

NOVEMBER 2011

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Dressed as superheroes, the water polo team competes for spirit points during the judging of floats at the annual Homecoming parade.



Cumru students get into the groove during Red Ribbon Week on October 24-28. All K-4 school counselors led students in spirited activities and lessons inspired by the theme, "A Drug Free Life ROCKS!"



Hand-made pinwheels, created by art students, surround the high school flagpole earlier this fall. As part of a nationwide Pinwheels for Peace project, the pinwheels symbolically send messages of peace through the wind.

IN THE NEWS

LAST CALL FOR IMMUNIZATION FORMS

Parents: If you received a second notice OR if you have not yet returned the Immunization Form that you received from the Health Department at the end of last school year, please do so **this month**.

As required by law, Pennsylvania students must have certain immunizations in order to continue attending school. The penalty will take effect in May 2012. The immunization form requires a signature from your child's doctor confirming that the vaccinations have been administered. If you need a new form, please have your child visit the school nurse.

BOOKMARK THESE PAGES!

Our district website contains many pages dedicated to easy-to-view and/or downloadable flyers for programs relevant to all students. Bookmark these pages and check them regularly for updates!

- [Brecknock Flyers](#)
- [Cumru Flyers](#)
- [Mifflin Park Flyers](#)
- [GMIS Flyers](#)
- [Middle School Flyers](#)
- [High School Flyers](#)

HIGH SCHOOL INTRODUCES PEER TUTORING PROGRAM

Response to Instruction and Intervention Coordinator, Ms. Angela Dennis, has created a peer tutoring initiative at the high school. Piloted last year, the program allows students to tutor their peers in the subjects of mathematics, science, social studies and English during homeroom and study hall periods. The tutoring takes place in the Learning Resource Center, a designated tutoring space established in the school by Ms. Dennis.

Interested students attended a training session with Ms. Dennis in September. Tutors must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and have no unexcused absences or disciplinary actions throughout the school year. To date, the program has 15 peer tutors, and 50 students who have requested tutorial assistance.

In the RTII framework, peer tutoring is categorized as a Tier 2 intervention. It is above and beyond the instruction that students receive in the classroom. Peer tutoring is an intervention available to any student who seeks it out, and it can be very beneficial to both the tutees as well as the tutors. In some cases, students who are tutors also receive tutoring in other subject areas.



During Fire Prevention Week in October, local fire fighters visited Brecknock, Cumru and Mifflin Park elementary students to discuss the importance of fire prevention and demonstrate the equipment used by the fire units.



Tickets for the high school fall play, *Dracula*, are on sale now! Discounted admission is available on advance purchase tickets only. [Click here for details!](#)



Brecknock students simulate the process of generating electricity during a presentation on energy awareness given by the National Energy Foundation in October.

Dennis commented, "It has been very rewarding to me, personally, to see the relationships that have formed and to see these students volunteer their time from their already busy schedule to help their peers. The sense of partnership and the spirit of a community working together are evident in the Learning Resource Center."

FIFTH GRADERS INSPIRE AUTHOR-ILLUSTRATOR

On October 20, fifth graders in Ms. Donna Strobel's reading classes met with children's author-illustrator, Judy Link Cuddehe, to discuss storyline, design and writing ideas for Cuddehe's latest book. For several weeks prior to the author visit, Ms. Strobel augmented the reading curriculum with Cuddehe's four published books and guided the students in participating in a pre-publication focus group for Cuddehe's fifth book, "The Wondrous Autobiography of Leaf, Erik's Son," which is planned for release in January 2012.

This marked the first time that Cuddehe used a focus group of students to assist in editing and critiquing a book. "The students' insights in design, storyline and writing mechanics were truly astounding, especially considering that the book had been proofed by a number of others in the editing process," said Cuddehe. She added that the students' suggestions were of such high quality that she incorporated the majority of them. "It is a rare gift to get feedback from the target audience. The students' recommendations concerned more than simple proofreading; they addressed overall book design, storyline alternatives, individual illustrations and the mechanics of text layout."

She added, "The students' feedback helped me tighten up the narrative and improve the illustrations. I even eliminated a character after listening to the students' interpretations. Leaf's story is, without a doubt, more compelling, better in every way, as a direct result of the students' efforts."

BRECKNOCK STUDENTS 'THINK ENERGY'

As the school district continues to focus on sustainability in our facilities and operations, we also encourage our students to take part in the effort. A recent presentation to third graders by the National Energy Foundation highlighted the issue of energy use and the importance of conserving resources.

During the "Think Energy" presentation, sponsored by PP&L Public Utilities, Brecknock students learned about conductivity, renewable and non-renewable resources and energy conservation. To reinforce the concepts, students formed a chain of hands to create a human circuit. They were excited to learn that they could power a ball of light through the touch of their fingertips! Using small props and sound effects, students also simulated the process of transferring minerals to electrical energy to understand the many steps involved in generating power.

The students impressed the NEF speakers by offering many ideas for how to reduce energy use at home and at school - by turning off lights, computers and equipment, running water sparingly and recycling. The students learned why it benefits the whole community to use energy efficiently and pledged to share the information with friends and family.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIVES BACK

On Friday, October 7, over 600 middle school students and 60 staff members partnered with local agencies to provide 3 hours of efficient service. The biannual Giving Back Day event allows students to visit over 25 sites in the district and perform community service work including mulching, window-washing, baking, weeding, teaching, collecting litter and more. Said organizer, Maria Rapchinski, "It was an amazing accomplishment, and the feedback has been quite positive."

In a letter to the school, Rachel Baur, Environmental Education Specialist Supervisor at Nolde Forest, lauded Mifflin students for helping mulch and prepare four sites for a low ropes course, restring and clear a maze area, dig out clogged storm drains and clear weeds around the park office. "PA State Parks depend on stewards of the environment like you and the Mifflin students. Thank you for being such good neighbors," she wrote.

HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!



Middle school students help wash windows at a local church, one of the many sites where students provided community service work on Giving Back Day.



As part of a special focus on diversity, Mifflin Park students in Mrs. Bolles class learned about the festival of Diwali and practiced some of the customs of the Indian culture.



On Immigration Day presenters, such as Mr. Salvador Sepulveda, speak to eighth grade English classes about their experience as U.S. immigrants. During their social studies classes, students continued the discussion by watching a film about Ellis Island, sharing ethnic foods and participating in an Immigration trivia game.

Pick up your copy of the 2011 *Archive* from the high school athletics office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on school days. If you did not order a book, extra copies are available for purchase for \$60.

MALES NEEDED IN NURSING FIELD

Ms. Lori Beard, a member of the nursing faculty at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, visited ninth grade Consumer Education classes in October to talk about careers in the health sciences field. Beard listed a number of high school subjects, such as science and foreign languages, that best prepare students for the medical field. She stated that learning how to study and take notes is key to being a successful health sciences student.

When asked about which branch of medicine is in high-demand, Beard noted that geriatric nursing is currently the fastest-growing specialty. She also emphasized that nursing is not just for females. While only 10-20% of today's nurses are male, nursing is no longer assumed to be a woman's job. Beard said many men gravitate toward positions as flight nurses or ER nurses.

"We need young people to come and take our place," said Beard about the predominately baby boomer-populated profession. She added, "There's a huge place for men in nursing."

MBA WINS IN HOOPS GAME

The Mifflin Basketball Association sincerely thanks all those who attended and supported the Harlem Wizards benefit game on October 22. The event was a huge success, raising over \$5,000 for the MBA!

GM Varsity boys basketball head coach, Mr. Tim Yanuskiewicz, was delighted with the success of the event, which was the first joint fundraising effort for the youth and junior/senior high basketball programs. He said, "The best part was looking around the gym during the game, seeing entire families sharing smiles and laughs -- all related to the game I love, basketball."

Yanuskiewicz thanked the many volunteers and businesses within the community who donated money and raffle prizes for the event: John's 625 Automotive Service, La Cantina, Land Displays, GM Athletic Department, and the title sponsor, **Kenhorst Dairy Queen**. Without Mr. Chaudhry's, support and generous contributions, this event would not have been possible.

ACCOLADES, ANYONE?

Share your congratulatory news on the Mifflin Congratulates webpage! Submissions are being accepted for news related to school events and programs. [Read more...](#)

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

DISTRICT REACTS TO UNEXPECTED UTILITY COSTS

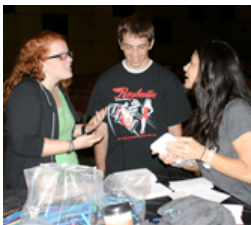
At a property meeting on October 10, school board members learned of implications of a recent decision by UGI that will force Governor Mifflin to spend approximately \$25,000 more on heating bills this year. Under pressure from a consumer advocates demanding low natural gas rates for residential customers, UGI has opted to increase its ATC temperature settings for schools that utilize a interruptible rate and can switch from natural gas to fuel oil. The result is that schools would have to burn seven times more fuel oil than in the past, at twice the cost per BTU of natural gas.

The change will become effective this school year, after most districts had completed their budgets for the year.

Because the district has the capability of burning fuel oil with a 10,000-gallon tank, Governor Mifflin is hoping to limit its additional cost in 2011-2012 to \$18,000 based on the 30-year average. This estimate is subject to change depending on weather patterns this winter.

GM PREPARES FOR COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Last year, Pennsylvania joined a national movement to unify achievement



After an SGA-sponsored assembly based on the book, *Every Monday Matters*, high school students share their excitement about community service and the importance of doing simple things that make powerful, positive changes in the world.



A member of the JH cross country team presents middle school principal, Mr. Kevin Hohl, with an honorary trophy to acknowledge the team's success during the 2011 season. [Click here for more cross country highlights...](#)



During the regional leadership workshop held at the high school in October, members of the Future Business Leaders of America participate in an intense, team-building workout led by trainer and entrepreneur, Mr. Chris Kaag. Help support the FBLA by [downloading the FBLA Sweet Street Desserts fundraiser order form.](#)

standards by adopting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). At the October curriculum committee meeting, Mrs. Kristine Rosenberger, director of curriculum and instruction, explained the goals of the CCSS and described how the new standards will inform the way curriculum is delivered in various subject areas. [Read more...](#)

CALL FOR CORPORATE SPONSORS

Market Street Sports Group is currently soliciting proposals for naming rights to various venues within the Governor Mifflin campus. [Click here to view a list of sponsorship inventory items.](#) Please contact Market Street Sports Group at 717-509-2803 for more information on how your business can become a corporate sponsor of our school.

NEW COMMUNITY WEIGHT ROOM PROCEDURE

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, staff, students and GM residents will be required to purchase a punch card in order to use the GM Community Weight Room. This fully-equipped training facility is located in the high school near the auxiliary gymnasium. Punch cards fees are as follows:

- Community members - **\$20/card** - GOOD FOR 10 VISITS
- GMSD students staff - **\$10/card** - GOOD FOR 10 VISITS

UPCOMING EVENTS

STRIKE UP THE BANDS - 11/5

Governor Mifflin's 33rd annual Cavalcade of Bands event will be held on November 5 at 6 p.m. in the GM Stadium. The public is welcome to attend! [Read more...](#)

AGE GROUP AQUATICS REGISTRATION - NOW ONLINE

Children interested in participating in age group swimming and diving teams may register ONLINE until November 25. [Read more...](#)

GM AREA CITIZENS ACADEMY BEGINS 11/9

This 4-week course, aimed at helping community members learn about the organization and operation of our local government, will take place on Wednesday evenings through December 7. [Read more...](#)

FBLA SWEET STREET DESSERTS FUNDRAISER - 11/12

Members of the Future Business Leaders of America will host a Sweet Street Desserts truckload sale from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. in the parking lot of Dairy Queen in Kenhorst. Pre-orders can be submitted to jleibowi@gmsd.k12.pa.us by **November 3.** [Read more...](#)

GMMA CITRUS SALE - ORDER BY 11/13!

Support ALL students in Governor Mifflin's K-12 music program with your purchase of holiday navel oranges, grapefruits and tangelos! [Read more & place your order!](#)

BRIAN ESLICK HYPNOSIS SHOW - 11/15

All GM families are invited for a night of unique entertainment taking place on November 15 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. All proceeds benefit the Class of 2012. [Read more...](#)

BRECKNOCK BOOK FAIR - 11/18 & 11/19

Make holiday shopping a breeze by visiting the Brecknock Book Fair at Barnes & Noble! Use the following voucher number for purchases made on the book



Over 10 marching bands from across the region will perform at this year's Strike Up the Bands competition on Saturday, November 5.

fair dates to help support the Brecknock library. [Read more...](#)

'DRACULA' ON STAGE AT GMHS - 11/18, 11/19, 11/20

Governor Mifflin High School proudly presents Steven Dietz's *Dracula*, based on the classic horror novel by Bram Stoker. **This show is recommended for ages 13 and older.** Tickets on sale now! [Click here to download an order form.](#)

GM PARENT & ALUMNI SWIM MEET - 11/26

GM swimmers are invited to participate in an Alumni Meet on Saturday, November 26 at 6 p.m. in the GMIS Natatorium. Warm-ups begin at 5:30 p.m. [Read more...](#)

ALUMNI

CLASS OF 1992: Our 20th year class reunion will take place on **Saturday, July 28, 2012** from 7-10 p.m. at Captain's Cove, 2619 Hill Road in Reading. More details to follow.

Is your class planning a reunion? The Office of Public Information is happy to publicize your event on our website and in future newsletters. Please contact 610-775-1312 with your event details.

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