

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

# This Month in PENNSBURY



**PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT • FALLSINGTON, PA • SEPTEMBER 2015**

## ACROSS THE DISTRICT

### SCHOOLS OPEN WITH SPECIAL ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR K, 6<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup>

When Pennsbury opened its doors on September 2nd, students in Kindergarten, sixth, and ninth grades were welcomed in special ways to their new schools. These “transition” years are important milestones in the lives of young people, and Pennsbury creates grade-specific programs to help acclimate students when they move up into new buildings. While Kindergarten students visited their classrooms with their parents/guardians and met with their teachers, sixth graders were welcomed by the middle school administrators and teachers at **Charles Boehm, Pennwood, and William Penn** middle schools. Activities planned for the sixth grade students included building tours, locker how-to’s, class schedule reviews, gym suit distribution, and



*Christopher Becker, Principal of William Penn Middle School (at left, beneath screen) led a special assembly for sixth grade students on the first day of school. Assistant Principal Laura Tittle observed from the right.*

an overview of each building’s character education program. At Pennsbury High School, ninth grade students took part in building tours, a scavenger hunt, a clubs & activities fair, a student conduct policy review, and other helpful components of the PHS “Welcome to the Falcons’ Nest” program. We wish these students, as well as those in every other grade level, a successful and beneficial school year!

### HOME ACCESS CENTER NOW OPEN TO ALL GRADES K-12

The School District is pleased to announce that the new parent portal, known as the Home Access Center, is now available to the families of students in ALL grade levels, K-12. It is strongly recommended for all parents and guardians to register for the Home Access Center at their earliest convenience by going to the Pennsbury School District homepage ([www.pennsburysd.org](http://www.pennsburysd.org)) and click on the Home Access Center icon in the upper right corner.



In an effort to maximize technology, Pennsbury will be utilizing electronic report cards this year for all students grades, K-12. These will be viewable in the Home Access Center. Additionally, secondary students in grades 6-12 and their parents/guardians will have the ability to check assignment and assessment grades after the 10th day of every marking period.

If parents/guardians experience any issues logging into the Home Access Center, they are asked to please contact their child’s school for assistance.



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## PENNSBURY ODYSSEY OF THE MIND PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

Pennsbury Odyssey of the Mind (OM) Association President and Pennsbury parent, **Jim Howarth**, shares that "OM is a creative, problem-solving competition available to students of all ages around the world. Each year, OM issues five different challenges that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and the Arts. Each student group presents its solution to a challenge as an eight-minute theatrical performance. Over 150 Pennsbury families were involved in this program last year. Pennsbury is a very competitive school district in OM, having sent a team to the World Finals 30 out of the last 32 years. This year, that event is being held at Iowa State University. Information about the OM program can found at [www.pennsburyom.com](http://www.pennsburyom.com)."

Recently, the Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors presented the Pennsbury Odyssey of the Mind Association (POMA) with a plaque proclaiming their outstanding contribution to the community by promoting creative problem-solving among all students. Mr. Howarth then turned over the recognition plaque to proud POMA sponsor, Glenn Davis, to be displayed in the lobby of Davis Acura.

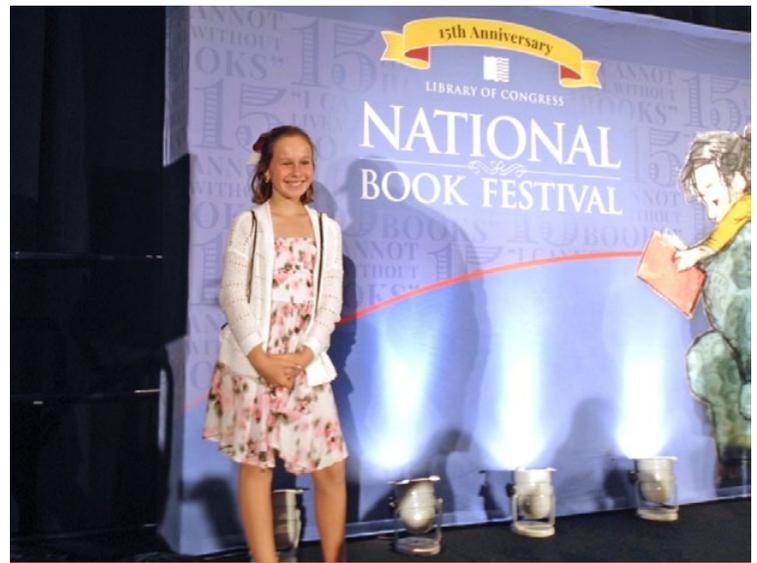


**Glenn Davis of Davis Acura (left), a Pennsbury Partner, accepted a recognition plaque from Jim Howarth, President of the Pennsbury Odyssey of the Mind Association, for the dealership's generous support.**

## IN THE SCHOOLS

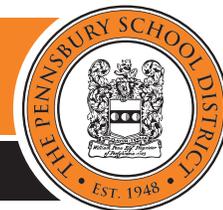
### WILLIAM PENN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. recently announced the winners of its *A Book That Shaped Me* summer writing contest, which asked rising fifth- and sixth-graders to reflect on books that made a personal impact in their lives. William Penn Principal **Christopher Becker** is pleased to announce that one of his sixth grade students, **Allison Templeton**, won the 2nd Place National Grand Prize and was named the Pennsylvania State Winner! Allison wrote about the Harry Potter series of books by author J. K. Rowling.



**Allison Templeton, a student at William Penn Middle School, was recognized at the National Book Festival hosted by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. on September 5th.**

More than 200 young readers submitted essays to participating public libraries in the Mid-Atlantic region in this fourth year of the contest. Launched in 2012 with the D.C. Public Library, *A Book That Shaped Me* expanded with the help of public libraries in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The local libraries offered the contest as part of their summer-reading programs. The grand-prize judging round was



conducted by a panel assembled by the Library of Congress that included educators, children's authors, and Library of Congress staff.

Each state winner received a \$50 gift-card prize. The first-, second-, and third-place grand-prize winners were awarded additional gift-card prizes in the amounts of \$200, \$150, and \$100 respectively. Grand-prize winners presented their essays during the Library of Congress National Book Festival on September 5th. Congratulations, Allison!

## PENNSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

This past July, **James D. Moyer**, Coordinator of Vocal Music, presented a lecture/session on the *Choral Music of American Composer Randall Thompson* at the UniMus 2015 music festival in Koblenz, Germany, sponsored by the University of Koblenz.



The **PHS Concert Choir**, under the direction of Mr. Moyer, will be singing at the PA-ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) Fall Conference on Saturday, October 31st at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. The choir was selected through competitive audition, and will perform *Missa Brevis* by Hungarian composer, Zoltan Kodaly.

The Concert Choir will perform this work again in November at PHS under guest conductor, Dr. Dennis Shrock. Dr. Shrock will spend three days working with our students in the Concert Choir and **Women's Ensemble**, presenting an all-Kodaly concert on Wednesday, November 18th in Keller Hall at PHS West at 7:30 pm.

And finally, Mr. Moyer is proud to announce that a total of nine PHS students were selected for the American Choral Directors Association All-Eastern Honor Choirs. These choirs will meet in Boston February 10-13, 2016 during the Eastern Division Conference of the ACDA. The final performance will be in Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory

of Music (in Boston). Selected for the High School Honor Choir were: **Ethan Barr, Forrester Connor, Quinten Darling, Casey Durso, Heather Goodman, and Connor McDowell**. Students who were selected for the South American Rep Honor Choir included **Elizabeth Miller, James T. Moyer, and Madison Murphy**. "Bravo to each of these talented young singers!" said Mr. Moyer.

## COMMENDABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### McKENZIE MIX SELECTED AS JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE



McKENZIE MIX

Please join in welcoming our new Student Representative to the School Board, PHS junior, **McKenzie Mix**. McKenzie will join Senior Student Representative, **Marguerite Salamone**, on the Board. McKenzie has been named to the Academic Honor Roll since 2011, is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, and was selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference at Villanova University. McKenzie is also a recipient of an Arthur J. Lendo Fellowship Award. Her extra-curricular activities include the PHS Golf Team, PHS Yearbook Club, competitive swimming, student coach/leader for the Girls on the Run Club at Afton Elementary School, ballet, jazz, and lyrical dance, and community league basketball. Welcome, McKenzie!

### JOSEPH WEST NAMED PENNSBURY BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR

When he was just 16 years old in the 1940s, **Joe West** was hired by his local school district in North Carolina to drive a bus full of students to and from



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school each day. While his home state no longer hires school bus drivers at such a youthful age, that experience left a vivid and positive impression on the mind of Mr. West. Following his 43-year career in the automotive industry – working for Buick and Nissan – Mr. West found himself retired and in search of a job he might still find fulfilling. “My wife reminded me how much I always said I enjoyed driving students to school when I was a teenager,” said Mr. West. “And now, here I am doing it again.” Mr. West began driving a bus for Pennsbury in 1996 and has worked for the School District ever since. His work ethic and strong commitment to his student passengers were recognized at this year’s bus drivers’ kick-off meeting when Charlie Williams, Director of Transportation, named Mr. West Pennsbury’s Bus Driver of the Year. Today, Mr. West drives students K-12 on Bus #50 to such destinations as Conwell Egan High School, the Bucks County Technical High School, and Grey Nun Academy. When describing the rapport he establishes with the students he transports daily, Mr. West said, “We build a mutual respect for each other.” Through his interactions, he says, he tries to show the students “how to treat others as you wish to be treated.” Congratulations on such a distinguished career and a job well done, Mr. West!



*Joseph West, who drives Bus #50, is Pennsbury's Bus Driver of the Year!*



## **PRINCIPALS DUNKED FOR GOOD CAUSES**

Pennsbury Principals (l-r) Michele Spack, Donna McCormick-Miller, and Christopher Becker subjected themselves to a cold water dunk tank during a family festival hosted by Lower Makefield Township on Labor Day. Students and parents helped to raise funds for the Principals’ selected charities by purchasing tickets to pitch balls to dunk each of them. Thanks to these “good sports,” hundreds of dollars were raised that day to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in honor of Pennsbury parent Arty Peake (Spack); the Garden of Reflection/Walk to Remember (McCormick-Miller); and the Multiple Sclerosis Society (Becker).

## **Upcoming MEETINGS**

### **BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

5:30 p.m., October 1, 2015  
Superintendent’s Conference Room

### **BOARD AGENDA MEETING**

8:00 p.m., October 1, 2015  
Fallsington Elementary School

### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

8:00 p.m., October 8, 2015  
Fallsington Elementary School