

THE

CHALKBOARD

A Report from the Wattsburg Area Schools

2008/2009 School Year

March 2009

<http://www.wattsburg.org>

Follow the Yellow Brick Road...

to Seneca High School for the *Wizard of Oz* Spring Musical

The Seneca High School Performing Arts Department invites you to go over the rainbow and follow the yellow brick road to their spring production of the *Wizard of Oz*. This is the tale of Dorothy Gale (Lacey Murdock), a young girl from Kansas who dreams of going to a place where “troubles melt like lemon drops.” Her wish comes true when she is carried to the land of Oz by a twister, and although Dorothy receives a warm welcome from Glinda the Good Witch (Lindsey Wilczynski) and the adorable inhabitants of Munchkinland (guest stars from Wattsburg’s 4th and 5th grades), she soon runs afoul of the revenge-obsessed Wicked Witch of the West (Holly Ramey). In her quest to reach the great and powerful Wizard of Oz (Mark Niedomys) and get back to her family in Kansas, Dorothy meets a Scarecrow (Kyle Giewont), a Tin Man (Jeremiah Gibbons), and a Cowardly Lion (Brandon Bilski), each seeking a fundamental element

missing from their lives. Join us as we follow their journey to defeat the witch and obtain what each wants most in the world: a home, a brain, a heart and courage.

With a cast and crew of students from all three Wattsburg schools, the *Wizard of Oz* will showcase the talents of young people from throughout the district. In addition to our traditional Chinese auction, a beautiful quilt (pictured on page 3) made by Kelly Giewont will be raffled off Saturday evening after intermission.

The *Wizard of Oz* blows into Seneca on Friday and Saturday, March 13th and 14th. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and the Saturday matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. We strongly urge you to purchase tickets in advance by calling the Seneca High School office at 824-3400 ext. 4507 or 4508. Adult tickets are \$6.00; student tickets are \$5.00.

March 13, 2009
7:30 p.m.

March 14, 2009
2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Seneca Highlights

Lots of good things go on at Seneca that don't always make the news or make it into the conversation at your dinner table. For instance, did you know that Seneca is putting out a school newspaper this year for the first time in several years? The newspaper, The Bobcat Pride, is directed by Seneca's new English teacher, Mrs. Kristina Ohrn, with student editors, Sarah Shreve and Ali D'Albora. Look for it in the near future. The goal this year is to publish two editions and hopefully increase to four editions next year.

The **Robotics Club** is hard at work after school creating a remote control "robot" they hope will be competitive in upcoming competitions. The club meets on Thursdays after school and is facilitated by science teacher, Mr. Todd Talbot, an ex-instructor in the Navy's Nuclear Program.

The **Academic Sports League** (ASL) program is in its second year and has started to really make an impact on area competitions with the guidance of Mr. John Erickson, SHS mathematics teacher. The team took home two silver medals and one bronze at their most recent competition, PA Academic Decathlon Western Regional Competition. Patrick Nolan, grade 11, was awarded silver medals in his division for the math test and the Super Quiz test on Evolutionary Biology. Jennifer Ballus, also in 11th grade, was awarded a bronze medal in her division for the math test. Congratulations, students!

In technology notes, **Classrooms for the Future** is a state grant that Seneca received to begin outfitting classrooms with 25 laptop computers in each room. Teachers are receiving extensive training on how to most effectively maximize the technology and transform their classrooms into an environment that prepares students for a competitive 21st century workplace.

The Regional Choice Initiative/Dual Enrollment Program (long name, amazing results!) is available to Seneca students and offers the opportunity to take college courses for real college credit at greatly reduced rates during the school day. Get a head start on college – some students in the county have earned a year's worth of college credits before they donned their high school cap and gown. Scheduling for RCI starts now, so contact the Seneca High School guidance department for more information.

HALT! Anti-Bullying Program

Seneca High School kicked off the HALT Anti-Bullying program at a special student assembly in December. Social Studies teacher, Mr. Hart, and Assistant Principal, Mr. Miller, hosted the show that featured student testimonials, monologues, and a video produced by Mr. Hart and members of the student body. After the presentation, students unveiled the various activities in which students can participate. These include activities such as poster contests, essay contests, slogan creations, etc. The winner will receive a fifty dollar Millcreek Mall gift certificate.

The event was organized by the teachers and staff that make up the building's bullying coordinating committee. After the assembly, students were treated to a snack in the cafeteria by signing and redeeming a certificate vowing their intolerance of bullying behaviors.

The Western Pennsylvania HALT Coordinator, Michele Curtze, was on hand for the event and later stated, "I attended Wattsburg's High School (Seneca) kick-off today and it was fabulous! It was student-centered and could be used as a model for other high schools. One of the teachers helped them do a video about what it felt like to be bullied by a very diverse group of students and how difficult, but necessary, it is to "step up" as a bystander.....I was very impressed (and) felt like a proud parent!"

The entire committee worked very hard on this program but couldn't have made it so powerful without the help of the students. The HALT Coordinating Committee at Seneca consists of Mr. Tim Malinowski, Mr. Joe Anthony, Ms. Remle Elmer, Ms. Liz Oslak, Ms. Betsy Gamble, Major Jay Johnson, Mr. Robert Hart, Mrs. Debby Peck, Mr. Keith Miller, and Mr. Tom Rinke.



Mr. Logan Wins Golden Apple Award

Mr. James Logan, Wattsburg Area Middle School 6th Grade teacher, was presented the WJET-TV and Edinboro University of PA Golden Apple Award on February 4, 2009. Mr. Logan was nominated by 6th grader, Masen Hartner. The presentation was aired on WJET on February 18th, and can be accessed at <http://yourerie.com/content/goldenappleawards/>.

Congratulations, Mr. Logan!



Mr. James Logan



Wizard of Oz Quilt made by Kelly Giewant to be raffled off at the musical Saturday evening.





Bobcat Bullet

PSSA Math and Reading testing will take place from March 17th through March 24th for grades 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 11. All students are encouraged to get plenty of rest, be present in school, and to **DO THEIR BEST!**



Music Notes...

 Congratulations to Sarah Shreve and Jeremiah Gibbons on their successful auditions for advancement to PMEA Region II Chorus which was held February 18-21 in Freeport, PA. Both students auditioned at the festival for the chance to participate in the 2009 PMEA All-State Chorus in Valley Forge in April. 

Spring Concerts...

Chorus May 19, 2009

Band May 21, 2009

Both Concerts are at 7:00 p.m.
in the SHS Auditorium

Middle School Kids Shine!



Amy Scalise, Senior

Good Kids!

Amy and Alyssa Scalise were nominated and selected for the Good Kid Award with WJET-TV. The segment aired in November. Alyssa was also the Greene Township Lions Club Student of the Month for November.

Congratulations, girls!

New Year's Resolutions...

Mr. Frank's 7th grade social studies class participated in *Discover Our Times* sponsored by WJET-TV, Gannon University, and the Erie Times News. The segment focused on New Year's resolutions and was featured January 5th. Access to this segment is <http://yourerie.com/content/fulltext/?cid=319041>.

Caring Tree

WAMS Caring Tree and the 6th Grade Craft Fair collected over \$1,600.00 which helped needy families and food banks in the Wattsburg Area School District over the holiday season.



Alyssa Scalise, Sophomore

YEA, BOBCATS!

Memory Book Cover Contest

Each year, WAMS has a Memory Book Cover Contest for 8th grade students. Students must submit an original artwork and design. The 1st place winning cover is then featured in full color on the cover of the Wattsburg Area Middle School Memory Book. The winners this year were:

Kristy Izbicki, 1st Place. Kristy received \$25 Millcreek Mall Gift Card and cover published on Memory Book.

Andrea Skladanowski, 2nd Place. Andrea received \$10 cash and a set of colored pencils.

Robin Rastatter, 3rd Place. Robin received \$5 cash and a set of markers.

Congratulations, girls!



Left to Right: Robin Rastatter, Kristy Izbicki, and Andrea Skladanowski

“Lunch Lady” Jingles

As we drag through the long, cold days of winter, the cafeteria employees (aka “Lunch Ladies”) at the Elementary Center have tried to brighten the spirits of the children by creating daily jingles.

Mrs. Hernandez’s 4th grade class rushes to the cafeteria each day to hear the latest rhyme. After hearing the daily jingle, they tell the lunch ladies if it was good by giving a thumbs up, or say to each other, “let’s see what tomorrow brings.” The latest jingle follows, and it got a positive thumbs up. So, for your enjoyment, here is Lunch Lady Jingle #5.

Ode to the Lunch Lady

*Ode to the lunch lady
who stands with her spoon
She howls at the kids,
but not at the moon!*

*Hey kids, be quiet
and listen up!
Today is Friday and
guess what Mrs. Bisbee’s got..
Yes, that’s right!
It’s ice cream cups!*

*There’s vanilla and chocolate
and popsicles, too!
There’s red - there’s green
and raspberry blue!*

*Whatever the flavor, I’m sure
you’ll be pleased.
Why, you say Ms. Kinney?
Because kids...
It’s Friday and you get Ice
Cream!*

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!



Mrs. Susan Bisbee and Ms. Karen Kinney read Lunch Lady Jingle #5

Practice Makes Perfect!



Welcome to the 2nd grade Tutoring Club! Since November, all of the members have moved up several levels in reading. The students have read many non-fiction books from the book room. Two students are now on the second grade level! Way to go, kids!

Math is another subject area the students study. The children are honing their math skills and hope to practice PSSA type questions and format in the future so that they will be familiar with those types of questions by 3rd grade. Mrs. Eller is very proud of the hard work and extra hours these children are putting in to become better learners.



WASD Board Recognition



Grade 4 expresses their appreciation for the Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education during School Board Recognition Month with a GREAT BIG THANK-YOU!

Bienvenidos al club de Español! Welcome to Spanish Club



K-2 Students learning colors and numbers



3rd and 4th graders practicing dance moves

Bobcat Bullet

Kindergarten Registration

On April 22nd - 24th, kindergarten registration will take place for all children entering WAEC kindergarten in the fall of 2009. Children must be five years old before August 31st to enter kindergarten. Please call Mrs. Lynne Brozewicz today at 824-3400, extension 4500, to schedule a registration time for your child.



Sixty-five students in grades K-4 have been busy learning a variety of new things about Spanish language and culture on Thursday evenings after school. Señora Himes and Señor Porter are both teaching a group of K-2 students while Señora Hernández has been teaching our 3rd and 4th graders with help from Señora Johnson and Señora Pelensky. Students and teachers have been practicing conversational Spanish in an interactive setting. They have noticed many similarities and differences between the English and Spanish languages by listening to bilingual stories. Did you know that some words are exactly the same in both languages? Words like doctor, animal, color, banana, hospital, radio, and hotel are spelled the same, but they sound different in español!

At the end of each meeting, students take home newsletters highlighting all the new vocabulary words they are learning. Students have also been learning numbers, colors, body parts, and clothing items along with simple phrases. For third and fourth grade students, the world map is a focus during their sessions because it helps them identify and relate to Spanish speaking countries.

Tu gustaría bailar? Would you like to dance? Students have learned how to dance the merengue, bachata, cha-cha, and are currently taking on the salsa! Students in grades K-2 have also learned the Tu Ti Ta in español—pulgares arriba! If you would like to join in the fun, feel free to stop in during the meetings on March 5, 12 and 26. Everyone is welcome, but be prepared to dance and have some fun!

Olweus Bully Prevention

The Olweus Bully Prevention Team has been meeting regularly in the Elementary Center. The process of reporting and rectifying incidents of bullying has been refined and is currently aligned with the district's school code of behavior. Mr. Porter, Co-Principal, has conducted classroom presentations to all 3rd and 4th grade classes to reiterate what proper school behavior should look like. He has also explained the new after-school detention program which started the first week of February.

The Olweus Bully Prevention Team decided to pick a theme each month which will enhance the anti-bully lessons being done in each classroom. Kindness was the theme taught and practiced in February. Please feel free to discuss acts of kindness that occur in your child's life, so that we all learn to be kind to each other.

News from WAEC Art Room

Students have been working very hard and learning many new things in the Art Room this year. Some recent projects include:

4th Grade

Stained Glass Windows and Super Hero Comic Strips

3rd Grade

Cubism Self Portraits (Cubism is when an artist looks at an object carefully. He or she then recreates the object using geometric shapes), and *Organic Shaped Notans* (A Notan is the Japanese art of balancing light and dark areas in a composition, or positive and negative space).

2nd Grade

Winter Trees and Water Color Paintings

2nd Grade

Paper Robots and Recycled Robots

Kindergarten

Clay Hand Printed Ornaments and Chinese New Year Dragon Puppets



These 12 students had their artwork presented in the Barnes & Noble Book Fair on November 14th, 2008.

Front Row: Jessica Cass & Hudson Watkins

2nd Row: Austin Detzel, Ronald Keith, Kayla Currier, Tim Roberts, Madison Fletcher

3rd Row: John Richter, Sara Ochterski, Cortney Lyons, Makenzie Hopson, Alyssa Kent

Currently, all art classes are discovering China and its culture. Students are concentrating on Chinese New Year which is one of the largest and most colorful celebrations. This year, Chinese New Year was from January 26 to February 9. Each class made an exciting and Chinese-inspired art project. Some of these projects include Chinese Paper Lanterns, Chinese Scrolls, Chinese Dragon Faces, and Chinese Dragon Puppets.

Mark your calendar for the next ***Student Art Show held March 28, 2009 at WAEC.*** Students and teachers are very excited and have been preparing for this big event. Come and support your child and our school!



Bobcat Bullet

The Olweus Bully Prevention Team would like to thank all the parents who completed the Olweus Parent Survey. The information they provided is being used to help improve the implementation of the Bully Prevention Program.



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Wattsburg Area School District

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