



BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

SUMMER

“Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2009

Welcome to the Hive

We would like to welcome five new staff members to the Ferndale Area School District family. First of all, we welcome our new **Assistant Junior/Senior High School**



Scott Shirley

Principal, Mr. Scott Shirley.

Mr. Shirley grew up in Latrobe and graduated from Derry Area High School. In 1993, he graduated from

Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in exercise and sport science. He then worked as a physical education teacher in the Cumberland Valley School District and the Somerset School District for four years before he started traveling with his wife who was in the military. Thereafter, Mr. Shirley spent five years teaching in Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Fairfax County, Virginia. He also taught six years in Ashland, Kentucky before moving back to Pennsylvania. This past school year, Mr. Shirley worked as the alternative education coordinator at Chestnut Ridge. He has a master's degree in health education from Penn State and a master's degree in school leadership from Marshall University. Mr. Shirley has also coached volleyball throughout his career and spent last season as an assistant coach at UPJ. “I’m very excited about becoming a member of the administrative team at Ferndale Area. I am thrilled at the opportunity to work with the students in this district, and I’m also looking forward to getting involved in the

local community. I am enthusiastic about becoming a ‘Yellow Jacket’ and look forward to working with each of you.”

Patricia Cornell, a Ferndale Borough resident, has been hired as an elementary **dishwasher.** A

graduate of the Greater Johnstown School District, Mrs. Cornell is married and has two daughters, all of which are very active in their community.



Patricia Cornell

Lori Dodson, a graduate of Westmont Hilltop High School, was hired as a **secondary guidance counselor** at Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School. With her bachelor of science degree in biology, Mrs. Dodson has worked in



Lori Dodson

the scientific industry for over ten years at the supervisory level before returning to graduate school in 2006 to obtain her master of education degree in school counseling. Lori completed her undergrad at Saint Francis University and her master's degree at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She was employed by Ferndale Area School District for the 2008-2009 school year as a guidance counselor aide at the Junior/Senior High School. Additionally, Lori served as the girls' varsity basketball assistant

coach at Ferndale Area this past year helping the team to advance to the third round of inter-district playoffs. Lori and her family reside in the Richland section of Johnstown.

Michelle Furfari, a resident of Ferndale

Borough, has been hired as an elementary **cook.** Mrs. Furfari is a graduate of Richland School District and the



Michelle Furfari

Pennsylvania Academy of Cosmetology. She is also employed part time as a hairdresser at Family Hair Care in Riverside.

Joshua Mottillo, of Blairsville, joins the Ferndale Area staff as a **business, computers, and information technology teacher** after serving the 2008-2009 school year as a full year long-term substitute. Prior to coming to Ferndale Area, Mr. Mottillo served as a day to day substitute in the Derry Area and Blairsville/Saltsburg School Districts. Josh



Joshua Mottillo

also served as the assistant marching band director at Blairsville High School from 2002-2008. He graduated in 2002 from IUP with a bachelor's degree in marketing and a minor in music. Josh also earned a master's degree in business education in 2007 from IUP.

Ferndale Area School District

Board of Education

President

Mr. Ridley Banks—Dale

Vice-President

Mrs. Barbara Penna—Ferndale

Secretary

Mr. Edward Jones—Middle Taylor

Treasurer

Mrs. Sandra Chobany—Dale

Board Members

Mr. Greg Blue—Middle Taylor

Mr. Gary Eisenhuth—Ferndale

Mr. James Ford—Dale

Mr. Richard Lucas—Ferndale

Mr. Wayne Meekins—Lorain

Administration

Ferndale Area School District

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-1507

Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Carole M. Kakabar

Business Manager

Mr. John Kowal

Ferndale Area High School

600 Harlan Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-288-5757

High School Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Reiter

Assistant High School Principal

Mr. Scott Shirley

Ferndale Area Elementary School

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-6724

Elementary Principal

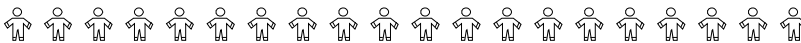

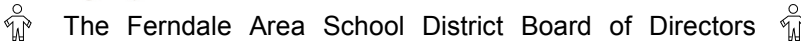
Mr. Justin Zahorchak

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ENDOWMENT to be established at FASD

An endowment fund (501c3 plan) is being established. This fund creates opportunities for individuals or groups to donate money for identified causes within the schools. An endowment board is being created to oversee this endeavor. If you would like more information about the endowment or if you would like to be considered for the board, please call 535-1507.

School Board Meetings

The Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Elementary School Board Room at 6:00 p.m. except for the month of December. A meeting is not scheduled for the month of July.

District Adopts 2009-2010 Budget

The Ferndale Area School Board adopted the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget on June 17, 2009. Real estate millage was set at 63 mills, which was an increase of 3.5 mills. After review, the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the tax rate. The increase was less than the 2009-2010 index of 6.4% which was required by Act 1 participating districts.

Ferndale Area School District is a Smoke-Free District

It is the policy of the Ferndale Area School District that all buildings, property (including sidewalks and parking areas), outdoor fixed seating areas, vehicles owned or contracted and other designated areas of the Ferndale Area School District are designated to be tobacco free environments.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Saying Good-Bye

Eight Ferndale Area School District employees will be leaving the hive at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Congratulations and best wishes to our retirees.

Miss Patricia Balagusz - Elementary Teacher - 39 years of service

Mrs. Deborah Lynch - Business Education Teacher - 34 years of service

Mrs. Joyce Leberknight - Kindergarten Teacher - 38 years of service

Mrs. Kristen Kasprzyk - Elementary Librarian - 34 years of service

Mrs. Karen Soohy - Business Education Teacher - 24 years of service

Mrs. Janice Horvath - Elementary Health & Physical Education Teacher - 37 years of service

Miss Maxine Livella - Elementary Cook - 26 years of service

Mrs. Mary Ann Harris - High School Cook - 23 years of service



Left to right: Patricia Balagusz, Deborah Lynch, Joyce Leberknight, Kristen Kasprzyk, Karen Soohy, Janice Horvath, Maxine Livella, Mary Ann Harris, Carole Kakabar, Superintendent

New Medication Policy Changes for 2009-2010

Judy Virgin, RN, BSN, CSN
School Nurse

The School Board approved changes to our medication policy at the June 17, 2009 Board Meeting to be in effect for the 2009-2010 school year. Research was done with school districts throughout the area. We were surprised to learn that most school districts in the area stopped giving over the counter medications to students several years ago.

Some changes to the new medication policy are there will no longer be over the counter medications available for students use during the school day. Parents can supply their child with the medication to be taken at school if absolutely necessary with their written consent and a physician order. A physician order is necessary because the school nurse works under a license by the state of Pennsylvania which requires her to have a physician order for any medication that she dispenses. Parents can also come into school and give their child over the counter medication if necessary.

A policy for medication administration while on field trips was also approved. If a student is to take medication during the field trip, there must be a licensed nurse on the field trip to administer the medication. The parent will have to provide the exact dose to be given in a properly labeled container. The parent will also have the option of going on the field trip to administer the medication to their child if they so choose. If the student has an inhaler, written consent will need to be provided by the prescribing physician and the parent, stating the competence of the student's ability for the self-administration of the inhaler.

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be addressed to Judy Virgin, School Nurse. Her hours for the 2009-2010 school year are as follows:

High School	7:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	288-5757
Elementary	10:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	535-6724



Congratulations Graduates

Cassandra Albus
Aaron Allison
Alisha Baxter
Stephen Bendick
Catherine Bennett
Brandon Boland
Bradley Brosig
Samuel Burkett
Dominick Carnevali
Nicholus Clark
Ryan Craig
Sarah Davis
Sean Davis
Katie Dorchak
Rachel Dorchak
April Eisenhuth
Ashley Eisenhuth
Kristen Emery

Alexandra Firm
Aubre Fox
Miles Glessner
Elizabeth Griffith
Jessica Hagans
Brian Hartman, Jr.
Per Sebastian Henriksson
Cameron Jacobsen
Jillian Jung
Justin Kapcsos
Kayla Kohler
Brandon Kull
Samantha Lloyd
William Maris, Jr.
John Martin, Jr.
Kaitlyn McMullen
Ashley Micik-Balog
Breanne Miller

Jesse Petty
Daniel Pisarczyk
Alyssa Pudliner
Alexandra Ratliff
Lindsey Rhodes
Jamie Rosequist
Mara Schlueschen
Cody Sedei
Tyler Svencer
Florian Thiem
Lindsey Thomas
Nathan Webb
Leah Weingartner
Taylor Wyar
Cayla Zahoran
Anthony Zungali

National Honor Society

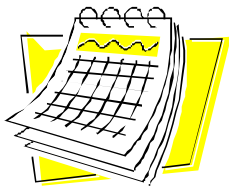
Three students from Ferndale Area High School were inducted into membership of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held in the school auditorium on June 1, 2009 at 7:00 in the evening. Mrs. Karen Soohy was the guest speaker at the year end banquet held on May 17, 2009. Members were chosen by a Selection Committee after achieving four criteria – Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character, which are the four components required for election into the National Honor Society. Students inducted were: **Melanie Bremer, Chelsea Chobany, and Ashley Smith.** Graduating senior members who were elected last year include: **Catherine Bennett, Bradley Brosig** (Co-President), **Rachel Dorchak, Kayla Kohler, Kaitlyn McMullen** (Treasurer), **Alexandra Ratliff** (Co-President), **Taylor Wyar** (Secretary), and **Cayla Zahoran.** During the year, members of the Ferndale Area National Honor Society sponsored a pancake breakfast with the proceeds going to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and sold Christmas Angels for the Women's Help Center. A day was spent at the Atrium Community Center in Johnstown socializing and playing games with the residents. Members also hosted a spaghetti dinner after the Sunday matinee of

the school play. During National Library Week, the members visited the Ferndale Area Elementary School for a day of reading to the younger students.



2009-2010 School Calendar

The calendar for the 2009-2010 school year was adopted by the Ferndale Area Board of School Directors on April 22, 2009. The first day of school for students is August 26, 2009; the last day is June 4, 2010.



Teacher in-service days and Act 80 Days are scheduled for August 24, August 25, October 12, December 7, January 19, March 15, and June 3.

Scheduled make-up days are February 15, April 1, April 5, and May 28. If additional days are used for emergency reasons, the make-up days will be added at the end of the school term in June.

August 24.....In-Service Day for Faculty
 August 25.....In-Service Day for Faculty
August 26..... First Day for Students
 September 7.....Labor Day (No School)
 October 12.....Act 80 Day for Faculty
 September 22.....Open House (HS)
 September 23.....Open House (Elem)
 September 24.....Open House (Elem)
 November 2Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
 November 11.....Veterans' Day (No School)
 November 26 - November 30 Thanksgiving (No School)
 December 7.....Act 80 Day for Faculty
 December 24 - January 1.....Christmas (No School)
 January 18.....Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
 January 19.....In-Service Day for Faculty
 February 15.....Make-Up Day (No School)
 March 15.....In-Service Day for Faculty
 April 1.....Make-Up Day (No School)
 April 2.....Good Friday (No School)
 April 5.....Make-Up Day (No School)
 May 28.....Make-Up Day (No School)
 May 31.....Memorial Day (No School)
 June 3.....In-Service Day (No School)
June 4..... Last Day of School

Marking Period Ends	Report Cards Go Home
October 27 January 8 March 12 June 2	November 4 January 18 March 18 June 4



Peer Tutoring

It's kids helping kids, and it works! Peer tutoring is an educational approach that joins students from grades K-5 with older students from Grade 6 at the elementary school. Peer tutoring is a leadership-training program while serving a dual role of academic support. Older students assume the role of tutor to develop academic skills and confidence in reading, math facts, spelling and study reviews in a fun manner. Peer tutors are assigned to the tutoring room or individual classroom. Peer tutor referrals are made by teachers, family support team or parent request. Peer tutors take on the role of helper as well as leader. Eileen Zankay, program coordinator, describes the program as a successful example of how teamwork and empathy are needed to make things happen. "Our elementary teachers that receive peer tutors go the extra mile to diligently provide the extra academic work peer tutors utilize to work with the younger students on a daily basis. The sixth grade teachers graciously share and support the flexibility of time needed for their sixth grade students to spend time with our younger students each morning before classes begin," reports Mrs. Zankay. After a leadership orientation conducted by Mrs. Zankay each fall, peer tutors are assigned to classrooms. The sixth grade tutors offer their special talents throughout the entire school year. Grade 2 teacher, Pat Balagusz, has utilized peer tutors since the program started five years ago. "The students loved having them each morning. They made the schoolwork fun. The tutors taught each student different strategies for the skills needed to complete the work assigned and made that student feel successful," says Miss Balagusz. A parent shared the positive story that while eating supper and talking about the Fernstock celebration and awards ceremony their young daughter gleamed, "I think I'd like to be a peer tutor someday!" Children modeling leadership with acts of kindness is a powerful life lesson for all.



Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

This year the elementary school was awarded approximately \$34,000 to introduce a new program in 2009-2010. The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program is designed to provide all children at the elementary with a wide variety of fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. The program will give our students the opportunity to experience fruits and vegetables outside of their normal breakfast and lunch times. It is a creative and effective way to encourage healthy snack options. The goal of this program will be to:

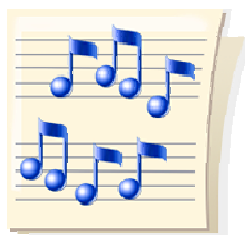
- Expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience
- Increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption
- Make a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health



Band News

The Ferndale Area Band ventured to Arbutus Park Manor and the Lutheran Home on May 27, 2009. Residents at the two nursing homes were given a sampling of some of the music from the Band's Spring '09 music, including such popular numbers as Duke Ellington's Satin Doll and Aaron Copland's Hoe Down.

This has been a tradition of the band for several years. While there, the band was introduced with several residents of the homes who are Ferndale Area Alumni. The Music Department hopes to visit these homes again in the Christmas concert season.



Elementary School Special Recognition Awards

Presidential Gold Award - Outstanding Academic Excellence

**Ariel Ansell
Angela Cameron**

**Angela Morgart
Devon Valinsky**

Presidential Silver Award - Outstanding Academic Achievement

**Charis Biancuzzo
Chad Cameron
Jordan Colbert
Anne-Marie Henninger
Kyler Himes
Michael Hockensmith
Conner Hudson**

**Nicholas Kasisky
Jaiden Locher
Ethan Miller
Michael Pellow
Stephan Sharp
Samantha Sheehan**

Senatorial Good Citizenship Award

**Charis Biancuzzo
Chad Cameron
Nicholas Kasisky**

**Ashley Kearney
Shyanne Miles
Malik Ream**

American Citizenship Award

K4
**Nathan Beckman
Hunter Hanson**

Kindergarten
**Brianna Hicks
Libby Kinsey
Jade Wallace**

Grade 1
**Morgan Bennett
Tyler Cenko
Noah Korenoski**

Grade 2
**Jacklyn Himes
Madison Lowman
Megan Moyer**

Grade 3
**Nicole Firm
Hunter Kinsey
Jared Ohler
Mackenzie Zelenski**

Grade 4
**Alexia Bier
Brenae Kelly
Joseph Locher**

Grade 5
**Hannah Korenoski
Anthony Rhoads
Emily Szekeresh**

Grade 6
**Cody Berkebile
Michael Hockensmith
Connor Hudson**



Students from the Class of 2009 have been awarded the following scholarships:

National Honor Society	Catherine Bennett Bradley Brosig Rachel Dorchak Kayla Kohler Katie McMullen Alexandra Ratliff Taylor Wyar Cayla Zahoran
Cambria County Music Teachers Scholarship	Dominick Carnevali
John Philip Sousa Award	Dominick Carnevali
Outstanding Band Member	Bradley Brosig
District and Regional Band	Bradley Brosig Dominick Carnevali Chelsea Chobany Elizabeth Griffith
Art	Cayla Zahoran
Biological Sciences	Alexandra Ratliff
Chemistry	Cayla Zahoran
English	Alexandra Ratliff
Mathematics	Cayla Zahoran
Social Studies	Bradley Brosig
Citizenship	Bradley Brosig Rachel Dorchak Cayla Zahoran

Challenge Program Awards:

Highest GPA: Senior, **Bradley Brosig**
Junior, **Chelsea Chobany**
Sophomore, **Joshua Chuha**
Most Improved:Senior, **Kristen Emery**
Junior, **Laurel Niederhut**
Sophomore, **Lucas Levergood**
Attendance: Senior, **Sean Davis**
Junior, **Ashley Smith**
Sophomore, **Benjamin Speicher**
Community Service: Senior, **Kaitlyn McMullen**
Junior, **Chelsea Chobany**
Sophomore, **Zachary Toth**

Ferndale Area School District
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 814-535-1507
Fax: 814-535-8527

We're on the web!
www.fasdk12.org

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ferndale Area School District is to be **"Big Enough To Challenge"** all students, but **"Small Enough to Care"** about each student. To accomplish this mission, the Ferndale Area School District will strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment for excellent teaching and learning experiences where students prepare for a life of continual learning, and acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to solve problems, communicate effectively and be a responsible citizen.

Athletic Highlights

Junior High

- The girls' junior high volleyball team completed an excellent season with a record of 13-4. They placed 2nd in the North Star Tournament. The girls were coached by Theresa Kessler and Christine Eash.

Varsity

- The girls' varsity volleyball team led by veteran coaches Kim Reighard and Kelli Mostoller completed a successful season with a record of 13 wins and 7 losses. They qualified for the District 6 playoffs for the 16th straight season. The girls advanced through round one defeating Purchase Line and lost a highly contested match to Bishop Guilfoyle in the second round of the District playoffs. The squad received the Officials' Sportsmanship Award for the fifth time in the last eight years.
- The girls' varsity basketball team finished a stellar season with a mark of 20 wins and 7 losses. During the regular season, they won the title game at the Ligonier tournament. They qualified for the District 6 tournament and finished 3rd advancing into the State playoffs. They beat highly regarded Mt. Alvernia and lost to Tussey Mountain in overtime in their second State playoff game. During the regular season, junior **Brittney Eisenhuth** surpassed the 1,000 point barrier. She was named to the Associated Press All-State Team after the playoffs. Seniors **April Eisenhuth** and **Jamie Rosequist** were selected to play in the AmeriServ All-Star Hoops game. Eugene Slebodnick and Lori Dodson coached the successful cagers.
- Baseball is a spring sport, and despite a soggy season weather-wise, this was a successful year for the varsity baseball team. Coaches Steve Clawson and Ron Wilson led the squad to a 10-8 record. The boys qualified for District playoffs. They lost to Homer Center in the semi-finals after defeating Northern Cambria in the previous game. The junior varsity team was coached by Adam Hale and James Rubal.

The following athletes were named to West Pac All-Conference Teams:

- Football - **Dave Horvath and Ryan Gaunt**
- Volleyball - **Breanne Miller**
- Girls' Basketball - **Brittney Eisenhuth**
- Boys' Basketball - **Ryan Gaunt**
- Softball - **Brittney Baumbaugh and Melanie Bremer**
- Golf - **Bradley Brosig**
- Baseball - **Matthew Dorchak and Tanner Kulback**

