



The Eagle's View

A Newsletter of the Nazareth Area School District

Winter 2005-06

Earned Income Tax Increase Replaces Occupation Assessment Tax

Act 24 of 2001 allows a School District to increase its Earned Income Tax if it eliminates the Occupation Assessment Tax (OAT) and the voters agree. The Nazareth Area School District placed a resolution on the November 8, 2005 election ballot and the voters approved the elimination of the Occupation Assessment Tax in exchange for a 0.2% increase in the Earned Income Tax rate.

Please be advised that effective July 1, 2006, the Nazareth Area School District's portion of the Earned Income Tax (EIT) will increase to a rate of 0.7% from 0.5%. The municipal portion of the tax is not affected, except for Bushkill Township where the voters approved an open space referendum, and will remain at 0.5%.

Effective July 1, 2006, the total tax rate for all residents of the Nazareth Area School District, except for Bushkill Township, will be 1.2%.

Please contact your employer and ask them to withhold your EIT at the new tax rate of 1.2%, except for Bushkill Township, effective July 1, 2006. If they do not withhold at the new tax rate you will be liable to pay the balance that is owed on or before April 15, 2007.

For Bushkill Township residents only, the open space referendum that passed in Bushkill Township will increase that municipality's portion of the tax to a rate of 0.75% from 0.5% effective January 1, 2006. The township will use the additional 0.25% for financing the acquisition of open space, for the purpose of acquiring

agricultural conservation easements, and the purpose of acquiring property development rights. **For Nazareth Area School District residents who reside in Bushkill Township,** your EIT rate effective January 1, 2006, will be 1.25%; 0.75% will go to the Township and 0.50% will go to the School District. Effective July 1, 2006, your EIT rate will be 1.45%; 0.75% will go to the Township and 0.70% will go to the School District.

If you are self-employed or work in New Jersey and your tax is not being withheld, you will be **required** to estimate quarterly.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your earned income tax office.

Help Plan the Future of Nazareth Area School District

The Nazareth Area School District Board of Education and Administration will be asking residents, parents, staff, and students for information regarding the future of the School District as an integral part of the District's long range planning process. The District would like feedback about what we are currently doing and what we need to be doing in the future to meet the challenges of state and federal mandates along with the challenge of increased student enrollment. The Nazareth Area School District is facing the task of maintaining a high quality academic program while providing the infrastructure needed to accommodate the influx of students into the school district. The School District has experienced a 2%-5% (100-250) increase in student enrollment each year over the past few years. Demographic studies have this trend continuing into the future. Proper planning and efficient use of the finances and resources we currently have in place will play a major part in meeting this objective.

In order to meet this goal the Nazareth Area School District will be seeking information from

all of our stakeholders by way of a district-wide survey. The School Board and Administration firmly believe that a successful school district must reflect the philosophy and values of its residents, parents, staff, and students. In the month of February a survey will be sent to all households in the School District and distributed internally to students and staff. All surveys will have the option of being completed on-line or sent hard copy to an outside agency that will tabulate the results and provide Nazareth with the needed information. These results will allow the Administration and Board the perspective of the community as a whole when making decisions regarding the future of the education of the youth in our community.

The Superintendent is asking that you please take the time necessary to provide the District with the information that will allow the Board and Administration to plan the future of the Nazareth Area School District around the needs and values of the Nazareth Area School District Community.

NASD Testing Parent Communication System

SchoolMessenger connects educators with families, providing parent-notification solutions for school districts including *Emergency Calls for weather related delays and early dismissals*. The Nazareth Area School District will be testing the system during the winter of 2005-2006. Parents can join the School Messenger group for the district-to-parent communication service. Contact information is pulled directly from Student Accounting System, phone numbers, email address).

During weather related situation, calls and emails are placed, electronically, at the predetermined time. Parents can be notified for late delays, school closings, and early dismissals. 2,000 to 3,000 phone calls can be placed within 20-40 minutes (30 seconds each).

Future use might include things like: enrollment dates, due dates / payment deadlines, fundraising, and event reminders. Instructions to sign-up for this testing period will follow at a later date. Questions or comments... email Michael Mohn, Director of Information Technology, at mmohn@nazarethasd.org

Nazareth Area Schools Participate

The Nazareth Area School District mission statement is *Focus on Learning, Build Character, Shape the Future*. This Fall, Hurricane Katrina created an opportunity for our students to demonstrate their character and help shape the future for the victims of this natural disaster. The following describes some of the relief efforts that took place in our schools.

At the start of the 2005-2006 school year, the Bushkill Elementary School community quickly came together to show its kindness and support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Their "Nickels for New Orleans" campaign kicked off on Thursday, September 1st, and ran through Thursday, September 8th. The school's support efforts were organized by Principal Yanek, with additional help provided by Bushkill Student Council. It was a great way to reinforce the Second Step Program at Bushkill by showing others in need that we really care.

Flyers were sent home with students to let their families know of the collection efforts for "Nickels for New Orleans." In addition, Bushkill Student Council officers and representatives encouraged students and their families to donate money by appearing on the Bushkill TV News Show. Student Council also sponsored a "Hat Day" on which students and staff were allowed to



wear a hat in school for a \$1.00 donation. It was wonderful to see so much support come in from many, many Bushkill students, families, and friends. It was especially heart-warming to see some students even forego their snacks during the campaign and donate the money instead to this very worthwhile cause.

After the collection week was over, Bushkill Elementary School proudly presented a check in the amount of \$4,137.12 to the American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley. This money was used by the Red Cross to open and operate shelters in the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. It was also used to help the survivors of Hurricane Katrina recover from this massive storm.

Bushkill Elementary School and Bushkill Student Council would again like to thank the Bushkill Community for their very generous contributions during "Nickels for New Orleans." We are very pleased that we raised so much money to help others in need.

Many times the good things start with just one...one smile, one hello, "one giant step for mankind," e pluribus unum (one from many.) Even one penny can lead to a dollar, and one dollar can lead to lots more. And so it happened at Lower Nazareth School, as it did throughout the nation, following the Hurricane Katrina Disaster. When pleas went out for help for the victims, many people stepped up and donated what they could, from pennies to dollars. Approximately \$2,000 was collected from the Lower

Nazareth community to help those in need.

Besides the monetary donations, requests for school supplies also produced an abundant response. Teachers went through their cupboards, files, and storage areas for materials and books they no longer used to replace those lost in the storm. Textbooks, manuals, learning kits, educational games, and other much needed items were collected. The community again pitched in with great efforts to help replace lost or ruined materials. Together, we were able to make a great contribution to the relief effort.

Millions of people from the Gulf Coast are suffering from the devastation of this year's hurricane season. Many have watched those images from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and have asked, "How can I help?" Victims needed help and Shafer students met the challenge. Students and staff from Shafer Elementary School have been creative with their fundraising efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims. The following are some methods they used to help raise money for hurricane victims. Some fourth grade students asked for money to donate instead of birthday gifts. Others earned money doing chores. Fifth grade students organized a lemonade stand and even went door to door in their neighborhoods. Schoolwide, students donated change for one month. A Red Cross representative visited the school on October 21st to accept the donations. Shafer Elementary School raised



In Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort!

\$4,105 for the American Red Cross.

In addition to the monetary donations, a canned food drive was also conducted in conjunction with Shafer's "Day of Caring" assembly. Each student was invited to bring in one canned good. Students brought in over 1,000 cans, which were donated to a local food bank. Shafer also donated school supplies, in conjunction with Easton School District, which were sent to effected schools. All the students agreed it felt good to know that their donations would help someone in need.



The students and staff of Nazareth Area Middle School has worked hard to raise money to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. During the month of October, the following activities helped raise money for the Red Cross:

- **Silent Auction:** During lunches, students, staff and visitors to the Middle School purchased tickets for \$2.00. They then placed the tickets in canisters aligned with some fantastic prizes donated by faculty, staff and community members. Ticket sales also took place at the NAHS Soundfest on October 22 and at the NAMS Faculty v. Harlem Wizards Basketball game on October 17.
- **"Bring Back the Beauty":** The 6th grade led a fundraising effort with the theme *Don't Let the Beauty Wash Away!* Daily during

homeroom and lunch students had the opportunity to make donations to create a huge American flag, along with beautiful flowers that was displayed with students' names in our Middle School lobby. When students donated they received one of the following:

- \$10.00 = STAR
- \$5.00 = Part of the star field, a blue rectangle
- \$1.00 = Part of the flag's red and white stripes
- Any loose change = the petal of a colorful flower

- **T-Shirts and Wristbands:** During lunches, NAMS Hurricane Relief T-Shirts were sold for \$10.00 and Wristbands for \$2.00
- **Basketball Concession Stand:** Mivajo's Pizza, Tohickon Family Campground, and Coca-Cola of the Lehigh Valley donated food to be sold at the NAMS Faculty vs. Harlem Wizards Basketball game on October 17. All proceeds went toward our fundraising goal.
- **Office Collection:** A fundraising jar was located in the Middle School Office for additional donations.
- **School Supplies:** Teachers looked for school supplies that were no longer needed in their classrooms. Students helped compile these supplies to be shipped to schools in the affected region.

On November 4, the students gathered in the gymnasium to find out the winners of the Silent Auction and the total amount of money raised. The goal for this fundraiser was \$8000. If the school raised \$8000, Mr. Roth had agreed to give up his car for a week and walk to and from school (five miles each way)! To date, our school collected a total of \$9502.26, allowing us to make a donation to the American Red Cross of

\$7627.66 after meeting fundraising expenses. A check was presented to John Hughes, Director of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Red Cross at the assembly. Mr. Roth followed through with his promise, put his sneakers on, and walked for a week!

Some of the Silent Auction Items:



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS



As parents, you are an important part of a total safety program for children who travel by school bus. Children need to learn to be safe pedestrians as they walk to and from the bus as well as to be safe riders when they are on the bus. Here's how you can help:

Getting Ready for School

- ❑ Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so that they won't drop things along the way.
- ❑ Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so drivers will more easily see them.
- ❑ Make sure they leave home on time so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due. Running can be dangerous.

Walking to the Bus Stop

- ❑ Go to the bus stop with a young child and have older children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- ❑ Don't let pre-school children or pets go with your child to the bus stop. They can be in danger near traffic.
- ❑ Practice good pedestrian behavior.

Walk on the Sidewalk

- ❑ If there is a sidewalk, stay out of the street. Walk on the shoulder or grass.
- ❑ If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as possible.
- ❑ Stop and look left, right, and then left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at driveways and alleyways. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right, and left.

Walking at the Bus Stop

- ❑ Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is too dangerous near traffic.
- ❑ Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus. The child will then be out of the way of traffic. Have younger

children practice taking 5 giant steps to become familiar with 10 feet.

Getting On and Off the Bus

- ❑ Make children stay at least 10 ft. away from the bus until they begin to enter. This will allow children to see the driver and vice versa.
- ❑ If children must cross the street to the bus they should cross the street 10 feet (5 giant steps) in front of the bus where they can see the driver and the driver can see them.
- ❑ **Warn the children that, if they drop something, they should never pick it up.** Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they might not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
- ❑ **Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus.** Drivers in a hurry sometimes try to sneak by busses on the right.
- ❑ Teach your children to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
- ❑ Give your child a note or follow your school's procedures if you would like for the child to get off at a stop other than the one they are assigned. The driver isn't allowed to let a child off at another stop

without written permission.

- ❑ If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, **wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street.** Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

Riding the Bus

Remind your children to be good bus riders. They should:

- ❑ Talk quietly.
- ❑ Be courteous to the driver and follow the driver's directions.
- ❑ Keep the aisles clear.
- ❑ Stay seated, facing the front for the entire bus ride.

NOTE:

- ❑ Only lap-sized items are permitted on the bus (such as book bags)
- ❑ Be sure not to eat or drink on the bus (this may lead to a choking hazard)

We want your children to be safe when they travel to and from school. As you help us with the above rules, we hope you will see that school bus safety begins at home.

Upcoming Dates

Jan. 23
Feb. 13
Feb. 20
Feb. 21
Feb. 27

School Board Meeting
School Board Meeting
President's Day, Schools Closed
Professional Development Day, Schools Closed
School Board Meeting

