

LEWISBURG ELEMENTARY



PSA NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PSA Families,

It seems impossible, but the close of the school year is right around the corner and with that comes the end of my two-year term as the Lewisburg Elementary PSA president. It's been my pleasure to serve in this capacity and get to know many of you so well.

As we look ahead toward the next school year, we are hearing reports of school district budget concerns from around the state. Unfortunately, in Lewisburg, we are not sheltered from those concerns. Dr. DiRocco and Board President Kathy Swope recently reported at a PSA meeting on the budget shortfalls for the upcoming school years. As a PSA, we find ourselves in the fortunate position of having had three very successful fundraising years. In past years, we have selected non-budgeted items to purchase for the schools (a sign at Kelly, Flip video cameras at Linntown, etc.). These items have usually been "wishes" for our schools rather than "needs."

Under ideal circumstances, it is a goal of the PSA to try to spend as much of the fund-raised money during the school year in which it was raised. However, looking ahead to the upcoming shortfalls and at the suggestion of the building principals, it was decided at the last PSA meeting that rather than spending the money on wish-list items this year, we will keep money in the PSA account to be used next year for items/activities that will be eliminated from the district budget.

Some of the suggested areas are additional grants to classroom teachers to make up for cuts in what the district will be able to provide them with and providing supplements toward field trips. However, the final decisions on these items will be made in the fall. Despite having a sizable balance in the PSA account, our fundraising efforts next year will be just as vital as they have been in past years. We are making the decision to keep a balance this year because we predict that the "needs" of the next school year will be much greater than the "wants" of today and we want to find ourselves in a position to help out with those "needs."

Your input in these decisions is always encouraged and you are welcome to attend any of the PSA meetings when these items are discussed. The first meeting for the 2011-2012 school year will be held 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15 at the Kelly Elementary library.

Have a wonderful summer vacation

Tara Humphrey

LASD Budget Update

The Lewisburg Area School District is currently facing a \$930,000 budget deficit due to significant reductions in state funding from the previous year. Although, we were expecting a decrease in basic subsidy funding as a result of the state budget deficit, we were not expecting cuts to Pre-Kindergarten Programming, Full-Day Kindergarten Programming, Reimbursement for Cyber Charter School Expenditures and Social Security Reimbursement. In addition to this somber news, we have been told not to expect much in the way of increases from the state over the next few years. It may take up to four years to return to the level of state funding that we received during the current year. These proposed revenue reductions in combination with expected increases in \$1 million for the next three to four years unless we make significant cuts or reductions to our operation.

Consequently, we are currently undergoing a strategic review of our budget development process in an effort to reduce costs and balance our budget without negatively impacting student achievement. We are carefully evaluating all positions that will be open at the end of the year as a result of retirements and resignations.

Several of these positions may not be replaced. We are also making other changes to our non-personnel school operations including a change to two-tier busing that will save approximately \$120,000 in transportation expenses by taking several buses off the road. You can review all the potential cost-saving reductions that are being discussed on the home page of our website at www.lasd.us. There is both a PDF file to view and an audio file to listen to the presentation that goes with the file. You are encouraged to review this information to become more aware of the crisis that is unfolding in our school district and across the Commonwealth. There are also other documents posted for your reference that will give you a much better understanding of public school funding and the significance of the proposed cuts.

Contact Your Legislators Now!

Our school district is ranked 17th in the state out of 500 school districts, based on student achievement by the *Pittsburgh Business Times*. We have received numerous recognitions at many levels by well-respected organizations. Our outstanding schools will not be in a position to provide the quality education our children deserve if the proposed state budget cuts to education are implemented.

We realize it is necessary for everyone to tighten their belt during these difficult economic times, but the elimination of essential state funding for important programs in addition to the significant reduction in basic education subsidy, while funding for prisons has increased, is not equitable. Please contact our representatives and share your thoughts on the budget cuts to education, whatever your position.

House of Representatives for the 85th District Fred Keller: fkeller@ppahousegop.com Phone: 570-966-0052

State Sen. Gene Yaw of the 23rd District: gyaw@pasen.gov Phone: 570-322-6457

Gov. Tom Corbett: governor@state.pa.us Phone: 717-787-2500, Fax: 717-772-8284

Kathy Swope, Board President

For the Rest of This Article Please See Budget Page 4

PRINCIPALS' MESSAGES

KELLY

Dear Parents and PSA Members,

It saddens me to say that this is the last newsletter for the 2010-2011 school year. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with your children this year and I want to start by saying "thank you" for this opportunity. As a staff, we would also like to say "thank you" to the PSA and all who participated in Staff Appreciation Week. That is always one of the best weeks of the year and we are honored to have such a wonderful parent base here in Lewisburg.

I am sure you have many questions about the state budget crisis. I want to direct you to the district website at www.lasd.us to view the latest information on state funding and our district budget for the coming year. You will find quite a bit of information there. One of the cost-saving measures the district is implementing for next year is two-tier busing. Information on the new start and ending times for school next year will be posted on the district website as soon as it becomes available.

The month of May brings with it a hectic schedule. As one will see below in the dates to remember, there are countless events still to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to our annual field day on May 27 (rain date is May 31). Please remember that this is a day of fun for our Kelly students and their parents. If your child has younger siblings at home, we ask that you make other arrangements for the day and do not bring them with you. I apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause, but we feel this will provide for a safer environment for our participants.

Dates to Remember:

May:

- 16-20: DIBELS benchmark reading screening
- 17-20: RB Winter Field Trips, second-grade classes
- 19: Third-grade visit to Linntown
- 20: Lake Tobias first-grade trip
- 24: Olweus Anti-Bullying Assemblies
- 25: Book picnics for first-graders (also June 3)
- 26: Harrisburg field trip for third-graders
- 27: Field Day (May 31 rain date)
- 30: No School

June:

- 6: 11:30 a.m. dismissal (unless there is a snow day!)

As always, thank you for all you do for us here at Kelly Elementary and for giving us the opportunity to educate your child.

Sincerely,

Dustin Dalton

LOST & FOUND

Kelly's LOST and FOUND tables are growing. Parents can check the tables any time they visit. We have LOTS of hoodies, sweat-shirts, hats and gloves.

LINNTOWN

Dear Linntown Families,

The end of the school year is just around the corner! These last few weeks go by so quickly! Field trips, classroom projects and special Linntown events will make the remainder of the year go by incredibly fast. We hope you were able to take time to visit the District Art Show. This event is very special, as it is the only school event where the works of art from students at four buildings are represented. The students always enjoy this opportunity to see their artwork on display. A special thanks to Mrs. Wagner and all the district's art teachers who work so hard to make this annual event happen.

Join us on May 23 for the Linntown band and strings concert at 7:30 pm at the Middle School. The students have worked incredibly hard this year and we hope you are able to attend the concert. And, congratulations to the LASD music staff for being recognized as of the 2011 Best Community for Music Education in the U.S.!

We have several other end-of-year events on the horizon. In an earlier newsletter, I made you aware of some transition activities that we will be holding to help students become acclimated for the 2011-2012 school year. In addition to the May 19 third-grade trip to Linntown and the previously mentioned visit to the Middle School for fifth graders on May 25, we also have some other scheduled events. On June 2, fifth graders will be spending the majority of their day at the Middle School. They will get the opportunity to spend time in each of the sixth grade teachers and eat lunch in the cafeteria. During the afternoon of the 2, Linntown fourth graders will have the opportunity to participate in some activities with the fifth-grade teams. We are hoping that this will help the students feel more comfortable going to fifth grade next year. Placement letters will be mailed home in late July or early August.

I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to say "thank you" to those who helped make this such a wonderful year at Linntown. It seems I am never able to adequately express just what a special building we have, the dedication of all our staff, the support of our PSA and parents, and the amazing students who come to us each day. It has truly been a pleasure being a part of your children's lives and education.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing summer vacation!

Paula J. Reber

Our Community

Free Family Fun

Books N Fun

Barnes & Noble Bookstore

American Girl Book Club

This will be the last club meeting for the Spring. Please read "Julie Tells Her Story" book two in the 'Julie' series. There will be a discussion and activities about the book., from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15, Third Floor Community Room, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Market Street, Lewisburg. This club is for ages 7 to 12 and meets monthly on the third floor of the bookstore.

Special Playdate

Join the fun for a special playdate with a "The Wild Thing" character from the book, "Where the Wild Things Are." There will be a reading, crafts and dancing for the children to enjoy from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 21 Third Floor Community Room, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Market Street, Lewisburg. This event is open to preschool and elementary age children.

Little Bookworms Storytime

A weekly preschool storytime is a good way to help your child discover a love of books at an early age! Readings and activities take place from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Third Floor Community Room, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Market Street, Lewisburg.

If you are aware of any upcoming events that are free and family-friendly, please e-mail the details to lburgpsanewsletter@gmail.com. Your listing will be included in an upcoming edition of the LASD Elementary PSA Newsletter. We look forward to your submissions.

The SPOTLIGHT

Pre-K Programs

Registration is Now open for Pre-K Programs through out Lewisburg.

Kids of the Kingdom

2349 Old Turnpike Road

Phone: (570) 523-0907

Classes:

- Three-year-olds: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 to 11:30 a.m. or Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:15 to 2:45 p.m.
- Four-year-olds: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. optional Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:15 to 2:45 p.m.

Kinderfolk Preschool

42 South 3rd St.

Phone: (570) 523-6147

Email: kinderfolkpreschool@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.kinderfolkpreschool.com>

School Year: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Classes

- Monday through Friday, 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. This class is for children ages 4 and 5 who will be attending Kindergarten the following year. In this class we build on the academic and social skills already learned to prepare our young learners for Kindergarten.
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. for children ages 3 and 4.

Lewisburg Cooperative Preschool

100 South 3rd St.

Phone: (570) 524-0920 x303

Website: <http://lewisburgcooperativepreschool.weebly.com/>

School Year: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Classes

- Tuesday/Thursday 9 to 11:30 a.m. for 2 to 3-year-olds
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. for 3 to 4-year-olds
- Monday through Friday, 12:15 to 2:45 p.m. for 4 to 5-year-olds, Pre-K children are at least 4 years old by Sept. 1 and are eligible for Kindergarten the next year.

Sunflower Childcare

352 Smoketown Road

Phone: (570) 577-2181

Email: areitenb@bucknell.edu

Website: <http://www.orgs.bucknell.edu/sunflower/index.html>

School Year: Open Year-Round

Classes: Children 5 years to 6 months, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. which are developmentally appropriate, individualized care for children in a loving, guiding environment in accordance with parents' wishes. Lessons/activities are designed to encourage children to develop their individual strengths in the following areas: awareness/judgment, communication/cognition, physical/social skills. These skills are cultivated by means of a variety of individual and group activities.

Big Thanks

I just want to thank those who made Staff Appreciation Week possible. I want to first say "thank you" to the PSA and all of the officers who helped. The grade coordinators and room parents really are the ones who made this all possible. I, of course, need to mention all the businesses that made such generous donations to make the week special for our staff. Country Cupboard, Dunkin Donuts, Weis Markets, The Eye Center of Central PA, McDonald's, Pronto, Vic's Pub, Sheetz, KFC TacoBell, The Purple Cow, Burger King, On Fire Promotions, Creative Plantscapes, The Mercantile, Cole's Hardware, Rejuvenations (Carole Kling), La Primavera, Peking Gardens, Bull Run Inn, Natural Food & Garden Store, Cherry Alley Cafe, Mimi's Botique and Thirty One Consultant- Jillian Schooley.

Last, but not least, thank you to the parents for all the "stuff" you donated as well as your time. I can tell you that we have already received numerous "thank yous" from the staff.

I hope I did not forget anyone and thanks so much for a great week!!!

Tera Fassero

Save The Date

All Alumni are invited to attend and participate in the Lewisburg Area High School ALUMNI WEEK-END, Friday, Sept. 30 – Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011.

If your class is planning a reunion, you are encouraged to consider holding it in conjunction with the Alumni Weekend and participate in the weekend's activities. To those classes having a reunion at another time this year, consider contacting your classmates and coming back to join us for this Fall get-together. For those not having a reunion, this is a great opportunity to participate in various events and interact with other alumni. We have not scheduled any activities for Saturday evening so that individual classes, interest groups and friends can gather to meet as they wish.

ALUMNI WEEKEND also has a group page on Facebook. Go to "Lewisburg High School Alumni Weekend" and click on "Like" to receive the most up-to-date information available.

Meeting Dates

Aug. 15 @ Kelly 7 p.m.
All meetings held in the respective school's library

Newsletter Material Deadlines

| Month | Deadline |
|-----------------|----------|
| September | Sept. 12 |



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A huge "thank you" for making this program a huge success, this year, we submitted over 7,500 points, that's a lot of labels!

With so many points, we have ordered new colored chalkboard chalk, sidewalk chalk fun boxes, mini playground balls, foam bowling sets, lemon twist ball hops and several more items for all the kids to enjoy!

Please remember to keep clipping over summer vacation! .

Teri and Katie



Cafeteria Help Needed

Help is needed in the cafeteria to assist students with their lunches each day throughout the school year. Lunch runs from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. If you would like to help, please sign up on the calendar located at the school office or e-mail Maureen Starmack at tmstarmack@dejazzd.com. You may stay the entire time or as long as you desire. We are now recycling milk cartons during lunch at Kelly. This recycling program has helped cut Kelly's trash by more than half! Parents are needed during lunch to help empty milk cartons and keep them separated for recycling. If you would like to help, please e-mail Lisa Perrone at lperrone@bucknell.edu.

Budget From Page 1

The long-term effect of the proposed changes in state funding and how districts can collect revenue will significantly impact our ability to offer the same level of programming that we enjoy today in the future. Class sizes may become larger, and fewer specialists may be available for remedial reading and math instruction. Positions in the arts may begin to disappear, especially at the elementary level where elementary teachers can provide art, music and physical education instruction in their classrooms. Electives and AP courses may be trimmed from high school curriculum offerings as the staff becomes smaller. Field trips and academic competitions will be limited or eliminated, and extracurricular activities may begin to be reduced. Parent and booster groups may be called upon to fund athletic and music activities, creating more of a financial strain on parents and the community. A more extensive list of possible personnel and program cuts are listed in the presentation mentioned above on our website.

Make no mistake that the proposals in Harrisburg will ultimately affect every child in the Lewisburg Area School District in one form or another. If you are concerned about the future of our school district regarding this financial crisis, you are encouraged to contact our State House Rep. Fred Keller, State Sen. Gene Yaw and Gov. Tom Corbett. You are also encouraged to attend our school board meetings on May 12, 26, June 9 and 23 as we continue to work to develop a budget that will serve the needs of our children.

Mark DiRocco, Superintendent
Kathy Swope, Board President