



**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**KEVIN J. McHUGH, Ed.D.**

# This Month in **PENNSBURY**



**PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT • FALLSINGTON, PA • SEPTEMBER 2011**

## ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Please join in congratulating the following two professionals on their recent appointments in Pennsbury.

### WELCOME ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DONNA M. DUNAR, Ed.D.



**DONNA M. DUNAR, Ed.D.**

The Pennsbury Board of School Directors appointed **Donna M. Dunar, Ed.D.** to become the next Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, K-12, effective August 29th, at the Board meeting held on August 25th. Dr. Dunar joins Pennsbury after serving many years

as an administrator in various capacities in the Centennial School District. Most recently, she was Director of Elementary Education for that school district, after serving four years as Principal of Alta S. Leary Elementary School in Warminster. Prior to that, she was an Assistant Principal at William Tennent High School for 14 years. Dr. Dunar, who is bilingual in English and French, began her career in education as a teacher of English and French as a second language in Ontario in 1983.

As Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Dunar reports to Superintendent **Kevin J. McHugh Ed.D.**, and serves as a member of the Superintendent's Cabinet. She

provides leadership for teaching and learning in grades K-12, which includes directing and overseeing curriculum renewal, staff development, assessments, and federal programs, among other responsibilities.

Dr. Dunar is a recognized leader who is often asked to speak on educational topics. She earned her Doctor of Education degree from Temple University. She also holds a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Temple, a Bachelor's degree in Education from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors as a double major in English and French from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Dunar lives in Bucks County with her husband, a retired K-9 police officer, and their two sons.

### MARY-MARGARET PANNICK APPOINTED SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENT

At the August 25th meeting of the School Board, **Mary-Margaret Pannick** was appointed to be Supervisor of Assessment for Pennsbury. Previously, Ms. Pannick had been serving as Coordinator of Assessment since 2003.

In her expanding role, Ms. Pannick will continue to be responsible for district-wide administration and analysis of the PSSA, WIDA, IOWA/CogAT, 4sight, and Keystone examinations, as well as management of such data systems as E-metric, PVAAS, and the AYP reporting system. Ms. Pannick also provides staff development in the use of these systems to enhance data-driven decision making in the School



**MARY-MARGARET PANNICK**



# This Month in PENNSBURY

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT • KEVIN J. McHUGH, Ed.D.

District. District-wide committee assignments include work in the areas of strategic planning, school improvement, curriculum renewal, Keystone Exams, and mathematics assessment. Since 2008, she has also served as Coordinator of the English as a Second Language program in Pennsbury. Ms. Pannick is a founding Board member of the Pennsbury Education Foundation, where she has served as Board Secretary and helped to organize major fundraising events. She regularly contributes to School Board, faculty, and PTO meetings.

Prior to her appointment as Coordinator of Assessment, Ms. Pannick served as a teacher of mathematics at the secondary level in multiple Pennsbury schools, including Charles Boehm and Pennwood middle schools and Pennsbury High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics Education from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey), and received advanced training at the Pennsylvania Governor's Institute for Data Driven Decision Making, the Standards Aligned System, and PVAAS. Ms. Pannick credits the late **Dr. Patricia Johnston** as one of the most influential people who helped shape her career at Pennsbury, in addition to retirees **Elaine Profy**, **Barbara Tantala**, and **Linda Griffiths**. Ms. Pannick resides on a farm in central New Jersey with her husband of 20 years, Frank, and their dog, Chevy.

## STUDENT ARTWORK ON DISPLAY AT WOODMERE ART MUSEUM

District Art Curriculum Coordinator **Ruth Anne Schultz** announced that works of art created by students from **Edgewood Elementary**, **Quarry Hill Elementary**, and **Pennsbury High School** are included in a special exhibit from September 11 to October 23, 2011 at the Helen Millard Children's Gallery at the Woodmere Art Museum in Philadelphia. A special reception for the artists will be held on October 2nd at 2:00 p.m. For more information about this exhibit, visit [www.woodmereartmuseum.org](http://www.woodmereartmuseum.org).

## BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR IS ANNOUNCED

Pennsbury's Director of Transportation, **Charles Williams**, announced the Bus Driver of the Year for 2010-2011 at the annual kick-off meeting held for all 135 of Pennsbury's bus drivers in late August. **Chuck Paul**, a Pennsbury bus driver for the past nine years, was selected for this honor. Prior to driving buses for the School District, Mr. Paul had a distinguished 35-year career dedicated to the betterment of children. He worked with troubled teens as Director of Group Homes for St. Gabriel's System in Philadelphia and prior to that, served as Chief Childcare Worker at St. Gabriel's Hall. Mr. Paul has been a Pennsbury resident since 1983. Congratulations!

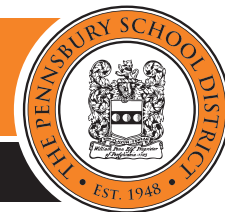


*Chuck Paul was named Bus Driver of the Year for 2010-2011. Prior to joining Pennsbury's Transportation Department, he worked with children at risk in Philadelphia for 35 years.*

## IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE FROM PENNDOT

Once again, it's that time of year when school buses are everywhere. If a school bus has its lights flashing and stop arm extended, you must stop. The only exception is if you are on the other side of





a highway divided by a concrete barrier or grassy median. If you are following or traveling alongside a school bus, the law also requires you to stop at least 10 feet away. Learn more about the school bus stopping law and penalties for violations at [www.DriveSafePA.org](http://www.DriveSafePA.org).

## IN THE SCHOOLS

### MAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal **Donna McCormick-Miller** reports on a significant annual tradition at Makefield. Over the past nine years, the school community has donated \$11,000 to the Lower Makefield Garden of Reflection project as a result of the school's annual "Walk to Remember." Funds raised through this walk are also donated to the **Pennsbury Scholarship Foundation** in memory of Pennsbury graduate **Nate DeTample**. This year's event, marking the tenth anniversary, occurred on Friday, September 9th shortly after the morning announcements. The entire student body, dressed in red, white and blue, walked in unity outdoors around the school. Later, during their lunch recess, the fifth graders strolled the school grounds singing patriotic songs as their tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

### CHARLES BOEHM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal **Theresa Ricci** writes that a successful new transitional exercise was developed for incoming sixth graders at all three middle schools this year. The sessions included time for the sixth graders in the middle school buildings without any other grade levels present. Seventh and eighth graders arrived on a two-hour delayed schedule. The incoming class members arrived on the bus at the normal start time (8:10 a.m.), met with homeroom teachers, took tours of their buildings, and then moved on a rotational basis to learn how to open their lockers, obtain their gym clothes and

gym lockers, and met with language arts teachers to learn about the two-hour RELA program that is part of the middle school schedule. They also learned how to read their class schedules. These first-day programs differed slightly at each middle school as they were structured individually for each building.

According to Ms. Ricci, approximately 250 Boehm students created 700 hand-made hearts for the special community ceremony scheduled for September 11th at the Garden of Reflection in Lower Makefield Township. The effort at Boehm was led by art teacher **Michelle Beres**, who also leads the school's FAD club and field day art program. "Ms. Beres assembled students from both organizations, as well as many adults in the building, to assist" said Ms. Ricci. "Our entire office staff was involved in laminating and cutting the hearts out once they were completed."

### PENNWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal **Patricia Steckroat** also spotlights the contributions of Pennwood students for the 9/11 remembrance ceremony in Lower Makefield. The school's **National Junior Honor Society** students made over 700 hearts with the help of science teacher and NJHS advisor **Jamie Swanson**. Each heart was unique and included patriotic or caring words to the victims' families. In addition, the students included one victim's name on the back of each heart.

### WILLIAM PENN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Art teacher **Blair Greiner** shares that 500 art students at William Penn participated in the same effort by personalizing hand-decorated hearts in memory of individual victims of September 11, 2011 for the 10th anniversary ceremony observed at the Garden of Reflection. The hearts were strung together and hung with thousands of others at the Garden to be on display for a period of time this month.



# This Month in PENNSBURY

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT • KEVIN J. McHUGH, Ed.D.

## PENNSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

The high school orientation program for incoming ninth graders, which began several years ago, has been developed and expanded over time, according to Assistant Principal **Reggie Meadows**. This year's program was successfully enhanced with input from upper class students. Organizers included lead counselor **Erin Salmon** and teachers **Mary Cherepko** and **Angela Minor**. Student leaders included four seniors – **Lindsey Weaver**, **Adam Lewis**, **Eric Brennan**, and **Russell Kim** – who trained at Penn State for leading just such an orientation program, plus other volunteer upper class students. The tenth through twelfth grade students attended school from 7:20 a.m. until dismissal at 10:00 a.m., and then the ninth graders arrived at 11:10 a.m. After meeting with their homeroom teachers, they spent two hours rotating through four 30-minute sessions. One session involved a welcome presentation in the auditorium by administrators, where such things as school procedures and student conduct were addressed. Another session involved group meetings with the students' assigned school counselors. A third session allowed students to tour a series of



*Freshmen entering Pennsbury High School transitioned to their new academic surroundings with an expanded orientation program.*

exhibits for student clubs, teams, and activities and to ask questions of faculty advisors and upper class student members of each organization. Finally, the ninth graders enjoyed the student-led "Welcome to the Nest" ice-breaker activities, which also allowed time for questions and answers with the older students.



Teacher **Mary Cherepko** writes that 30 students from the **Humanity In Progress (HIP)** club created beautiful paper hearts that were laminated and sent to the Garden of Reflection anniversary committee at the end of last school year for display this month at the garden. The HIP students "were honored to help out," said Ms. Cherepko.

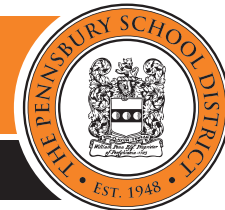
PHS Music Theory teacher **Suzanne Schmidt** served as the Assistant to the Chief Reader for the grading of the Advanced Placement Music Theory Exam in June. Her responsibilities included coordinating the grading materials for the exam as well as preparing the documentation needed for the College Board Web site and summer institutes. In July, Ms. Schmidt presented a workshop at the annual AP conference in San Francisco CA. At her session, *Retire the Staff: Transforming the Teaching of Music Theory*, Ms. Schmidt shared her innovative methods of teaching the fundamentals of music theory to high school teachers from the United States and Canada.

## COMMENDABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### PHS STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

Pennsbury High School senior **Marisa Millenson** was one of 72 top science students chosen from among 667 international applicants to spend five weeks as a participant in the Summer Science





Program, a prestigious, residential enrichment experience held each year in California and New Mexico. Marisa was one of 35 students who observed a near-earth asteroid and wrote software to calculate its orbital elements while staying on the campus of Westmont College in Santa Barbara. She and her colleagues worked closely with university professors, met with prominent guest speakers, and enjoyed behind-the-scenes tours of the Jet Propulsion Lab, Caltech, and Griffith Observatory. The Summer Science Program is a consortium effort involving Caltech, MIT, New Mexico Tech, and Westmont College.

## FALCONS MAKE TIME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Kaitlyn Battiste**, head coach for the Pennsbury High School Varsity Girls Soccer team, writes that the team traveled to the Boys & Girls Club of Trenton in late August to work with children aged 6-16 in a summer camp program. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America are focused on providing safe environments for young people to learn and grow through various experiences with peers and adults. The girls were able to share their love of soccer with the campers while learning a few dance moves



The PHS Varsity Girls Soccer team shared their love for the sport with children enrolled in a summer camp at the Boys & Girls Club of Trenton.

and other games from the young participants. "This event was just the beginning of the service that the Pennsbury Girls Soccer team members hope to contribute to the community," said Ms. Battiste. Kudos to all!

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

This month, we spotlight two Pennsbury graduates with notable achievements in film and television production.

**Gary Summers** (Class of 1973), a graduate of Bucks County Community College, has worked as a motion picture re-recording mixer for the past 30 years. His career in sound began in July 1979 when he was employed by Lucasfilm Ltd. as a sound recordist to work on *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. His abilities as a re-recording mixer were first used in 1983 on *Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi*.



GARY SUMMERS

To date, Mr. Summers has received nine Academy Award nominations for Best Achievement in Sound. He won the award in 1991 for his work on *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, in 1993 for *Jurassic Park*, in 1997 for *Titanic*, and in 1998 for *Saving Private Ryan*. Mr. Summers has also been nominated for the British Academy Award six times. He captured that award in 1991 for *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* and in 1998 for *Saving Private Ryan*. The Cinema Audio Society, the Motion Picture Sound Editors Association, and the TEC Awards have all recognized him for his work. Mr. Summers has also received two Emmy Award nominations, winning in 1992 for his work on *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* television series. Additional film credits include *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Backdraft*, *Toy Story I & II*, *Monsters Inc.*, *Jurassic Park: The Lost World*, *A Bug's Life*, and *K-19: The Widowmaker*.



# This Month in PENNSBURY

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT • KEVIN J. McHUGH, Ed.D.

Mr. Summers also works in large screen motion picture formats (IMAX, for example) with 21 credits to his name. His talents have also been used in eight theme park attractions for the Walt Disney Company, including *Star Tours*, *Honey I Shrunk the Audience*, and *Muppetvision 3D*.

In 2003, Mr. Summers formed Summers Sound Services Inc. and he has since pursued an independent mixing career, working on such films as *Finding Nemo*, *Cars*, *The Lord of the Rings: Two Towers & Return of the King*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen & Dark of the Moon*, and *Avatar*.

**Mark McCorkle** (Class of 1979) serves as an executive producer on Nickelodeon's animated series, *The Penguins of Madagascar*. Following its record-breaking debut as Nickelodeon's most-watched animated series premiere in network history with 6.4 million viewers, *The Penguins of Madagascar* earned an ANNIE award for Best Animated Television Production for Children, a Daytime Emmy award for Outstanding Special Class Animated Program, and the BAFTA award for Best International Children's Programming two years in a row.



MARK MCCORKLE

Previously, Mr. McCorkle co-created the hit animated series, Disney's *Kim Possible*. As executive producer, he shepherded the crime-fighting high school cheerleader through 82 episodes and a movie made for television. He also co-wrote the Walt Disney Studios live action feature film, *Sky High*, starring Kurt Russell and Kelly Preston, and most recently, he co-wrote the Dreamworks/Nickelodeon Movies release, *Hotel for Dogs*, starring Emma Roberts and Jake T. Austin.

Mr. McCorkle also served as a producer and executive story editor on Disney's television series, *Hercules*. Prior to that, he was a story editor on the *Aladdin* television series and a writer/story editor on Disney's first-ever video premiere, *The Return of*

*Jafar*, which stands as one of the top five best-selling direct-to-video animated films ever released. He also co-wrote the subsequent video release, *Aladdin and the King of Thieves*, which received a 1997 Annie Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Animated Home Video Production.

Mr. McCorkle graduated from Temple University in 1985. He worked at Sesame Place in Langhorne for several summers with many of his Pennsbury classmates. Mr. McCorkle has especially fond memories of being a Pennsbury Falcon. He credits much of his success to the School District's faculty. "Over the years, the outstanding teachers who shaped me as a student and as a person helped launch me into the wider world, ready to take on challenges," he said. "This not only included academic work at college, but also my teachers gave me the foundation to tackle creative endeavors in one of the most competitive fields. Pennsbury teachers are the best!"



*Follow the Falcons*

## Upcoming MEETINGS

### BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE

5:30 p.m., October 13, 2011  
Superintendent's Conference Room

### BOARD AGENDA MEETING

8:00 p.m., October 13, 2011  
Fallsington Elementary School

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m., October 20, 2011  
Fallsington Elementary School

### WORK SESSION

8:30 a.m., October 29, 2011  
Fallsington Elementary School