition of the fine work and commitment of Pennsylvania educators to our shared goal of sustained improvement in learning and achievement for all students.



To determine AYP the state looks at two data sets: the participation rate and the PSSA scores for the year, and compares them to thresholds established for that year. The threshold for the participation rate was 95%. The threshold for

math was at least 35% proficient. The threshold for reading was at least 45% proficient. The participation rate for each award recipient was above the threshold. The Math and Reading scores for the two year period by grade level are as follows:

		2002-2003	2003-2004
5 th Grade:	Math	60%	70%
	Reading	69%	75%
8 th Grade:	Math	74%	71%
	Reading	81%	83%
11 th Grade:	Math	58%	63%
	Reading	68%	70%

Teachers throughout the District have been working very hard on improvement initiatives. Over the past three years, they have updated and reported authentic curricula, aligned curricula to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards, utilized common, research-based, and validated components of professional practice, created themed units and integrated projects across the curriculum, and developed remediation programs aimed at reaching proficiency. A main focus that teachers are currently addressing is standards based assessing and reporting. This is all in addition to the outstanding personal service our teachers provide every day in the classroom.

REMINDER NOTICE:

Application For Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

A Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Application was mailed to you in October. If you have not completed and returned this application to Northampton County, a second application will be mailed to you at the end of December. Please complete that application and return it as soon as possible. If there are sufficient revenues



from the State tax on gaming, if the school district takes action to opt into Act 72 of 2004, and if you qualify, you may be eligible for property tax relief. However, if you do not complete the application and return it, you will not be eligible. If you have any questions, please call 610-599-7160.



Dates to remember:

12/23/04 Early dismissal

12/24/04-12/31/04 Winter Vacation

1/17/04 No school - Martin Luther King

2/21/04 No School - Presidents' Day

2/22/04 No School - Staff Professional Dev.

Nazareth Area School District Early Intervention Services

The Nazareth Area School District and the Colonial Intermediate Unit, in compliance with Special Education Regulations, provides the following information on Special Education - Early Intervention services for preschool special needs children, ages 3-5. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the available services, eligibility and referral process.

Parents who have questions regarding their child's sight, hearing, learning, talking, movement, manipulation of objects, understanding, showing of emotions, getting along with others, playing with toys, taking care of himself/herself, should telephone Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 Early Intervention Program. The Early Intervention Program can provide information, screening, evaluation, program, therapy, parent involvement and referral to community agencies at no cost to the parent. The times/location for screening/evaluation will be convenient to the parent and will assess

the strengths and needs of the child.

If you have concerns about your child's development and are interested in a screening/evaluation, please call 1-800-343-6348 or 610-252-5550 to make the referral.

The Colonial Intermediate Unit recognizes the need to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information in the education records of exceptional children. The Intermediate Unit policy incorporates provisions from the Regulations of the State Board of Education on Pupil Records, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Chapter 14, Department of Education Chapter 342, Special Education Services and Programs 342.68, Family Education and Privacy Act (the "Buckley Amendment") as codified in 20USC 1232g. All information gathered through the screening/evaluation process is considered confidential under section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.



During the 2004-2005 school year, Nazareth Area School District will be implementing Second Step in grades K through 5. Grades 6 through 8 will begin participating in the program during the 2005-2006 school year. The program is being implemented as a result of the responses we received from teachers, students, and parents on a bullying survey and from the analysis of the data we received from our disciplinary incident reports.

Research shows that aggressive behavior in children predicts risk of later delinquency, substance abuse, school dropout, early parenthood, and depression. Classroom use of the Second Step program helps provide children with the skills they need to create safe environments and become successful adults. The curriculum teaches children several skills central to a healthy social and emotional development, including empathy, impulse control and problem solving and anger/emotional management.

Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum is a universal prevention program that is taught to every student in the classroom rather than to selected children. In about 30 minutes once or twice per week, elementary students learn to practice prosocial behavior. By understanding their emotions and how to respond to them, young students are able to remain focused on academics.

More information about the Second Step program can be found at the Committee for Children's website, www.cfchildren.org



Don't forget about the websites!

Much information about the Nazareth Area School District and its schools can be found at the District website and the websites for the individual schools. Check them out!

District:

www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

High School:

hs.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

Middle School:

ms.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us



Bushkill:

be.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

Shafer:

se.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

Lower Nazareth:

lne.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

High School Students Explore Science at Hickory Run State Park

Students in Mrs. Krouse's Earth Science Class recently spent the day at Hickory Run State Park applying the knowledge and skills learned in class. The class has been taking the trip for several semesters. The first stop was the Boulder Field National Landmark. Students are always amazed at the size of this field and enjoy the challenge of finding the end of the field, crawling into the large depressions or locating the underground stream. Students were quick to answer park ranger Amy's questions about the processes that formed the boulder field and raised some interesting questions. Mrs. Krouse was impressed with their show of knowledge.

From the boulder field students proceeded to try their hand at

orienteering. Using the map and compass skills used in class, all students made it through the course without getting lost. The course took the students past a lake, through an open wood lot and around a picnic area. The students opted to take compass bearings to set their course rather than use the roads or trails on the map. This more advanced travel method really let the students feel confident in their map and compass skills.

To round out the day, students took a short hike to Hawk Falls, navigated a stream crossing and ate lunch on a rock outcropping that overlooked the largest of the falls. Pennsylvania has some wonderful examples of geologic activity. It is nice for students to get out and



experience these for themselves.

Approximately a dozen Photography II & III students accompanied the Earth Science students. Although both classes explored the same or similar areas, the photo students were on a different mission. The photo shown was taken on the day of the trip.

Anchors Away for Teachers!

Assessment anchors in math and reading are one of the many tools that the Pennsylvania Department of Education has developed to align instruction and assessment through the PSSA throughout the state. The anchors were first released in the spring of 2004. Teachers in the Nazareth District are learning how to use these anchors during lessons and as a part of the overall assessment for students.

Recently, the teaching staff at the Shafer School learned more about the Pennsylvania Assessment Anchors during a professional development day. Building specialists, Laura McCrone and Jim Pilla, created the professional day activities, which they titled "Anchors Away". Laura and Jim guided the teachers through a trip to understanding the math and reading anchors.

Each teacher was given a "travel itinerary" postcard one for math and one for reading. Each postcard was labeled with an anchor. The activities involved the teachers working together to create an activity that would align with the anchor listed on their postcard. The purpose was to allow the teachers the opportunity to better understand the anchors and to developing classroom activities which incorporated the new anchors. Jim and Laura's creativity made the day both informative and entertaining.

The activities at Shafer Elementary School regarding assessment anchors are a result of the district initiative on standards-based assessment and reporting pupil progress on standards to parents. Administrators and teachers are

conducting similar activities in all of the schools in conjunction with the district goal of developing standards-based report cards for use within the next couple of years..



What is a Math Specialist?

The Nazareth Area School District has created the new position of Math Specialist. Each elementary school has a full time Math Specialist. The Math Specialists support the students, the teachers, and the parents.

To support the students, there are various programs that the Math Specialists have implemented at each building. The Math Specialists offer remediation during the school day. They help struggling students in the classroom, as well as in small groups outside of the classroom. Each elementary school now has an after school math tutoring program for students needing extra support. Each building also challenges students in mathematics with a question or problem of the week. The Math Specialists support the classroom teacher in a number of ways:

As a teacher the math specialist may

- team teach with the classroom teacher
- teach a small group of students in classroom centers
- reteach a concept to individuals or small groups
- assist with differentiated instruction within the classroom.

As a resource person the Math Specialist provides:

- inquiry based activities to promote active learning
- games to reinforce skills
- activities to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom
- literature or other materials to support classroom instruction.

In addition to these two main areas, the Math Specialists assist with professional development through in-services, workshops and faculty meetings. The math specialists serve as the curriculum leader

for the building and act as a liaison between administration and faculty.

To support the parents in our schools, the Math Specialists offer a variety of resources to help at home. To keep parents informed of the happenings at their schools, a monthly newsletter article is sent home from each building. The article keeps parents informed of upcoming events and information that will help students in school. The Math Specialists have also hosted some parent information nights at their schools. PSSA Night and Family Math Night are programs that have been offered so far this year. In the upcoming weeks, watch for American Education Week workshops and more PSSA information nights. The Math Specialists are available for parent meetings and conferences. If you would like to meet with a building Math Specialist, please call the school to set up an appointment.

Lower Nazareth

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Shafer

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Bushkill

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Bushkill Students “Edutained” by Science



On November 30 parents and students alike were treated to an evening of education and entertainment. Mrs. Vicki Cobb, author of over 80 nonfiction books for children, visited Bushkill Elementary School to present a series of science experiments that made students question why things happen. All the materials used were items easily found in the

home.

That evening parents were entertained along with their children as Mrs. Cobb had the audience do a series of science experiments using household articles. Among the highlights: the flying teabag, the exploding toilet paper roll and the shrinking arm. At times, after Mrs. Cobb demonstrated an experiment, the

parents and children replicated the experiment. For other experiments she selected a child from the audience to perform the experiment.

While giving students the opportunity to meet a noted author, this event made science interesting, through an entertaining, hands-on approach.