



BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

OCTOBER

“Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2005

New Members to the Ferndale Area School District Family

Ferndale Area School District has seen several changes to its staff over the summer months. In fact, we are welcoming ten new members to our family.

First of all, we welcome our new **Junior/Senior High School Principal, Mr. Stuart Albaugh.**



Stuart Albaugh

Mr. Albaugh comes to Ferndale Area High School with 20 years of experience. Initially a social studies teacher at Lackey High School in Charles County, Maryland, Mr. Albaugh was promoted to Vice Principal. During his eight years as the Vice Principal of Lackey, he was in charge of curriculum, special education, athletics, and student activities.

Originally from Latrobe, PA, Mr. Albaugh decided to return home with his family. He has most recently served as Principal of Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona. Mr. Albaugh earned his bachelor's degree at St. Francis University and his master's degree/principal certification from Duquesne University.

Jessica Bugosh, of Nanty Glo, has been hired as the **Composition teacher** at the junior/senior high school. After graduating from Blacklick Valley, Ms. Bugosh received her bachelor's degree from IUP. Her certificate is in English.



Jessica Bugosh

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Gold Activity Card

The Ferndale Area School District has always encouraged the community to attend our students' events. The Board has approved a policy that some residents may not be aware of—The Gold Activity Card.

The Gold Activity Card is available to any resident who is age 62 or older, a former member of the district's school board, any retired employee from the school, and those receiving SSA or SSI disability.

The Gold Activity Card allows a resident to attend free with one guest any home athletic contests (except PIAA playoff games), music concerts, plays, etc. Cards may be used for graduation ceremonies as long as the seats are reserved through the High School Principal's Office. Gold Activity Cards can be secured by providing proof of age, residence, or eligibility to the High School Principal's Office, 600 Harlan Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905.

Playground

Lori Robertson, PTO Vice-President

The PTO was busy last year with a variety of fund raising activities. The fund raiser goal for the year was centered on what was hoped would be a future playground at the elementary school. With Mr. Moran's support, the PTO addressed the school board in the spring concerning the creation of a playground. A favorable response was received from the board, and we are pleased to announce that a playground project has been completed! This playground provides our K4-6 children with the safest and best play experiences during recess. It consists



of various slides, swings and climbing apparatuses, and is located on the old Fernstock grounds next to the school.

The PTO consists of a small group of caring teachers and parents who would like to see the group grow. Please come join them and share your ideas concerning future PTO events. If a small PTO can help jumpstart a playground project, imagine what could be accomplished if you joined. **PTO meetings are held in the Elementary School Library the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** Please Come!!!

Ferndale Area School District
Gold Activity Card

Name: _____

This card entitles the above senior citizen and one guest to free admission to all Ferndale Area athletic contests and other school programs.

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

Mr. Robert Vamos—Brownstown

Board Members

Mr. Greg Blue—Middle Taylor

Mrs. Sandra Chobany—Dale

Mr. Joseph Corle—Ferndale

Mr. Gary Eisenhuth—Ferndale

Mr. Jeffrey Stewart—Dale

Administration

Ferndale Area School District

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-1507

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Christine Oldham

Business Manager

Mr. John Kowal

Ferndale Area High School

600 Harlan Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-288-5757

High School Principal

Mr. Stuart Albaugh

Ferndale Area Elementary School

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-6724


Elementary Principal

Mr. Edward Moran

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Welcome to our new board member, Mr. Gary Eisenhuth. Due to a resignation in Region 1, **Ferndale Borough**, Mr. Eisenhuth was appointed to complete the remainder of the vacated term (July 8, 2005 through December 7, 2005). He has children at both the elementary and junior/senior high school.



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 6:30 p.m. except for the months of May and December. Meetings are not scheduled for the month of July.



New Members

(Continued from page 1)

Our new junior/senior high school **learning support teacher** brings experience from Nulton Diagnostic Alternative Placement.

Mindie Cunningham of Windber, also earned a bachelor of science in education from IUP.

Her certificate is in special education.



Mindie Cunningham

Joshua Day, of Middle Taylor Township and a graduate of Ferndale Area, joins the elementary staff as a **third grade teacher**. A graduate of UPJ, Mr. Day has substituted in

the district for several years. He also coaches baseball and football.



Joshua Day

Another new teacher at the junior/senior high school is **Tammy Rodgers**. Ms. Rodgers, who has been hired to teach **art**, is another IUP graduate. While she brings teaching experience from Chestnut Ridge, she also brings experiences from Rhode Island School of Design, WPSX -PBS, and FORBES Inc.



Tammy Rodgers

Ferndale Area School District also has a new **school nurse**. **Judy Virgin**, of Dale Borough, has more than 20 years of experience in nursing. Most recently, she worked for Memorial Medical Center caring for intensive care patients at the Trauma Center. Mrs. Virgin attended UPJ where she received her bachelor of science in nursing and her



Judy Virgin

school nurse certificate. She has also served as a member of the Ferndale Area School District Board of Education for four years.

We welcome three members to the support staff. **Kimberly Becker**, a graduate of Vo-Tech, is currently attending Penn Highlands Community College.



Kimberly Becker

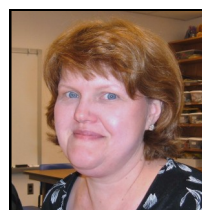
Her previous experience as an **instructional aide** through Americorp was at Ferndale Area Elementary School.

Amanda McKinley has also been hired as an **instructional aide**. Mrs. McKinley is a graduate of UPJ where she completed her degree in elementary education. She was previously a primary grade teacher at Genesis Christian Academy.



Amanda McKinley

Carol Terchanyn has been employed as a **vision-support paraprofessional**. Ms. Terchanyn has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from UPJ and is enrolled in a master's program at St. Francis University. She has taught in various schools for the Altoona-



Carol Terchanyn

Johnstown Diocese.

Nancy Ernest, a Brownstown resident, also joins the elementary staff. Mrs. Ernest is a Ferndale Area High School graduate. She has been employed as the new **elementary dishwasher**.



Nancy Ernest

In addition to our new staff, we also had several staff members change positions throughout the summer:

- **Maxine Cullen** from high school art teacher to **elementary art teacher**
- **Carol Hanik** from elementary cook to **high school cook**
- **Richard Hiner** from elementary cleaner to **high school cleaner**
- **Rachelle Hrabosky** from instructional aide to **kindergarten teacher**
- **Lori Robertson** from instructional aide to **class-size reduction teacher**
- **Barbara Wissinger** from elementary dishwasher to **elementary cook**

School-Family Partnership and Success

Ask parents whether they care about their child's education, and you will nearly always get an emphatic "yes." Ask any community member whether successful public schools are important to the community, and you'll most likely get the same answer.

At Ferndale Area Elementary school we have been able to translate parent and teacher concerns into meaningful involvement that affects student achievement. In the fall of 2002, the elementary school implemented a new program to address the home-school connection. The home-school connection is facilitated by the Ferndale Area Elementary Family Support Program. Family Support is a preventative measure that involves parents as an integral part of the educational team. Students are referred for Family Support services in the areas of academic, social, behavioral, and emotional areas of student development. Referrals can be made by parents or teachers. The program was developed by elementary school counselor, Eileen Zanke and enforced by building principal, Mr. Ed Moran. Successful implementation of the program can be attributed through the diligence of district teachers and parents.

All students referred for Family Support services must attend a team meeting at the elementary school. A unique quality of the Family Support program is that of the home visit arrangements. Mr. Moran and Mrs. Zanke make personal home visits to those

families whose schedule cannot accommodate the in-school meeting. The goal of the team meeting is the development of an intervention plan to meet the child's needs identified in the referral. An intervention plan is developed, implemented and reviewed within 30 days. All meetings are individualized to the specific needs of the student. Intervention recommendations might include academic tutoring, home-school behavior plan, classroom interventions or increased school-parent contacts. Successful implementation of interventions include a partnership between parents, teachers, tutors and instructional aides. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in the monitoring of the plan.

Over the past two years, Mrs. Zanke and Mr. Moran have tried to send the message to parents that the Family Support Program is preventative not punitive. It is not an uncommon site, to see the building principal and guidance counselor walking down the street of any of our communities. Family support involvement is geared to help the parent become effectively involved in their child's school success.

If you are interested in your child getting involved in the Family Support Program at the elementary school, please contact Mrs. Eileen Zanke, at the elementary school guidance office.

Special Education Gaskin vs. PA Department of Education

The Gaskin case was first filed on June 30, 2004 by students with disabilities and 11 disability organizations (the plaintiffs). The plaintiffs claim that the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the State Board of Education failed to assure that students with disabilities were being included in regular education classrooms to the maximum extent appropriate, and that students were receiving appropriate supplementary aids and services in regular classrooms. The proposed settlement to this case had a hearing on June 24, 2005 in Courtroom 11A, US Courthouse, 601 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

As ordered by the Court, school districts and intermediate units are to take the following actions:

- 1) Distribute a copy of the Notice to the parents of special education students.

- 2) Post a copy of the Notice in each building where it may be seen by parents.
- 3) Inform parents of how to access copies of the notice and proposed Settlement Agreement on the following website:

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/special_edu/cwp/view.asp?a=177&Q=109539

Paper copies of the Notice may be obtained by contacting the Special Education Office at Ferndale Area Elementary School—814-535-6724. Ferndale Area School District will continue to work cooperatively with parents of all eligible students to provide a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment and will comply with the Federal Court's orders.

Yellow Jackets Around the World

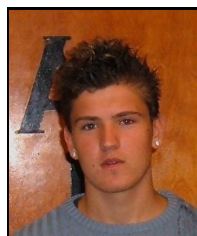
Since the late 1980's many teenagers from Western Europe, Scandinavia, and several from the Orient and South America have spent a school year at Ferndale Area High School. These young people have been afforded the opportunity to experience life in a very friendly small school and small town setting. Over the years more than 70 foreign exchange students have participated in the full range of Ferndale Area High School involvements including the academic program, athletics, and other extra-curricular activities such as theatrical productions and music programs.

Those exchange students have lived with families in each of the five sending areas of the FASD – Ferndale, Dale, Brownstown, Middle Taylor, and Lorain. The benefits of the exchange student program have accrued not only to those foreign students in regard to the “once in a lifetime” experience but the FASD community and the host families have benefited as well in terms of learning about other cultures and countries. Perhaps the greatest lesson learned generally has been not how different the cultures and various countries are – but how similar in fact American teenagers and those from around the world truly are.

This 2005-06 school year **five exchange students** will have the chance to become “full-fledged” Ferndale Area Yellow Jackets! **Felix** from **Sweden** is living with the **Barbarich family in Dale** and is presently playing football. **Anatoli** from **Germany** and **Carl**



Felix



Anatoli

on the golf team and looks forward to the start of hockey season. **Friedrich** from **Germany** is living with the **Wentz family in**



Friedrich

Dale. Presently he is playing the base drum in the marching band; he and his host brother, Eric, enjoy practicing German together. **Jesper** from **Sweden** is living with the **Callihan family in Middle Taylor** and is enjoying experiencing the American lifestyle with his host sister, Alyse, and his host brother, Troy. Jesper also can be seen at most Ferndale events and is also very anxious to start playing hockey. Most likely this year will be another great year for both the Ferndale Area School District and the new Yellow Jackets!



Carl

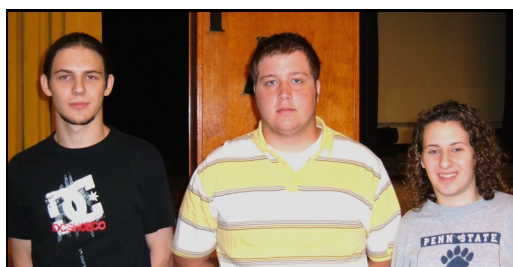


Jesper

Student Voices

The Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors continues to offer the student body voice in school affairs by once again welcoming three student representatives into their midst. Senior Shawn Toth will once again offer his insight while being sided by two juniors, Sarah McAteer and Rich Henry. The students will serve on the Board as non-voting members. They were selected after an application and interview process was held last spring.

The students' responsibilities will include attending monthly board meetings and reporting on student activities or any issues in which the student body may be concerned.



Left to Right: Rich Henry, Shawn Toth, and Sarah McAteer

They will use the informational bulletin board placed in the cafeteria to report back to the student body and to take suggestions. They will attend the annual convention of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association along with maintaining a portfolio of their work throughout their term. In exchange for their participation, the students will receive one half of an academic credit in social studies. Representative Toth said of his reappointment, “Last year, the experience helped me to realize what it takes for changes to be made. It is a great responsibility to represent the student body and be their voice.”

Project 720

Ferndale Area High School has received a **\$77,000** Project 720 grant through Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The high school was one of 67 high schools statewide to be awarded the grant. Project 720, named to reflect the number of days a student spends in high school, provides schools with the opportunity to engage in reform initiatives designed to prepare graduates for college and career. Highlights of the Ferndale Area High School grant include:

- **Summer Reading Program**
- **Remediation/Tutoring Program**
- **Dual Enrollment Opportunities**
- **Learning Lab Initiative**
- **Keys2Work Career Exploration**



Our next steps include establishing a committee to oversee the implementation of the grant. We'll keep you posted on our progress!



School Health Council

Beginning with the first day of the 2006-07 school year, each district in Pennsylvania must have established a local school wellness policy. **Ferndale Area School District's School Health Council** is busy collecting information to develop our policy. Comprised of teachers, parents, administrators, board, students, and community representatives, the council is reviewing eight areas:

- **School Health and Safety Policies and Environment**
- **Health Education**
- **Physical Education and other Physical Activity Programs**
- **Nutrition Services**
- **School Health Services**
- **School Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services**
- **Health Promotion for Staff**
- **Family and Community Involvement**

Each of the eight areas has a subcommittee that is responsible for determining current strengths and weaknesses of the area. Eventually, each subcommittee will develop an action plan that will help us to be as healthy as possible.

Tentative Parent Training Sessions

The following parent trainings are available to any interested parents. Trainings will be held in the Board Room, located at the elementary school, and are appropriate for parents of children K4-12.

Math Strategies for At-Risk Students
Monday, December 5, 2005
6: 00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Overview of IDEIA and How it Impacts Your Child
Monday, February 6, 2006
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Please call 535-6724 to register.





Backpacks to Texas

Hearts all across the country have poured out to help those displaced by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Here at Ferndale Area, we have been busy collecting school supplies and filling backpacks for students who have been evacuated from the gulf coast to Katy, Texas. In the weeks following Katrina, 900 students were enrolled in **Katy Independent School District**. Not only did the students come with nothing, but the school was not prepared for the number of new enrollees it received.

Through the efforts of our friends and families, we were able to send more than 100 boxes of filled



backpacks and various school supplies. In actuality 231 children in Katy received brand new backpacks. Each backpack contained a small stuffed bear wearing a "Ferndale Area Kids Care" t-shirt.

In addition to the many individuals who donated, the following businesses and organizations provided supplies and monetary donations:

- Big City Signs
- Easy Grade Carwash
- Ferndale Area Education Association
- J C Penney
- Mom's House
- Penn Machine

A special thank you to Weleski Transfer Inc., who transported our shipment for FREE!

Watch for other relief efforts that the district will sponsor throughout the year!

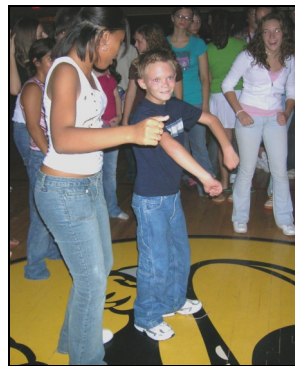


Junior High Student Council Helps with Katrina

The **Junior High Student Council** recently raised **\$1,036** to help assist the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. The Council organized a "**Back to School Dance**" and bake sale. The dance held on September 17 was a huge success. There was a great student turnout, especially with the junior high students. Parents of the junior high students were asked to donate baked goods or snacks, and these were sold during the dance. The response to the request to donate "goodies" was so great that students continued to sell items during the week following the dance.



This project was a great way for the Junior High Student Council to begin the year. One goal of the Council is to contribute to our school, local community, and the larger community whenever possible. This activity gave students the opportunity to have a good time, be good citizens, and lend a helping hand as well!



Mrs. Evans and the Junior High Student Council would like to

thank all those who helped to make this fund raiser so successful. Your time, effort, and support were greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the dance were used to purchase "Ferndale Area Kids Care" bears for the district-wide backpack drive.



Ferndale Area School District Report Card 2004-2005

The Federal Law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), requires that school districts report state test results and the professional qualifications of teachers to the public. Just as our students receive a report card, we offer to you this "Report Card" for the Ferndale Area School District.

High School Graduation Rate

The 2004 high school graduation rate for the Ferndale Area School District is 93%.

Attendance Rate

The attendance rate for grades K4-6 is 95.72%

Teacher Professional Qualifications

The Ferndale Area School District's professional personnel are all highly qualified teachers (100%).

Commercial Standardized Test Usage

Test Name	Used in Grade(s)
Terra Nova	Grades 4, 6, 7, 9, 10
Self-Directed Search	Grade 7
In View	Grade 10
PSAT	Grade 11 (optional for Grade 10)
ASVAB	Grade 11 (and 12 if they wish to take it again)
SAT/ACT	Grades 11 and 12
AP Exam	Optional for students Taking AP Distance Learning Classes. Typically Grades 11& 12

State Assessment Information—Disaggregate Data

The state requires each school district to disaggregate Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test data for several groups of students. The groups include: race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, migrant status, limited English proficiency, and economically disadvantaged.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

The PSSA ranks student achievement in reading, math, and writing by using the following rating system: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is defined as the progress needed to bring all children to the "proficient level" by the year 2014. In order for a district to make AYP, each school within the district (the elementary, middle school, and high school) must be analyzed and any disaggregated group (race, ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, disability status and limited English proficiency) comprised of 40 students or more, must be scored separately. In order to make AYP, the scores must be above the levels stated below:

- At least 54% of the students must score at the proficient or advanced level in reading.
- At least 45% of the students must score at the proficient or advanced level in math.
- At least 95% of the students in each group listed above must have taken the test.
- (As of yet, no baseline scores have been determined for adequate yearly progress in writing.)

Adequate Yearly Progress	Number of Schools Identified
Warning	0
School Improvement 1	0
School Improvement 2	0
Corrective Action 1	0
Corrective Action 2	0

PERFORMANCE LEVEL	GRADE 3				GRADE 5			
	READING		MATH		READING		MATH	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Students Tested	67	50	67	50	61	67	61	67
Advanced	33%	26%	61%	86%	26%	12%	39%	28%
Proficient	31%	48%	16%	6%	31%	46%	25%	31%
Basic	22%	20%	15%	6%	33%	24%	25%	39%
Below Basic	13%	6%	7%	2%	10%	18%	11%	1%

PERFORMANCE LEVEL	GRADE 8				GRADE 11			
	READING		MATH		READING		MATH	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Students Tested	53	55	53	55	53	52	53	52
Advanced	43%	36%	23%	44%	36%	46%	21%	13%
Proficient	40%	33%	49%	29%	42%	31%	36%	27%
Basic	13%	25%	25%	15%	15%	12%	25%	25%
Below Basic	4%	5%	4%	13%	8%	12%	19%	35%

Student Population	GRADE 3 — READING								GRADE 3 — MATH							
	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %		Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State
All Students	26%	32%	48%	36%	20%	15%	6%	17%	86%	50%	6%	31%	6%	12%	2%	8%
Male	18%	%	45%	%	32%	%	5%	%	86%	%	9%	%	5%	%	**	%
Female	32%	%	50%	%	11%	%	7%	%	86%	%	4%	%	7%	%	4%	%
Students with IEPS	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%
Economically Disadvantaged	20%	%	44%	%	24%	%	12%	%	72%	%	12%	%	12%	%	4%	%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

This report card has been designed to comply with requirements associated with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1111(h). Contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-535-1507 for additional information.

Student Population	GRADE 5 — READING								GRADE 5 — MATH							
	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %		Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State
All Students	12%	23%	46%	41%	24%	17%	18%	19%	28%	38%	31%	31%	39%	19%	1%	12%
Male	10%	%	48%	%	26%	%	17%	%	33%	%	33%	%	33%	%	**	%
Female	16%	%	44%	%	20%	%	20%	%	20%	%	28%	%	48%	%	4%	%
Students with IEPS	8%	%	42%	%	**	%	50%	%	17%	%	50%	%	33%	%	**	%
Economically Disadvantaged	8%	%	41%	%	26%	%	26%	%	18%	%	28%	%	51%	%	3%	%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

Student Population	GRADE 8 — READING								GRADE 8 — MATH							
	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %		Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State
All Students	36%	33%	33%	31%	25%	16%	5%	20%	44%	36%	29%	27%	15%	18%	13%	19%
Male	22%	%	30%	%	37%	%	11%	%	26%	%	41%	%	19%	%	15%	%
Female	50%	%	36%	%	14%	%	**	%	61%	%	18%	%	11%	%	11%	%
Students with IEPS	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%
Economically Disadvantaged	28%	%	41%	%	24%	%	7%	%	41%	%	28%	%	21%	%	10%	%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

Student Population	GRADE 11 — READING								GRADE 11 — MATH							
	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %		Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State	Dist	State
All Students	46%	34%	31%	31%	12%	13%	12%	22%	13%	26%	27%	25%	25%	19%	35%	30%
Male	40%	%	33%	%	13%	%	13%	%	17%	%	23%	%	20%	%	40%	%
Female	55%	%	27%	%	9%	%	9%	%	9%	%	32%	%	32%	%	27%	%
Students with IEPS	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%	**	%
Economically Disadvantaged	33%	%	50%	%	11%	%	6%	%	6%	%	17%	%	39%	%	39%	%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

This report card has been designed to comply with requirements associated with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1111(h). Contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-535-1507 for additional information.

As a parent of a student in the Ferndale Area School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. No Child Left Behind federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers.

- Whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any instructional aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplementary instructional material, used in the instructional program shall be available for inspection by the parents or students, in accordance with Board policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments. Parents and students (age 18 and over) have a right to access information about the curriculum, including expected student learning outcomes, instructional materials and assessment techniques.

If you would like to receive additional information about any teachers or paraprofessional aides who work with your child, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-535-1507.

No student shall be required, without written parental consent for students under eighteen (18) years of age or written consent of emancipated students or those over eighteen (18) years, to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of student or parents.
- Mental and psychological problems of the student or family.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
- Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

However, such survey, analysis or evaluation may be conducted on a voluntary basis, provided that the student and parent have been notified of their right to inspect all related materials and to opt the student out of participation.

Parents have the right to inspect the material and opt out the student from participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students.

Each year, more than 800,000 school-age children in the United States experience homelessness. The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 includes a provision to make sure that homelessness does not cause these children to be left behind in school. Homeless children should have access to the education and other services that they need to meet the same challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held. The Ferndale Area School District is required to provide activities for, and services to, homeless children, including preschool-age homeless children and youths, enabling them to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school or preschool programs. The law states that, pending resolution of a dispute about school placement, a school district must immediately enroll a homeless student in the student's school of origin or other school selected on the basis of the child's best interest and provide a written explanation of the rights of appeal to the parent or guardian of the student.

In compliance with local, state, and federal laws, to protect students, staff, and others from the safety hazards of tobacco, the Board prohibits possession or use of tobacco in any form by students, staff or others (community):

1. in buildings owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
2. on property owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
3. on buses, vans or other vehicles owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
4. at any school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events (day or night);
5. when a student represents the school (i.e. work study program, seminars, school visits, field trips, or any similar event).

Policies are available for review at the Superintendent's Office located at 100 Dartmouth Avenue, the Elementary School Office located at 100 Dartmouth Avenue, and the High School Office at 600 Harlan Avenue, or on the Ferndale Area School District website at: <http://www.fasdk12.org>

The Ferndale Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Ferndale Area School District employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities, should contact John Kowal, Business Manager, Administrative Office, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905, telephone: (814) 535-1507.

MORNING DELAYS, SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, AND EARLY DISMISSALS

The Ferndale Area School District will announce any changes in the schedule on the following stations:

WNTJ (850 AM)	WNTW (990 AM)	WRKW (92.1 FM)	WYOT (99.1 FM)
WFGI (95.5 FM)	WKYE (96.5 FM)	WCCL (101.7 FM)	
WJAC CH. 6	WWCP CH. 8	WTAJ CH. 10	

We will notify the stations as early as possible when a change in the schedule is necessary. Be sure to note the length of the delay.

STEPS

Solution to Eliminate Problem Situations

- Contact the appropriate staff member - teacher, coach, bus driver, etc.
- Contact the principal
- Contact the appropriate central administrator
- Contact the Board

YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

We would like to know what you think about Ferndale Area School District. Please jot down your thoughts and return to our Administrative Office.

What are we doing that we should continue doing?

What are we doing that we should stop doing?

What aren't we doing that we should start doing?

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Ferndale Area Administrative Office
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

TEAMS Summer Program

During the summer vacation, five **middle/high school teachers** attended the **TEAMS (Teaming Educators for Applied Math and Science learning)** program at **St. Francis University**. This is Ferndale Area's second year of participation.

Ron Wilson, Amanda Williamson, Lesley Miller, Kim Reighard, and Amy Kopriva are working together with Dr. Rose Clark, Matt Harbart, and Kristy Woefel in presenting science concepts across the curriculum. This year, the team focused on developing a **seventh grade forensic science unit** as well as illustrating the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body.

Among the planned activities for the seventh grade are identifying blood types and creating charts that depict the average number of drug and alcohol references in the media. The eighth grade will complete another stream survey.



In addition to the planned activities, the middle school received \$11,000 through the TEAMS Grant to fully supply the science lab. All of the faculty members are looking forward to a successful year!

Children's Health Insurance Program

CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program, is a statewide program that provides quality health insurance to children of working parents who otherwise could not afford it. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has partnered with PA Insurance Department to engage in an effort to make parents aware of this program and its benefits.

All students were given information at the beginning of the school year which details program benefits and how to apply for coverage.

To get health insurance for your children call 1-800-986-KIDS, or visit www.state.pa.us Keyword: CHIP. All calls and inquiries are confidential.



Concerts of Care

Our first in a series of concerts designed to raise funds for communities in need was held in the Junior/Senior High School Auditorium on October 22. Two local bands, **TREE** (an Irish folk group, complete with hard and soft shoe highland dancing) and **Frankie & the Nomads** (a classic rock and rhythm & blues group), donated their time in the name of Katrina/Rita relief.



Ferndale Area Elementary PTO held a bake sale, and an afghan and several gift baskets were auctioned. Admission to the concert was a non-perishable food item. Members of the **Brownstown, Dale, Ferndale, Lorain, and Middle Taylor Fire Departments** were out in force, helping with food collection and parking. Ten boxes of food will be heading south from Ferndale Area School District.



With each concert, Ferndale Area School District will partner with an aid agency. Our first partner, the **American Red Cross**, received **\$356** in fund raising proceeds. Thanks to all who attended, contributed, and made the night possible. Stay tuned for information on upcoming events!

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.

We're on the web!
<http://www.fasdk12.org>

Ferndale Area School District Establishes Endowment Fund

As schools across the nation face growing fiscal restraints while struggling to maintain excellence in their curricular and co-curricular activities, more and more area schools have established endowment funds to benefit programs and services.

Ferndale Area School District is the most recent school district to establish an endowment fund with The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

One of Ferndale Area's greatest strengths is its pride and commitment. It's exciting to provide our community with a way to leave a little honey in the hive. Gifts that are designated will not only benefit our students today, but will “stick” around for years in the future!

A gift to support the new Ferndale Area School District Endowment Fund may be made at any time and in any amount. It also is possible to make gifts over a period of years or to establish special named “sub-funds” under the endowment fund in honor or memory of loved ones.

Tax deductible gifts to the new Ferndale Area School District Endowment Fund may be sent to The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, 116 Market Street, Suite 4, Johnstown, PA 15901.

Other ways to make gifts include MasterCard and Visa, appreciated stock, real estate and insurance policies. Information about convenient ways to make gifts is available by calling **The Community Foundation at 814-536-7741** or by emailing the Foundation at cfalleghenies@atlanticbb.net

Now, proud Yellow Jackets alumni, students, parents, and friends can help Ferndale Area “sweeten the pot”, providing additional resources for students and teachers. Named gift opportunities will be available, and donors may choose to support academics, athletics, cultural activities, scholarships or other special programs.

Spread the buzz!

Ferndale Area Administrative Office
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

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