



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

# This Month in PENNSBURY



**PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT • FALLSINGTON, PA • SEPTEMBER 2012**

## ACROSS THE DISTRICT

### NEW ADMINISTRATORS APPOINTED

Please welcome Ms. **Laurie A. Ruffing**, the newly-appointed Principal of Walt Disney Elementary School. Ms. Ruffing, who replaced retiring Principal, **Fay Manicke**, reports to Assistant Superintendents, **Dr. Donna Dunar** and **Dr. W. David Bowman**.



**Laurie A. Ruffing**

Ms. Ruffing joins Pennsbury after serving in various administrative and teaching capacities in the Morrisville School District, most recently as an elementary Principal since 2008. While at Morrisville, she also oversaw the PreK Counts Program, the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Program, grants, and staff development. Ms. Ruffing earned a Master's degree in Administration from the University of Scranton and a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Pennsylvania State University. She also holds numerous certifications in administration and elementary education.

In addition to naming Ms. Ruffing as Principal, the Board also appointed Ms. **Lynne E. Blair** to be an Assistant Principal at Pennsbury High School, beginning September 12th. Please join in welcoming Ms. Blair to the Pennsbury administrative team. As an Assistant Principal,

Ms. Blair will report to PHS Co-Principals, **Shawn Neely** and **Lisa Becker**.



**Lynne E. Blair**

Ms. Blair comes to Pennsbury from the Norristown Area School District, where she served as an Assistant Principal. Prior to that position, Ms. Blair was a high school Guidance Counselor in the Radnor Township School District for seven years. She also taught mathematics at the secondary level in the Abington School District. Ms. Blair is currently studying to obtain a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at Temple University. She earned a Master's degree in Education and Psychological Services from the University of Pennsylvania, where she also obtained certification in Secondary Counseling. In addition, Ms. Blair holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Bucknell University, with certification to teach at the secondary level.

### DEBRA ROCHE NAMED BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Pennsbury's Director of Transportation, **Charlie Williams**, announced the Bus Driver of the Year for 2011-2012 at the annual kick-off meeting held for Pennsbury's 135 bus drivers on August 23rd. Ms. **Debra Roche**, who has a distinguished, 37-year record of driving buses for Pennsbury, was selected for this honor. For the past decade, Ms. Roche has transported Pennsbury students with special needs with the assistance of her bus aide, **Diane**



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*Debra Roche, a second-generation Pennsbury bus driver with a 37-year driving record, was named Bus Driver of the Year for 2011-2012 by Charlie Williams, Director of Transportation.*

**Tomlinson.** A second-generation Pennsbury bus driver, Ms. Roche is also known fondly throughout the community as a year-round fitness trainer for senior citizens and a YMCA camp counselor and bus driver for students during the summer months. Congratulations!

## IN THE SCHOOLS

### QUARRY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Last year, the Quarry Hill school community elected to raise money for the upkeep of the nearby Garden of Reflection memorial in Lower Makefield Township. Thanks to many fundraisers and the generosity of the faculty, staff, students, and their families, the school raised a total of \$2,500 for this cause. As a result, Quarry Hill Elementary will be added to the permanent list of donors displayed at the Garden. On Friday, September 14, the school plans to host an assembly as the entire student body presents a check to Ms. **Ellen Saracini**, a former Quarry Hill parent and co-chairperson of the Garden of Reflection.

## PENNSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

The PHS Girls Cross Country team is launching a new season as the two-time defending AAA state champion. The storied program, which began in the mid-1970s, has risen to preeminence over the last three years. Not since **Donna Farmer**, state champion in 1976, led her team to the District One title has the team shown such dominance. In the past three years, the girls have gone undefeated in duals, won three SOL titles, two District One titles, and two state titles. In 2010, the girls won a very competitive state race and defeated cross-district rival, West Chester Henderson, but in 2011 they placed fifth in the top 25 and won with the greatest point differential and score total in nearly 30 years. Coach **Don Little** attributes the girls' success to their unparalleled work ethic and determination. "They understand that the road ahead presents challenges: both the danger of complacency and rivals hungry for revenge." If you would like to follow the team more closely, contact Coach Little at [dlittle@pennsbury.k12.pa.us](mailto:dlittle@pennsbury.k12.pa.us).



## COMMENDABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### NEHA GUPTA TO SERVE AS JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE

Please join in welcoming Pennsbury High School student, **Neha Gupta**, as Junior Representative to the School Board. Neha was nominated by one of her teachers and she completed an application process to be selected by the high school administration for this honor. In this capacity, Neha will serve as a student liaison in a nonvoting, advisory role. She will represent the student body by communicating updates on school activities to the Board at its monthly regular meetings. She will

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also convey the Board's decisions back to students. Neha will serve this year with former Junior Representative, **Alissa Johnson**, who has now moved up to become Senior Representative.

Since she was nine years old, Neha has garnered local, regional, national, and global notoriety through her philanthropic efforts on behalf of orphaned and underprivileged children around the world. She founded the non-profit organization known as Empower Orphans for this purpose, and has raised over \$600,000 to positively impact the lives of over 15,000 children. The winner of the World of Children Award in 2011, Neha was also named a national winner of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award in 2012. She was invited to the White House to discuss policies on volunteerism, honored by the U.S. Congress with a flag flown in her honor over the U.S. Capitol, and a permanent record of her achievements are now included in the Library of Congress. Many of Neha's distinguished honors have included cash awards that were used to support the efforts of Empower Orphans. A well-rounded student with a GPA of 4.6, Neha has played Junior Varsity Tennis and also performs with several vocal groups in the Pennsbury Choral Program. We extend a warm welcome to Neha and express our appreciation for her ability to raise the level of Pennsbury pride beyond our highest expectations!



NEHA GUPTA



## Upcoming MEETINGS

### BOARD REVENUE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m., September 19, 2012  
Superintendent's Conference Room

### BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE

5:30 p.m., October 4, 2012  
Superintendent's Conference Room

### BOARD AGENDA MEETING

8:00 p.m., October 4, 2012  
Fallsington Elementary School

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m., October 11, 2012  
Fallsington Elementary School

### BOARD REVENUE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m., October 16, 2012  
Superintendent's Conference Room

## PENNSBURY INCLUSION PHILOSOPHY

The Pennsbury School District believes our children belong with their peers. Pennsbury is committed to promoting a sense of belonging in each child by affording all students their right to be educated, to the maximum extent appropriate, in their neighborhood school.

This commitment is possible through the use of appropriate support to enable students to be educated in the least restrictive environment.



*Follow the Falcons!*