

HILLTOPPER HIGHLIGHTS

2002-2003 Achievement and Excellence

2002-2003 In Review: Students' Accomplishments Bring Pride and Recognition

Students' accomplishments, talents, and contributions have brought pride and recognition to our district. Below are a few of the highlights of our school year, many of which are featured in greater depth within the pages of the 2003 Hilltopper Highlights.

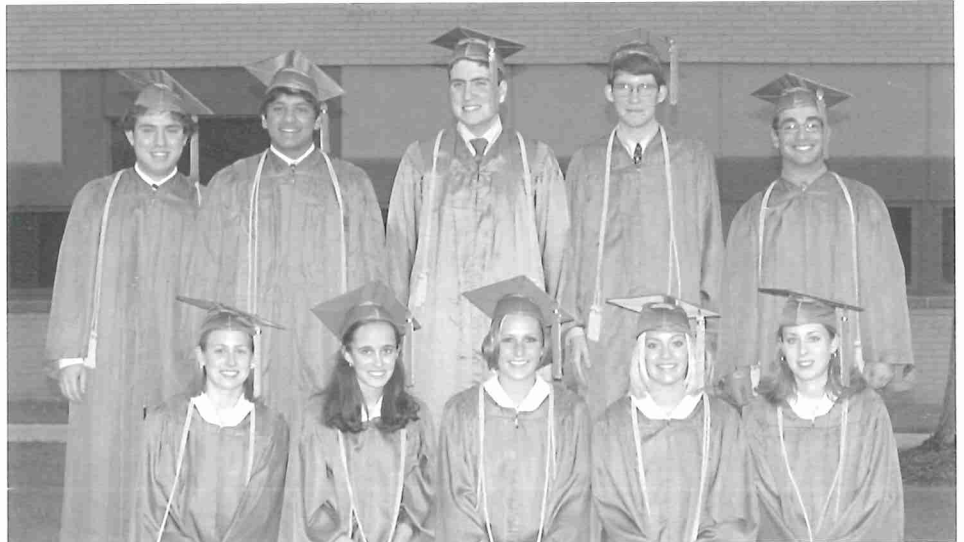
District students were recognized nationally for achievement in academics and music and they advanced to state level competitions in Scholastic Quiz, forensics, mathematics, track, cross country, swimming, hockey, tennis, soccer, wrestling, music, and theater.

Prabhu Narahari achieved a perfect SAT score, and **Michael Bukoski** was named as a finalist. **Zachary Gates** and **Zachary Pozun** received letters of commendation for their performance in the National Merit Scholar Competition.

Two of our graduates, **Dorothy Fink** and **Elijah Petersen**, achieved national recognition by being named to the USA Today's Top 20 College All-Scholastic Team. No two students from the same high school have achieved this honor during the same year anywhere in the nation.

The Scholastic Quiz team of **Zachary Pozun**, **Jeffrey Goble**,

continued on page 2



Row 1 (L-R) Teresa Stamlis, Amanda Lusk, Brooke Lowry, Dana McAllister, Samantha Cohen.
Row 2 (L-R) Nathan Catanese, Prabhu Narahari, Zachary Pozun, Michael Bukoski, Cory Glass.

Westmont Hilltop Education Association Top Ten Awards

Michael Bukoski
Nathan Catanese
Samantha Cohen
Cory Glass
Brooke Lowry
Amanda Lusk
Dana McAllister
Prabhu Narahari
Zachary Pozun
Teresa Stamlis

Students who rank academically in the Top 10 of their graduating class are acknowledged with an indi-

vidual plaque courtesy of the school district's teachers through the Westmont Hilltop Education Association. Their names will also be inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the lobby. Each student will also receive a Board of Education Treasurer's Award, a \$100 savings bond. This award was initiated by Mrs. Karen Azer and supported through the years by Board treasurers, including Dr. Robert Zellers, present treasurer.

The 2002-2003 Hilltopper Highlights Achievement and Excellence, now entering its fourth summer of publication, is a special summer edition of the Hilltop School News. The summer edition is dedicated to recognition of the outstanding individual accomplishments of our students within their school and community. This edition features the accomplishments of Westmont Hilltop School District students in academic excellence, community service, competitions, sports, and the arts.

Academic Honors & Awards

2002-2003 In Review

continued from page 1

Jeremy Kissel, Nathan Catanese, Philip Wolfe, and Prabhu Narahari won the Regional Championship, received 4th place in the state academic tournament, and traveled to South Carolina to represent the school in a national competition where they finished second in the small school division. **Zachary Pozun** was the high scorer for the Scholastic Quiz Team League and placed 7th in the nation.

The Forensics Team won the District Championship and nine students qualified for state competition. **Isaac Kuhn** won first place in the state of Pennsylvania in his competition.

Both **Alexander Pozun** and **Jacob Seigh** won first place in the Platinum Master's Division of 24 Challenge Math in their grade levels and ranked first in South Central Pennsylvania.

The district was honored continually this year for outstanding performing arts programs. The district was represented in District All-State Chorus, County Orchestra, All-East Honors Choir, and All-State ACDA World Music Honors Choir.

Jeffrey Goble won first chair status in the Bass 1 Section for the state of Pennsylvania.

Lydia McClain and **Erin Sheridan** each earned national recognition at the ACDA convention in New York.

Our high school Chamber Choir sang at the Kenny Rogers Concert.

The WHHS Theatre Club won Fourth Place at state level competition in drama.

The middle school Drum Line achieved the highest score EVER achieved in the Atlantic Coast Indoor Competition. (See page 7)

The middle school Percussion Ensemble won first place in the Atlantic Coast Indoor Championship.

Westmont Hilltop School District won the Laurel Highlands All-Sports Trophy.

The Boys' Soccer, Hockey, and Tennis Teams reached new levels of competition by participating in the state championship playoffs.

The Boys' Tennis Team had an undefeated season and became District 6 Champions.

The Boys' Soccer Team won the District 6 Championship and finished in 2nd place in PIAA state level competition.

The Westmont Hilltop Middle School received the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association's District 6 Sportsmanship Award for exemplary behavior and effort in sportsmanship.

The Junior High Volleyball Team won the District 6 Volleyball Officials' Sportsmanship Award.

The Girls' Cross Country Team won the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference Championship.

The Girls' Swimming Team won the Central Western Alleghenies Aqua

Conference Championship, had a 5th straight undefeated season, and represented WHSD at state level competition.

The Girls' Junior High Basketball Team won the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference Championship.

Priya Narahari won the District 6 Girls' Singles Tennis Championship.

The Westmont Hilltop Hockey Team advanced to the State Championships and returned with a 2nd place trophy.

The Boys' Varsity Basketball Team won the LHAC Section 2 Championship.

Our Boys' Wrestling Team made us proud by receiving a special commendation for sportsmanship from James Herlinger of North Carolina.

Kaitlin Urban broke a 20-year school record in track and field, received LHAC and District 6 First Place Finishes, a PIAA State Track 4th place finish, and set a new LHAC meet record.

Krista Britcher broke a 15-year school record in the Shot Put.

Academic 'Letter' Awards, Class of 2003

Seniors who have demonstrated a high level of academic excellence as indicated by a 3.0 average or better are awarded the academic letter.

**Lindsey Antolik
Kelly Armstrong
Stephanie Barron
Anthony Battaglia
Jordan Berkebile
Nicole Berkebile
Kara Borsa
Matthew Brinker
Sara Brown
Michael Bukoski
Katherine Bumbernick
Michael Cameron
Angela Caperelli
Robert Capouellez
Cory Carthew
Nathan Catanese
Laura Chessa
Samantha Cohen
Allison Cooney
Jennifer Cowan**

**Sarah Dachille
Marguerite DeVos
Catherine Dorian
Lindsey Droz
Kristin Garbarino
Cory Glass
Zachary Gates
Jeffrey Goble
Stephen Gonzalez
Victoria Gorzelsky
Sara Heider
Alison Hilands
Abel Horner
Zachary Hull
Stephanie Jasper
Ryan Keiser
Scott Kenner
Jeffrey Kessler
Casey Khuri
Jeremy Kissel**

**David Kmetz
Jacob Koestler
Julie Kupchella
Andrew Litvin, Jr.
Brooke Lowry
Amanda Lusk
Katie Macy
Natalie Maharajh
Dana McAllister
Douglas McClellan
Lacey McKinley
Maura Mendelson
Renee Milkie
Matthew Mulkey
Prabhu Narahari
Lisa Naugle
Daniel Novic
Diane Ozbold
Carrie Parseghian
Zachary Pozun**

**William Price III
Alexis Puhala
Scott Rosage
Heather Rose
Amanda Ross
Kaitlyn Rozich
Shannon Sapulich
Katherine Shaffer
Christine Sharbaugh
Mary Sheehan
Kelly Shoup
Heather Slobozien
Teresa Stampis
Katie Stringent
Daniel Van Riper
Cassandra Wild
Nicole Williams
Matthew Zajdel**

Academic Honors & Awards

National Merit Scholar Awards

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation sponsors a nationwide academic competition each year based upon the results of the PSAT. Four of our seniors were recognized for exceptional academic performance on their junior year PSAT.

Zachary Gates and **Zachary Pozun** were honored with "Letters of Commendation" for their outstanding performances on the PSAT. They placed among the top five percent of the program entrants. To put that in perspective, they were among a group of only 34,000 students out of more than 1,000,000 to receive this honor.

In the next step in the competition, 16,100 semifinalists were designated nationwide. Both **Mike Bukoski** and **Prabhu Narahari** were named National Merit Semi-Finalists. Mike scored three perfect verbal scores on College Board exams, and Prabhu scored a perfect 1600 on the SAT. Both Mike and Prabhu were named National Merit Finalists.

Prabhu was selected as a National Merit Scholar. This award is one of the most prestigious awards that a high school student can attain. He will receive a \$2500 scholarship for this accomplishment. The last National Merit Scholar from Westmont Hilltop prior to Prabhu was a member of the Class of 1999.

Congratulations to these four students for representing Westmont Hilltop so well at the national level of National Merit Scholarship competition.



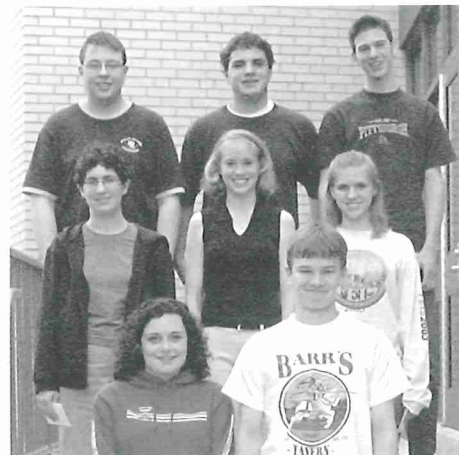
Row 1: Charter Communications Scholarship - A. Lusk; Key Club Award - H. Slobozien, D. Ozbold. Row 2: Rachel Carson Award - J. Kilpatrick; Catherine Hubbard Award - S. Jasper; West End Lions Club - S. Cohen; Row 3: Westmont Memorial Scholarship - N. Catanese; Westmont Peace Award - J. Kissel, C. Glass; Row 4: National Merit Scholarships - M. Bukosky, Z. Gates, P. Narahari (Finalist), Z. Pozun.



Junior/Senior Citizenship Awards, Row 1: T. Carney, N. Carney, S. Cohen. Row 2: A. Lindberg, J. Nadorlik, A. Lusk. Row 3: M. Vrabel, A. Horner, N. Catanese. Absent from Photo: C. Parseghian.



Row 1, Governor's School, Art - C. Majcher; International Studies - T. Koul. Row 2: Principal's Leadership Award - A. Horner; National School Choral Award - J. Goble, J. Kissel. Row 3: Home School Assoc. Awards - S. Gonzalez, M. Sheehan; W.H.E.A. Award - S. Kenner. Row 4: Center for Health Careers Scholarship - Z. Pozun; Community Arts Center Scholarship - D. McClellan, J. Koestler (Allied Artist's Scholarship also), S. Blackford.



Freshmen/Sophomore Citizenship Awards, Row 1: H. Portser, J. Howanek. Row 2: J. Goldman, J. Schroeder, J. Long. Row 3: J. Orlosky, G. Rozich, J. DeSantis. Absent from photo: A. Koestler, L. Povich.

PA Governor's Schools of Excellence

A highly competitive program on the state level is the PA Governor's Schools of Excellence. These highly prized summer experiences are difficult to win because quotas are set based on the distribution of our population within the state of Pennsylvania. Three of our graduating seniors earned the distinction of attending a Governor's School:

Jeff Goble was selected to attend the Governor's School of Excellence for the Arts, held at Mercyhurst College. Jeff will attend the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester this fall.

Zachary Pozun was selected for two Governor's Schools - Science and International Studies. Zach chose to attend the PA Governor's School of Excellence for Science, held at Carnegie Mellon. Zach will attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Doug McClellan was selected for the Governor's School of Excellence for the Arts, held at Mercyhurst College. Doug will attend the Savannah College of Art and Design next year.

Academic Honors & Awards

Academic Award Winners

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Scholar

Prabhu Narahari

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
SemiFinalists and Finalists

Michael Joseph Bukoski

Prabhu Narahari

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Letter of Commendation

Zachary Daniel Gates

Zachary David Pozun

Westmont Hilltop Student Memorial Scholarship
Awards

Nathan Samuel Catanese

Zachary David Pozun

Westmont Peace Award

Cory Nathan Glass

Jeremy Benjamin Kissel

Charter Communications

Amanda Rose Lusk

Johnstown Rotary Club Scholarship

Zachary David Pozun

Student of the Year for the Pennsylvania
District of the Exchange Clubs

Zachary David Pozun

Westmont Hilltop Educational Association
Scholarship Award

Scott Anthony Kenner, Jr.

Center for Health Careers Student
of the Year Award

Zachary David Pozun

Metz and Associates Scholarship Award

Sarah Kristin Miller

Home/School Association Awards

Stephen Patrick Gonzalez

Mary Eileen Sheehan

Key Club Award

Diane Michelle Ozbold

Heather Marie Slobozien

Catherine Hubbard Memorial Award

Stephanie Lynn Jasper

West End Lions Club Scholastic Awards

Samantha Rae Cohen

Zachary David Pozun

Principal's Leadership Award

Abel Cooper Horner

Rachel Carson Book Award

Jennifer Kilpatrick

School Citizenship Awards

Grade 12

Nathan Catanese

Samantha Cohen

Abel Horner

Amanda Lusk

Carrie Parseghian



The Westmont Hilltop Education Association Award is presented by President Stephen Lindberg to Scott Kenner.



Abel Cooper Horner receives the Principal's Leadership Award presented by Dr. Patrick Duffy.

Grade 11

Nicole Carney

Teri Carney

Amanda Lindberg

Jill Nadorlik

Martin Vrabel

Grade 10

Jonathan DeSantis

Jaime Goldman

Justin Orlosky

Hannah Portser

Grant Rozich

Grade 9

Jeffrey Howanek

Amanda Koestler

Jordan Long

Elizabeth Povich

Jillian Schroeder

National School Choral Award

Jeffrey Paul Goble

Jeremy Benjamin Kissel

National School Orchestra Award

Julie Ann Kupchella

John Philip Sousa Award

Edward Stephen Pavlosky

Ken Null Memorial Percussion Award

Edward Stephen Pavlosky

Spirit of Band Award

James Matthew Garguilo

Director's Award for Band

Dr. Patrick M. Duffy

Thomas James Dailey

Most Improved Band Member

Charles John Gilbert



Jeffrey Goble and Jeremy Kissel receive the National School Choir Award presented by Ms. Beth Good (center).

Ray A. Kroc Youth Achievement Award

The Ray A. Kroc Youth Achievement Award for 2002-2003 at the middle school was awarded to **Alexander Pozun**. The award, presented by McDonald's, is given to an eighth grader who demonstrates the following positive attributes: citizenship, leadership, scholarship, and sportsmanship.



Alexander Pozun

Academic Honors & Awards

Academic Scholarships

Many of our seniors also received academic scholarships from the colleges and universities that they will be attending in the fall. We recognize these accomplishments as follows:

Kelly Armstrong - Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Michael Black - Robert Morris University

Michael Bukosky - Alumni Memorial Scholar at Colgate University

Katherine Bumbernick - Duquesne University

Angela Caperelli - Franciscan Scholarship at St. Francis University

Samantha Cohen - Benjamin Rush Scholarship at Dickinson College

Margi DeVos - Dean's Scholarship Marymount Manhattan College

Kristin Garbarino - UPMC Scholarship - University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Zachary Gates - Embry Riddle Aeronautic University

Cory Glass - Marshall Scholarship, Franklin and Marshall College

Jeffrey Goble - Hanson Award and Bookstore Scholarship, Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester

Stephen Gonzalez - Scholarship and Books, University of Pittsburgh

Alison Hilands - Merit Scholarship, Duquesne University

Abel Horner - Dean's Scholarship and Theatre Scholarship, Marymount Manhattan College

Zachary Hull - LaRoche College Award and Presidential Honors Scholarship, LaRoche College

Stephanie Jasper - Conemaugh School of Nursing Scholarship

Ryan Keiser - Trustee Award, Birmingham-Southern College

Scott Kenner, Jr. - Dean's Scholarship, Gettysburg College

Jacob Koestler - Merit Scholarship, Art Institute of Pittsburgh

Thomas Lee - Community College of the Air Force

Amanda Lusk - Honors College Scholarship, Duquesne University

Natalie Maharajh - Bunton-Waller Scholarship, The Pennsylvania State University

Dana McAllister - St. Francis University

Douglas McClellan - Merit Scholarship, Savannah College of Art and Design

Matthew Meehan - Artistic Achievement Scholarship, Savannah College of Art and Design

Diane Ozbold - Assisi Scholarship, St. Francis University

Carrie Parseghian - Presidential Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Zachary Pozun - Full Tuition Honors Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh

Kaitlyn Rozich - Blue and Gold Scholarship, West Virginia University

Brittney Sanders - Duquesne University

Mary Sheehan - National Buckeye Merit Scholarship and Community Scholarship, Ohio State University

Teresa Stamlis - College Scholar Award, College of Wooster

Daniel VanRiper - Juniata College

Jessica Wright - Board Scholarship, Cambria County Area Community College

Christopher Zamias - St. Vincent College

President's Awards for Educational Excellence

The President's Award recognizes students for substantial academic success. At both the middle school and high school levels, students

must maintain a high level of academic accomplishment over the duration of their schooling in order to be eligible for this award.

Recipients of this award at the middle school for 2002-2003 are:

Nicole Bennett
Alexander Bonini
Samantha Calderone
Quinten Cameron
Gabriel Camut
Jason Catanese
Ariana Cort
Cayla Cramer
Rebecca Deist
Jordan DeMarco

Nikhita Dharbhamulla
Mark Ellenberger
Amanda Eplett
Daniella Fetsko
Kyle Harnish
Rebecca Hirsch
Stephanie Keklak
Brindy Klym
Aram Kolesar
Ashleigh Kowtoniuk

Chelsey Krisay
Kristina Kushnir
Jenna Kyger
Kelsey Landis
Christopher Lee
Lydia McClain
Jocelyn Meehan
Chelsea Meenan
Amanda Miller
Courtney Mills

Ian Miscoe
Kristen Mosbrucker
Alexander Muncert
Alexander Pozun
Sadia Rharbite
Julia Sheehan
Jade Stager
Zachary Trotz
Michael Volkar
Adam Watson
Michael Wozniak
Amanda Young

President's Award recipients at the high school in 2002-2003 are:

Kara Borsa
Michael Bukoski
Nathan Catanese
Samantha Cohen
Zachary Gates

Cory Glass
Jeffrey Goble
Victoria Gorzelsky
Scott Kenner, Jr.
Casey Khuri

Jeremy Kissel
Andrew Litvin, Jr.
Amanda Lusk
Douglas McClellan
Matthew Mulkey

Prabhu Narahari
Diane Ozbold
Carrie Parseghian
Zachary Pozun
William Price III
Teresa Stamlis
Daniel Van Riper

Academic Honors & Awards

Academic “Best” Awards

The Academic “Best” Awards were presented at the June 3 Awards Assembly at the middle school. These awards are presented to 8th grade students who are chosen to represent the academic “best” in particular subject areas. Selection is always difficult, since so many students represent their own high standards of academic best. A \$100 Savings Bond was awarded to the “Best” in several curricular categories.

Recipients of the awards for 2002-2003 are: English – **Chelsea Meenan**; Math – **Nikhita Dharbhamulla**; Science – **Andrew Morbito**; Civics – **Jason Catanese**; Art – **Alexander Bonini**; Foreign Language – **Rebecca Hirsch**; Music – **Lydia McClain**; Physical Education – **Ashleigh Kowtoniuk**.

English: The student representing the academic “best” in this category must demonstrate scholarship, leadership, a positive attitude, class participation, responsibility, accountability, dependability, and initiative.

Math: The student must participate in the PACE program; consideration is given to both aptitude and achievement test scores; classroom performance will be evaluated; and outcomes of any appropriate contests will be considered.

Science: The student must have an “A” average for three quarters; participate in all aspects of class (lectures, labs, question/answer, discussions); demonstrate leadership, respect for others, responsibility, reliability, and a mature attitude.

Civics: The student must demonstrate scholastic high achievement;



Left to right: Andrew Morbito, Nikhita Dharbhamulla, Chelsea Meenan, Ashleigh Kowtoniuk, Lydia McClain, Rebecca Hirsh, Jason Catanese, and Alexander Bonini.

citizenship as demonstrated through in school and community service; and must show initiative through class participation.

Art: The selected student must display good citizenship and class participation; have a positive effect on peers; exhibit a high level of creativity, and demonstrate a significant level of improvement/achievement.

Foreign Language: The academic best in this category must achieve 95% in each of three quarters; demonstrate excellent class participation and a positive classroom attitude; and demonstrate classroom leadership and reliability.

Music: Participation in at least one ensemble is required for this award, along with superior grades in general music class; the student must possess leadership, responsibility, a positive attitude, and dependability.

Physical Education: The student selected in this category must display a positive attitude toward physical education; participate to the best of ability in all activities at all times; score, at the least, the average requirement on the National Physical Fitness Test for fitness; maintain a sense of game; and demonstrate responsible, respectful behavior as a team player.

Academic Honors & Awards

American Legion Awards

This award is presented by the American Legion Auxiliary to one 8th grade boy and one 8th grade girl. Recipients of the American Legion Awards for the 2002-2003 school year are **Jason Catanese** and **Stephanie Keklak**. The criteria used to select the recipients are listed and defined below.

Honor: Strength and stability of character, high standards of conduct, keen sense of what is right, adherence to truth and conscience, and devotion to duty.

Scholarship: Scholastic attainment, evidence of industry, and application in studies.

Service: Kindness, unselfishness, willingness to lend a helping hand, protection to the weak, and preferment of the interests and welfare of associates – without hope of personal reward.

Americanism: Active interest in promotion of love of country, as may be expressed in formal exercises, respect to the flag, knowledge of the National Anthem, the flag salute, adherence to the country's highest ideals, and worthy citizenship.

Leadership: Ability to perform the duties of leadership assigned to one as exemplified in holding of office, committees, etc., and exhibition of good team play.

Courage: Moral courage to stand up for what is right, and physical courage in games and play.



Jason Catanese



Stephanie Keklak

Middle School Percussion Ensemble Wins First Place Gold Medal at Atlantic Coast Indoor Competition

The middle school percussion ensemble captured the gold medal in the Atlantic Coast Indoor Competition held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, May 1-3. In addition to the first place finish, the middle school drum line was given special recognition for its accomplishment of the highest score ever achieved in the Atlantic Coast Indoor Competition.

Members of the percussion ensemble are listed below:

**Daniel Curry
Jeffrey Dailey
Jason Dailey
Martin Erdley
Joseph Green
Manish Kanakunta
Kevin Kessler
Aram Kolesar**

**Christopher Lee
Eric Lee
David Nikonow
Thomas Rohrabach
Sean Sapich
Jacob Seigh
Elizabeth Stamp
Michael Wozniak**

Senatorial "Good Citizenship Award"

Senator John Wozniak presented the Senatorial "Good Citizenship Award" this year, giving special recognition to the student who best met the following criteria:

- **Superior academic achievement**
- **Leadership abilities**
- **Consistent work habits**
- **Good self image**
- **Ability to get along well with others**

Recipient of this award for the 2002-2003 school year was **Jade Stager**.

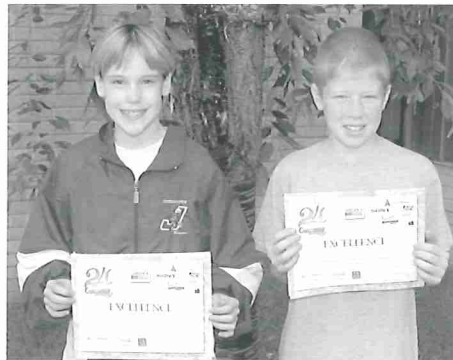


Jade Stager

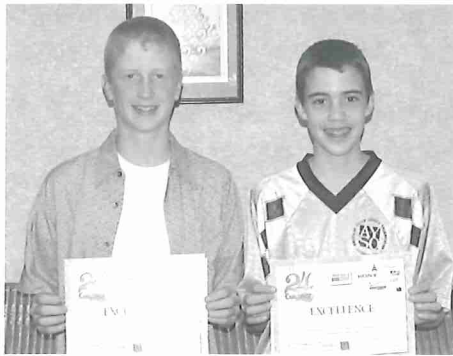
Academic Excellence

24 Challenge Math Team

Congratulations to the Westmont Hilltop 24 Challenge Math Team! The 24 Challenge Math Team, consisting of **Alexander Pozun** (grade 8), **Jacob Seigh** (grade 7), **Andrew Pozun** (grade 6), and **Alli Paratore** (grade 5) competed at Indiana University of Pennsylvania on May 15. Alli was the WHMS fifth grade champion, and this was her first meet. Andrew Pozun won a bronze medal in his division. Both Alexander Pozun and Jacob Seigh captured first place awards in the Platinum Masters Division of their respective grade levels, ranking each of them Number One in the South Central PA region. Congratulations to Mrs. McClelland, their coach, for a job well done!



Alli Paratore and Andrew Pozun



Alexander Pozun and Jacob Seigh

Math Counts Results



Left to right: Zachary Trotz, Utsav Bhat, Jade Stager and Sadia Rharbite

This year's Math Counts team, headed by Ms. Reilly, competed at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown on Saturday, February 15th. Members of the team were **Utsav Bhat**, **Sadia Rharbite**, **Jade Stager**, and **Zachary Trotz**. The team performed very well, placing second out of the fifteen competing teams. Individual students who placed were Utsav Bhat – third, Zachary Trotz – sixth, Sadia Rharbite – seventh, and Jade Stager – twelfth. Utsav Bhat qualified to compete at the State Championships in Harrisburg on Saturday, March 22nd. Congratulations to the Math Counts team and Ms. Reilly.

Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Students (C-Mites)

The C-Mites program is provided for academically talented third through sixth graders from the state of Pennsylvania. Students across PA took the EXPLORE test to qualify for membership in C-Mites.

Recipients of this award for 2002-2003 at the middle school are: **Luke Corona**, **Andrew Forman**, **Stephanie Frank**, **Matthew Griffin**, **Jonathan Heider**, **Nathan McHugh**, **Cassandra Miller**, **Joseph Nagy**, **Thomas Rohrabough**, **Giancarlo Scuderi**, **Lauren Simmons**, **Michael Stamp**, **Brittany Strelnik**, and **Daniel Thompson, Jr.**

Celebration of Young Poets!

Congratulations to the following students whose poems were accepted for Creative Communications' Spring 2003 publication.

Grade 8: **Kelsey Landis**, **Sadia Rharbite**, and **Amanda Young**

Grade 7: **Joey Green**, **Courtney Hershberger**, **Michael Keiser**, and **Jessica Lindberg**

Grade 6: **Julia Asel**, **Ashley Ayre**, **Leslie Buchan**, **Stephanie Frank**, **Kaitlyn Garbarino**, **Shauna Hetrick**, **Kristi Mitchell**, and **Abby Motley**

Grade 5: **Maggie Atterbury**, **Kelsey Layton**, **Aaron Stonecypher**, and **Rachel Wozniak**

Entries are judged for their merit by educators and published poets.

St. Francis Science Fair



Andrew Kilpatrick

Andrew Kilpatrick, a fourth grader in Mrs. Fuschino's room, won 3rd place in the IU8's Central PA Science Fair at St. Francis University on

April 5. Andrew received a trophy and a \$50 savings bond. His project was "Testing Memory: How Do Our Minds Work?" Andrew's classmates and family members helped him obtain the data for his project.

Twenty-Four Middle School Students Participate In Johns Hopkins Talent Search

Twenty-four middle school students participated in this year's Johns Hopkins Talent Search. Of these twenty-four students, eight were honored through invitation to attend the Celebration of Talent Ceremony held at St. Vincent College on May 17. The students honored demonstrated outstanding abilities with school performance on achievement or aptitude.

Students honored at the St. Vincent College ceremony were **Utsav Bhat, Jason Catanese, Nikhita Dharbhamulla, Christopher Lee, David Shelhammer, Jade Stager, Aaron Stonecypher, Daniel Thompson, Jr., and Rachel Wozniak.** Utsav received a certificate for scoring an exceptionally high score (between 700 and 800) in the math portion of the SAT. Nikhita received a scholarship for one summer course at Johns Hopkins for her exceptionally high math score.

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Nathan McHugh	Andrew Forman	Utsav Bhat	Jason Catanese
Giancarlo Scuderi	Matthew Griffin	Corbett Drummey	Nikhita Dharbhamulla
Aaron Stonecypher	Joseph Nagy	Marc Mills	Rebecca Hirsch
Brittany Strelnek	Thomas Rohrabough	David Shelhammer	Christopher Lee
Christine Weidner	Lauren Simmons		Alexander Pozun
Rachel Wozniak	Daniel Thompson, Jr.		Sadia Rharbite
			Jade Stager
			Michael Wozniak

State and National Qualifications in Forensics

Nathan Catanese, Philip Wolfe, Nathan Fetsko, Able Horner, Brianne France, Katelyn Polantz, Stephanie Volkar, Amanda Lindberg, and Isaac Kuhn qualified for state level competition at Susquehanna University. Isaac won sixth place in the state in the category of poetry.

Qualifying for the national competition in Pittsburgh on May 24, 25, and 26 were **Nathan Catanese, Philip Wolfe, Nathan Fetsko, Brianne France, Abel Horner, Katelyn Polantz, and Stephanie Volkar.**

Meritorious Attitude and Effort

Each year Meritorious Attitude and Effort Awards are given to several students in all middle school grades. This award is given to students who demonstrate a positive attitude and give continuous effort in their educational endeavors, thereby demonstrating outstanding study skills and persistence.



Michael Rudnac and Catherine Walsh

Recipients of the award for 2002-2003 are:

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Michael Rudnac	Neil Abrams	Travis Given	Megan Babal
Catherine Walsh	Shauna Hetrick	Courtney Hershberger	Quinten Cameron
	Lauren Kyger	Sean McGhee	Jason Catanese
	Lauren Simmons	Stephen Shadid	Jordan DeMarco
	Sarah Teich	Brendan Shue	Nicholas Kirkstadt
		Joshua Vigna	Jenna Kyger
			Kristen Mosbrucker
			Alexander Pozun

Academic Excellence

Middle School Reading Teams Compete

The Reading Competition teams traveled to Roosevelt Junior High School in Altoona to compete with 59 other middle school teams on March 20th. Our four teams - one sixth grade, one seventh grade, and two eighth grade - read from a list of 41 books to prepare for the competition. Each team competed in three rounds against three different teams from other schools, trying to correctly answer questions about the books they had read. The teams did a wonderful job and all had final scores which placed them in the top three spots at each grade level: the two eighth grade teams earned first and third place ribbons, seventh grade earned a third place ribbon, and sixth grade earned a second place ribbon. Read on, WHMS!



Grade 7 Blue Team



Grade 8 Red Team

Grade 6 (Yellow) 2nd Place	Grade 7 (Blue) 2nd Place	Grade 8 (Purple) 3rd Place	Grade 8 (Red) 1st Place
Marissa Agypt	Utsav Bhat	Nikhita Dharbhamulla	Megan Babal
Ashley Gilbert	Grace Holbink	Stephanie Keklak	Courtney Blackner
Amanda Good	Samantha Johns	Kristi Kushnir	Gabriel Camut
Shauna Hetrick	Sahra Khan	Jenna Kyger	Rebecca Hirsch
Abby Hoover	Adam Lasky	Kelsey Landis	Nicholas Kirkstadt
Jordy Hudson	Sean McGhee	Lydia McClain	Kathy Lohr
Lauren Kyger	Thomas Polacek	Courtney Mills	Kristen Mosbrucker
Julianne Legath	Ricky Povich	Hayley Stamp	Justin Pittman-Deering
Brynne Machella	David Shelhammer		Sadia Rharbite
Andrew Molchany	Max Smeal		
Abby Motley			
Lauren Simmons			
Danny Thompson			

Stock Market Game

The Stock Market Game is a simulation game that some of the seventh and eighth grade math students of Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Stiles, and Ms. Reilly were involved with this year. Students were given \$100,000 of fake capital to invest in stocks, and the top two teams of each grade level with the most profit at the end of the ten-week game were declared winners. Students tracked their stocks for their teams and held weekly meetings to decide how many shares of which companies to buy and sell. The winning S.M.G. team for seventh grade consisted of Devin Dorian, Jacob Seigh, Seth Matthews, and Danny Vliet. The winning eighth grade team members were Andrew Brill, Justin Pittman-Deering, Jason Catanese, and Chris Lee. The winning teams were taken to lunch at Sunnehanna as a prize for being the top finishers in their grades.



Left to Right: Mr. Mitchell, Jason Catanese, Devin Dorian, Chris Lee, Seth Matthews, Andrew Brill, Danny Vliet, Justin Pittman-Deering, Jacob Seigh

Elementary Student Competitions

During the 2002-2003 school year, a record number of students in second, third, and fourth grades participated in a variety of national competitions. A summary of their efforts will be described in this article.

National Current Events League

The National Current Events League consists of four meets that are held at each participating school during the school year. Each meet consists of 30 multiple choice questions and is based on current events from a specified time frame. The categories for questions are as



Front Row: Lauren Pittman-Deering, Kasey Azar, Jenna Magistro, Andrew Kilpatrick. Back Row: Daniel Wolfe, Luke Gonzalez, Zachary Drennen, Noah Shorto, Christina Atterbury. Missing: Keegan Terek

follows: General News, Arts & Entertainment, Science & Health, Business & Finance, and Sports. The students are given 35 minutes to complete 30 questions. This year, twenty-two fourth graders participated in this event. The scores of the top ten students were submitted. These students are pictured above. Special recognition goes to Daniel Wolfe and Zachary Drennen. Not

only did these two students have the top two scores in our school, they were in the top ten national scorers. All twenty-two participants received certificates at an end of the year awards ceremony held at the elementary school during the last week of school.

National Science Olympiad

Three teams from second, third, and fourth grades represented our school at the national level. Over 200 students participated in these three grade levels! The contest for Grade 2 consists of 25 questions, for Grades 3 and 4, 35 questions. The multiple choice questions which comprise each contest are based on factual knowledge as well as the students' understanding of scientific processes. The time limit for each contest is 35 minutes. Scores from the top ten students in each grade were sent on for national competition. The top ten scorers for each grade level are pictured below and at the top of the next column.

Fourth Grade Top Ten Scorers



Front Row: Christina Atterbury, Ian Clark, Keegan Terek, Aaron Seigh, Andrew Kilpatrick. Back Row: Daniel Wolfe, Zachary Drennen, Nathan Stamp, David Pepley (Top Scorer), Cameron Pohl

Third Grade Top Ten Scorers



Front Row: DeAnnah Dick, Seth Wiesenbach, Mustafa Hammudi, Christian Wyrwas, Nicole Simmons. Back Row: Rocky Truscillo, Jonathan Findish, Meredith Herman, Blake Bernstein (top scorer), Ed Dreikorn

Second Grade Top Ten Scorers



Front Row: Kirsten Coyle, Libby Atterbury, Shannon Marko (top scorer), Angela Sutt, Kasia Foster. Back Row: Luke Peltzer, Daniel Durham, Cade Richardson, Dante Horvath (Missing: Mariel Kramer)

Math-a-Thon



Daniel Durham

This year, fifty-one students in first through fourth grades participated in the St. Jude Hospital's Math-a-Thon program. Children

complete a booklet of math problems and ask for pledges based on the number of problems solved. These fifty-one students earned \$2,829.82! A variety of certificates, t-shirts, and other prizes were awarded. Pictured above is second grader **Daniel Durham** whose \$251.35 donation was the school's largest. For his effort, Daniel was awarded a boom box.

Academic Excellence

National Language Arts League

The multiple choice questions for each grade level were based on the following topics: Spelling, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Analogies, and Grammar. Over 200 students in grades 2, 3, and 4 participated in this contest. The top ten scorers from each grade level are pictured below.

Fourth Grade Top Ten Scorers



Front Row: Kyle Molchany, Noah Shorto, Andrew Kilpatrick, Joseph Seigh, Troy Raco. Back Row: Lauren Pittman-Deering, Annabeth Faucher, Nathan Stamp, Cameron Pohl, Benjamin Bukoski, Jenna Magistro, Christina Atterbury.

Third Grade Top Ten Scorers



Front Row: Penn Whitlow, Brittany Davis, Mustafa Hammudi, Stephen Lugar, Lida Thompson. Back Row: Brad Carney, Jonathan Findish, William Crowe, Zach Aman, Parag Dharbhamulla.

Second Grade Top Ten Scorers



Front Row: Stacey Glass, Jill Clark, Victoria Parlock, Maddison Helsel, Libby Atterbury (top scorer), Angela Sutt, Shannon Marko. Back Row: Daniel Durham, Jess Keeley, Dante Horvath, Jacob Lohr, Seth Ray, Bobby Varner.

Continental Mathematics League

A total of sixty-one students participated in the Continental Math League Competition during this school year. Our students' scores are incorporated with other competing schools from the Intermediate Unit. Pictured below are the leading scorers from third and fourth grades.

Other fourth grade participants included Christina Atterbury, Denae Dorian, Sarah Godish, Santino Jaber, Aaron Miller, Stephen Novelli, Joshua Polacek, Stephanie Shelhammer, Keegan Terek, Ty Zatsick, Kasey Azar, Zachary Drennen, Luke Gonzalez, Andrew Kilpatrick, Maddie Miller, David Pepley, Troy Raco, Noah Shorto, Eleanor Wells, Christina Cassone, Annie Fiffick, Tanner Hough, Jenna Magistro, Kyle Molchany, Lauren Pittman-Deering, Aaron Seigh, Nathan Stamp, and Daniel Wolfe.

Other third grade participants were Zachary Aman, Blake Bernstein, Parag Dharbhamulla, Ryan Fleming, Stephen Lugar, Meredith Herman, Zachary Georgevich, Brad Carney, Christian Wyrwas, Nate Nelson, Adam Ayre, Brittany Davis, Jonathan Findish, Kelcy Harrison, Penn Whitlow, Kenny Gibson, Niza Scuderi, Lida

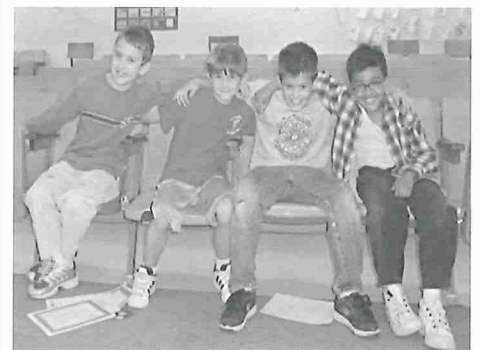
Thompson, and Brittany Young. Other second grade participants included Libby Atterbury, Kirsten Coyle, Tara Fritz, Dante Horvath, Sara Kimmell, Shannon Marko, Angela Sutt, Joel Babra, Daniel Durham, Maddison Helsel, Stephanie Hetrick, Mariel Kramer, Seth Ray, and Melissa Walko.

Fourth Grade Math League



Front Row: Kasey Azar, Tanner Hough. Back Row: Lauren Pittman-Deering, Christina Atterbury, Kyle Molchany.

Third Grade Math League



Left to Right: Blake Bernstein, Penn Whitlow, Jonathan Findish, Parag Dharbhamulla

Foreign Language Achievement at the High School

Zachary Pozun won the overall Spanish prize at this year's APPLES Foreign Language Festival. To be eligible for the prize, a student must compete in the listening, reading, composition, and speaking proficiency events. In honor of their years of study, excellence in the world language classroom, participation in the festival, and recognition of the value of world language,

Nathan Catanese, Cory Glass, Amanda Lusk, and Zachary Pozun were recommended to the (PSMLA) PA State Modern Language Association for inclusion in its High School World Language Recognition Program. They will receive certificates noting this honor from the PSMLA.

APPLES further encourages language study by awarding a scholarship to the Millersville

University of Pennsylvania week-long World Language Summer Camp. This year's scholarship recipient was Justin Orlosky.

The following students were place winners in this year's APPLES (Appalachian Language Educators' Society) Foreign Language Festival at UPJ competing against over 400 students from more than a dozen area school districts:

FRENCH/Academic		
Student	Place	Category
French 1 Ross Wilson	2	Speaking Proficiency
	2	Literary Recitation
French 2 Libby Povich	2	Reading Proficiency
	3	Reading Proficiency
French 3 Taryn Kimel	2	Composition
French 4 Philip Wolfe	1	Reading Proficiency
	3	Listening Proficiency
	3	Composition
French 5 Amanda Lusk	1	Reading Proficiency
	2	Speaking Proficiency
	2	Composition
Ashley Acosta, Ian Fine, Taryn Kimel, Mena Shaker, and Philip Wolfe	1	Drama - "Le Petit Prince"
SPANISH/Academic		
Student	Place	Category
Spanish 2 Kara Bumbernack	1	Literary Recitation
	2	Speaking Proficiency
Ross Wilson	3	Speaking Proficiency
Spanish 3 Jeff Goble	1	Literary Recitation

SPANISH/Academic		
Student	Place	Category
Spanish 4 Amanda Partsch	1	Speaking Proficiency
	3	Reading Proficiency
Spanish 5 Zach Pozun *Overall Festival Prize/Spanish	1	Reading Proficiency, Listening Proficiency & Composition
	2	Speaking Proficiency
Prabhu Narahari	2	Reading Proficiency
	2	Listening Proficiency
	3	Speaking Proficiency
Katie Macy	2	Literary Recitation
Non-Academic: Junior Level		
Katie Drummey & Libby Povich	2	Music: Instrumental
Jordan Long	3	Music: Vocal
Devon Dill	2	Art: Original
Leah Bambino	2	Art: Reproduction
Heidi DeMarco	2	Art: Reproduction
Jessie Lee & Kyle Plummer	1	Web Page Design
Non-Academic: Senior Level		
Jeff Goble	2	Music: Vocal
Morgan Nati	2	Art: Original
Megan Baxter & Stephanie Seitz	3	T-Shirt Design

Community Recognition

Community Recognition

Zachary Pozun was named Johnstown Exchange Club's January Student of the Month, Student of the Year, and the Pennsylvania Exchange Club Student of the Year for the 2002-2003 school year. He received a \$1500 scholarship at an awards ceremony in Avalon, New Jersey, on June 14 and is now in competition at the national level for a \$10,000 scholarship. Zachary was also named Westmont Hilltop's nominee for the WJAC Region's Brightest Program and the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat's "Academic All-Stars." He also earned a Johnstown Rotary Scholarship in the amount of \$500, based on his academic record, his essay, and a personal interview. Zachary will attend the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a full tuition scholarship.

Michael Bukoski was honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club and was named an Alumni Memorial Scholar at Colgate University, where he will begin his post high school studies in the fall.

Nathan Catanese was named Student of the Month for October by the Ferndale Lions Club. He was also honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. Nathan has earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts. He will attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

Samantha Cohen was the Ferndale Lions Club's Student of the Month for February. She was also honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. Samantha will attend Dickinson College this fall.

Cory Glass was November's Ferndale Lions Club Student of the Month. He was also honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. Cory will

attend Franklin and Marshall College.

Stephen Gonzalez was honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. He will attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Brooke Lowry was honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. She will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Amanda Lusk was named the Ferndale Lions Club Student of the Month for April and also honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. Amanda will attend the Honors College of Duquesne University.

Dana McAllister was Westmont Hilltop's Tribune-Democrat Scholar/

Athlete for the 2002-2003 school year. She was also honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. Dana will attend St. Francis University in the fall.

Prabhu Narahari was honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. He is enrolled in a special program in which he will begin his studies at Penn State and then proceed to Jefferson Medical School.

Teresa Stampis was named as Westmont Hilltop's HOBY representative. She was also the Rachel Carson Award Winner and the Women in Science winner. She was also honored by the Johnstown Rotary Club. Teresa will attend the College of Wooster.

WH Students – Operation Shoe Box

Students have excited their peers and the larger community outside of school to participate in a number of opportunities to reach out to others. The most recent initiative was participation in Operation Shoe Box. Key Club led the drive to support our troops overseas by collecting practical items that service men and women in the field needed or would enjoy. Fifteen paper ream boxes and an additional twenty-five shoe boxes were filled for military service personnel as a result of this generosity. Some items collected were soap, sunglasses, sunscreen, chap stick, eye drops, foot powder, disposable razors, batteries, playing cards, books, paper, envelopes, and pens to name a few. Personnel from the National Guard will oversee the delivery of the items.

Charitable enthusiasm was also evident during a Student Council-sponsored "anti-apathy" week that included the participation of many other school organizations. Students

had the idea of putting the isolation sometimes created by the tough winter season behind them by motivating to work together for causes bigger than themselves. The community joined students to donate over 4,500 used books, including children's books that are being donated to the Women's Help Center, St. Vincent DePaul, our high school Child Development class, and other centers. Students also held a clothing drive that yielded nearly 5,000 pieces that were donated to St. Vincent DePaul. The Art Club provided the leadership for these drives with support from other school groups.

Proceeds from two in-school fundraisers in March went to help a seriously ill member of our school community. Student Council sponsored a dance and Key Club sold shamrock locker decorations that students could personalize with messages.

Community Service Focus – WHHS Key Club

The Westmont Hilltop Key Club for the 2002-2003 school year consisted of over 130 members. The Key Club is a service-oriented school group which serves both the school community and the community at large.

During the past school year, the Key Club was involved in numerous service activities. To provide insight into one of the high school's strongest organizations, a month by month breakdown of Key Club activities is provided below:

August

- Log Cabin Festival – Key Club volunteered for two days.
- September Kiwanis Club's Kids Appreciation Day at Roxbury Park – Key Club volunteered.
- Westwood Kiwanis Club Sub Sale – Key Club helped make over 400 subs.

October

- American Red Cross Corn Maze at the Hunt's Farm in Davidsville – Key Club members volunteered three days a weekend for three weekends.
- Westwood Kiwanis Club Rose Box Fundraiser – Key Club members folded over 150 boxes for the project.
- High School – Key Club weeded the garden and planted bulbs.
- High School – Key Club ushered and served food for Open House.

November

- Key Club Fundraiser – Key Club members sold candy bars.

December

- Westwood Kiwanis Club Snack Pack – Key Club members prepared snack packs for a Kiwanis Club fundraiser.
- New Beginnings Adopting a Family – Key Club adopted a family of four children; purchased clothing and toys for the children from the funds raised from the candy bar sale.

- Laurelwood Care Center – Presents for Patients Project; Key Club wrapped over 300 gifts for the Center.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing – Key Club and Kiwanis Club shared a day ringing the bell and collecting donations at Bi-Lo.

February

- High School – Key Club ushered and helped at the District Orchestra Festival.
- Elementary School Heart Attack Project – Key Club worked with the elementary school on selling, preparing, and distributing over 1200 hearts; proceeds were donated to Make a Wish Foundation.

March

- High School – During Student Council's Anti-Apathy Month, Key Club participated with the Shamrock Attack Project. Members prepared, organized, and sold shamrocks that were placed on student lockers on St. Patrick's Day. Every student, faculty member, and staff member received at least one shamrock. The profits from this project went to the family of a district custodian who was diagnosed with cancer.

April

- Greater Johnstown Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast – Key Club members helped serve and host this fundraiser at the Senior Citizens' Center.
- High School's Operation ShoeBox – Key Club members collected items from the community, students, faculty, and staff to send to the troops in Iraq.

May

- Westwood Kiwanis Club Sub Sale – Key Club helped make over 400 subs.
- High School – Key Club weeded the garden and planted spring flowers.

June

- High School – Key Club members ushered during Commencement.

And in their spare time...Key Club members are responsible for raising and lowering the American flag each school day. The Key Club and the middle school's Westy's Angels demonstrate a strong commitment to community service year in and year out. Their time and efforts are appreciated by the district and community.

M.S. Read-a-Thon

For the second year in a row, our students participated in the local Multiple Sclerosis Society's Read-a-Thon. This year our elementary school placed second in the program by raising a total of \$1,691.90. Additionally, first grader **Robert Elston** was one of the top fundraisers for raising \$500.00. The participants received an assortment of gift vouchers from local businesses, certificates of participation, plus a wide assortment of other prizes. A plaque from the MS Society is displayed at the school's front entrance as a reminder of our commendable participation in this event.

Jump Rope for Heart

This was the first year for the elementary school to participate in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart Program. Seventy-eight students participated and raised \$2,328.50 for the American Heart Association. Third grader **Kylie Truscello** was the leading contributor, raising \$205.00! For her efforts, Kylie received a certificate, hand-held fan, t-shirt, calculator, clock, and dart board. All participants received a certificate and bookmark for participating.

Special Events

Grade Six Medieval Times

The 6th grade social studies curriculum provided the vehicle to emphasize the Medieval Times. In this interdisciplinary unit, the students analyzed the Medieval Period. Students utilized communication skills and used primary as well as secondary resources in the writing process to explain how relationships between politics, government, and religion influenced the way in which the people of this time lived. Students experienced European life in the Middle Ages by participating in a variety of Medieval Times simulations. Structured activities reinforced the understanding of the Medieval Time Period and its impact on today's society by comparing and contrasting aspects of this time period with those of the present.

Students traveled back in time to a period in Western Europe when no central government existed, nobles ruled vast areas, and peasants were dependent on the generosity of these ruling nobles. During the Middle Ages new ideas and learning were limited, but students of the sixth grade did not experience this lack of knowledge acquisition. Students used research to learn about their family names. While learning about heraldry, students had the opportunity to design, create, and display shields representing their family lineage. Language Arts' assignments used life in a Medieval castle and village as their focal point for reading, writing, and responding. Learning continued as the sixth grade students chose other areas of interest for further development. In science classes, the students researched topics prominent during the Middle Ages, like medicine, navigation, astronomy, cook-

ing/food, mathematics, scientists, machines, castle offense and defense, diseases, and weaponry. The students then designed and built their own visual aids. Other activities included period dance, period games, and other daily activities. The student projects depicted life during Medieval Times.

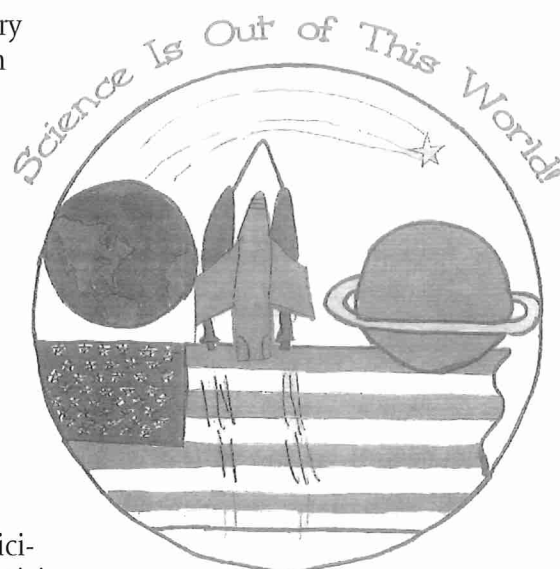
On April 11, 2003, the culmination of the learning experiences drew to a close with actual events of

the time period. By traveling through various stations which included board games of the times, weaponry, clothing, hair styles, and writing, the students experienced life in the Medieval Times. A play and dance continued the festive occasion. Finally, all proceeded to the Great Hall for a feast appropriate to the masses of the times. The curtain fell after the competition of the catapults.



Science Fair

The fourth annual elementary school Science Fair was held on April 10 and 11, 2003. The number of participants this year, 107, was the largest number in the fair's four-year history. Seventeen community volunteers served as judges for the projects. The input that these judges offered each participant helped them understand the areas of their projects that were well done or those which could have been improved. Each participant received a certificate of participation and a t-shirt with the Science Fair logo printed on it



Science Fair 2003

High School Art and Theatre Club NYC Trip

Students belonging to Art Club and Theatre Club had the opportunity for a long weekend field trip to New York City on April 3 through 6. Forty-nine students made the journey to experience the unique culture of New York.

Students were housed at the Howard Johnson Hotel on 8th and 52nd Streets. With detailed planning by advisors Mr. Thomas Moore and Mrs. Colleen Goerlich, students were able to make choices about how to spend time. Most took advantage of Broadway and off-Broadway entertainment. Students also seized opportunities to visit museums, preeminently the Metropolitan, and to experience international cuisine and shopping.

One of the activities significant for senior Samantha Cohen was to have visited Ground Zero. The experience for her was "really moving." She noted that surviving buildings in the area were massive, and that the World Trade Center towers would have made the size of these buildings insignificant.

Senior Doug McClelland has a personal interest in New York. Upon his high school graduation, he plans to attend Pratt Institute. "Knowing I'm going to school there, I tried to be in places I would be while attending school," he said. Doug and others made visits to Greenwich Village and SoHo.

Junior Brandon Locher visited Times Square and the Today show. He attended several theater performances including De La Guarda, a favorite of many students. He noted the city's diversity of cultures and how big businesses coexisted with small shops.

Students characterized their sense

of security in New York as feeling "extremely safe" and "absolutely comfortable." They credited the visibility of police and the availability and guidance from their chaperones as factors that enhanced their

feelings of well-being. Brandon Locher probably represented the feelings of most students about the trip when he commented, "It was a great trip. I enjoyed it a lot!"

Elementary Talent Show

One of the new events introduced by the elementary school's Parent Teacher Organization this year was the opportunity for families to participate in the first annual Talent Show. Fifty-eight elementary school students and family members performed in either the March 4 or March 6 show. Two teacher acts were also involved in the shows. Each show offered a wide range of performances including magic acts, comedy, juggling, dancing, gymnastics, puppetry, and poetry reading. Additionally, a wide range of musical performances highlighted pianists, guitar soloists, drummers, singers, and a saxophonist.

The Talent Show represented a collaborative effort between the fourth grade teachers and parent co-chairpersons Lorraine Nulton and Paulette Getz. The teachers assumed the responsibility of publicizing the event within the school. Fourth grade students created posters announcing the event and provided timely information on the morning broadcasts. The fourth graders also created the backdrop for the stage and assisted with refreshments and backstage during both performances. Our two "Night of a Thousand Stars" performances provided many happy memories for both the performers and the audiences.

Congratulations on Music Man Performance

Several fourth graders were part of the cast for the High School production of *The Music Man*. Nate Bennett, Annabeth Faucher, Luke Gonzalez, and Lauren Pittman-Deering were part of the cast. Congratulations to these budding young actors and actresses for their wonderful performances!



Left to Right: Nate Bennett, Luke Gonzalez, Lauren Pittman-Deering, Annabeth Faucher.

Special Events

Westy Pics – A Website for Students and Parents

Westmont Hilltop students and parents have been presented with a new opportunity beginning this spring. Mrs. Goerlich, high school art teacher and yearbook advisor, with the financial support of some of the athletic booster groups, has set up a web site which allows students and parents to purchase prints from several sporting events, Homecoming, and WHHS's production of "The Music Man" from the 2002-2003 school year. The collection of photographs taken by Mrs. Goerlich can be viewed at the following website:

<http://westy.jtwn.k12.pa.us/westy pics/>

With the help of Tim Hamel and Nick Patton, the wrestling boosters solicited the booster clubs in the school for donations to buy the printer and supplies needed to get this project started.

Junior Alex Kring and 2002 WHHS graduate Ryan Robb provided the expertise needed to get the site up and running in mid-March. We commend Mrs. Goerlich, the booster groups who contributed funds for the purchase of the printer and supplies, and the students who assisted in the site setup for contributing their time and effort toward this very worthwhile project.

Instructions for use:

The site is best viewed using Internet Explorer 6.0. When the thumbnails are clicked on, the pictures are extremely large. Wait for the photograph to load and click on the picture again. The photo will then become normal size.

When photos are ordered, they will be cropped and lightened, if necessary, using Adobe Photoshop and printed on the best quality photo paper.

The cost for the photographs is \$1.00 for a 4" X 6" print and \$2.50 for a 8" X 10" print.

Sports Achievement

Westmont Hilltop Middle School Receives PIAA Sportsmanship Award

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) defines sportsmanship as "those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on others' behavior." The PIAA District 6 Committee, at their March meeting, presented the Westmont Hilltop Middle School with a school category sportsmanship award. The annual award recognizes exemplary behavior and efforts in the area of sportsmanship.

To qualify for the award a school must not have been sanctioned by the PIAA, or experienced an ejection of a coach, player or spectator from an interscholastic athletic contest by

a PIAA-registered official during the previous spring sports' season or during the current fall or winter sports' seasons. The school must exemplify the ideals of good sportsmanship as identified in the PIAA "SPORTSMANSHIP Manual."

The successful recipient must have demonstrated in more than one instance a special effort that reflects a true understanding of sportsmanship as it relates to interscholastic athletics. We are very proud of our students, fans, teachers, and coaches for their exemplary behavior in the area of sportsmanship. The Westmont Hilltop Middle School will receive a banner from the PIAA District 6 committee at the next meeting.



Westmont Hilltop Middle School chosen for the PIAA Sportsmanship Award.

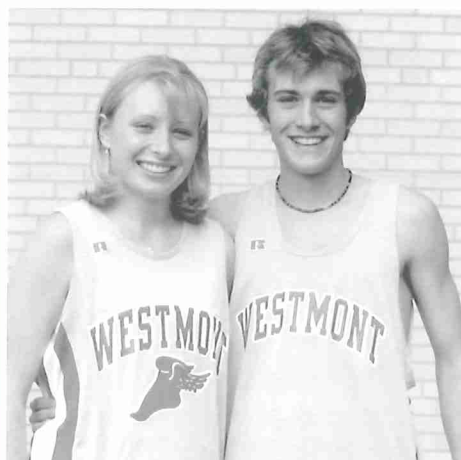
Athletic Recognition - 2002-2003 Individual Excellence Award

Outstanding Male Athlete Stephen Gonzalez

Stephen Gonzalez was awarded the Outstanding Male Athlete Award at the Athletic Awards Assembly. Steve earned ten varsity letters during his career at Westmont Hilltop – two in swimming and four each in cross country and track. In cross country, he was a third place finisher in the District 6 meet during his senior year and qualified for and participated in two PIAA State Cross Country Meets in his career at Westmont Hilltop. In track, he holds school records in the 1600 and 3200 meter runs and holds the West Central Track Coaches' Meet record in the 3200 meter run. Over his career, Steve qualified for three PIAA State Track Meet events and was twice named to the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference All-Conference Track Team. He was the 2003 Westmont Hilltop Boys' Track and Field MVP. Steve is a member of the National Honor Society and will continue his education and athletic endeavors at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Outstanding Female Athlete Anna Kowtoniuk

Anna (Annie) Kowtoniuk was awarded the Outstanding Female Athlete Award at the Athletic Awards Assembly. Annie has earned seven varsity letters as a student-athlete at Westmont Hilltop – three in cross country and four in track. She placed in the top ten three times at the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference and the District 6 Cross Country Meets, and has participated in four PIAA State Meets – three in cross country and one in track. Annie was named to the Coaches



Individual Athletic Award Winners Annie Kowtoniuk and Steve Gonzalez

All-Area Cross Country Team three times and the Laurel Highlands All-Conference Cross Country Team two times. She holds school records in both the 1600 and 3200 meter runs, and shares the record for the 3200 relay. Annie was the 2003 Westmont Hilltop Girls' Track and Field Team MVP. Annie will attend Delaware University in the fall to continue her education and figure skating career.

Dana McAllister and Prabhu Narahari Nominated As Top Scholar-Athletes

Dana McAllister and Prabhu Narahari were Westmont Hilltop's nominees for a national competition called the Wendy's High School Heisman Program. They were also nominated for the YMCA Scholar-Athlete Banquet in Pittsburgh. Both of these programs recognize seniors who have demonstrated equal strengths in the areas of scholarship, involvement in sports, and involvement in clubs and activities in and out of school.

Athletic Awards Day Award Recipients

David Coulson Award - Outstanding Football Player

Pat Kepple

Herdman-Dailey Award - Outstanding Girls' Track

Annie Kowtoniuk/Kaitlin Urban

Herdman-Dailey Award - Outstanding Boys' Track

Steve Gonzalez

Lori Blackburn Memorial Award - Track Team Dedication

Krista Britcher/Jeff Kessler



Row 1: Outstanding Wrestler - Grant Stetz; Outstanding Softball Players - Cassandra Wild, Nicole Waligora. Row 2: Outstanding Tennis Players - Ajay Nune, Priya Narahari, Prabhu Narahari. Row 3: Outstanding Hockey Players - Patrick Krumenacker, Justin McKolosky; Outstanding Volleyball Player - Allison Cooney.

Dr. Michael Sewak Award - Outstanding Girls' Basketball Player

Krista Britcher

Skip Pristow Award - Outstanding Boys' Basketball Player

Anthony Battaglia/Jeff Kessler

William Askey Award - Outstanding Volleyball Player

Allison Cooney

Ellwood Ailes Award - Outstanding Baseball Player

Dustin Kramer

continued on next page

Sports Achievement

Athletic Awards Day

continued from page 19

John P. Harty Award - Outstanding Softball Players

Nicole Waligora/Cassie Wild

Claycomb Coach's Award - Outstanding Wrestler

Grant Stetz

Ken Null Memorial Award - Most Falls

Mike Cameron/Grant Stetz

Jerry Griffith Award - Most Dedicated

Luke Patton

J.P. Conway Award - Most Improved Wrestler

Dan Golias



Row 1: Outstanding Girls' Track - Annie Kowtoniuk, Outstanding Boys' Track - Steve Gonzalez. Row 2: Outstanding Girls' Basketball Player - Krista Britcher, Outstanding Girls' Track - Kaitlin Urban, Outstanding Baseball Player - Dustin Kramer. Row 3: Outstanding Boys' Basketball Players - Anthony Battaglia, Jeff Kessler, Outstanding Football Player - Pat Kepple.

Milt Lantz Scholarship Award

Mike Cameron

David J. Murphy Award - Outstanding Hockey Players

Pat Krumenacker/Justin McKolosky

James Cardiff Award - Unsung Hero

Scott Kenner

Clayton C. Dovey III - Player's Player

Cory Glass



Row 1: Outstanding Female Golfer - Madeleine Lovette, Outstanding Girls' Soccer Player - Dana McAllister, Outstanding Boys' Soccer Player, Ryan Keiser. Row 2: Outstanding Girls' Cross Country - Anna Kowtoniuk, Outstanding Boys' Cross Country - Dave Mock. Row 3: Outstanding Boy Swimmer - Kieran Layton, Outstanding Girl Swimmer - Jen Price.

Outstanding Offensive Hockey Player

Anthony DeMarco

Outstanding Defensive Hockey Player

Brian Willett

Most Improved Hockey Player

Kevin Gleason

Outstanding Boys' Cross Country Runner

David Mock

Outstanding Girls' Cross Country Runner

Annie Kowtoniuk

Corona & Grady Coaches' Award - Outstanding Boys' Soccer Players

Ryan Keiser

John Saracena Coach's Award - Outstanding Girls' Soccer Player

Dana McAllister

Outstanding Girls' Swimmer

Jen Price

Outstanding Boys' Swimmer

Kieran Layton

Dr. William J. Hargreaves Award - Outstanding Male Golfer

Chris Zamias

Outstanding Female Golfer

Madeleine Lovette

Robert A. Gleason Award - Outstanding Boys' Tennis Players

Prabhu Narahari/Ajay Nune

Adele Dovey Award - Outstanding Girls' Tennis Player

Priya Narahari

Where is the Class of 2003?

The Class of 2003 will attend the following colleges and universities:

Art Institute of Pittsburgh
Birmingham Southern College
California University of Pennsylvania
Cambria County Community College
Cayce/Reilly School of Massotherapy
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Colgate University
College of Wooster
Conemaugh School of Nursing
Dickinson College
Duquesne University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Juniata College
LaRoche College
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Marymount Manhattan College
Ohio State University

Penn College of Technology
Penn State University
Pittsburgh Culinary Institute
Robert Morris University
Savannah College of Art & Design
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
St. Francis University
St. Vincent College
Trinity Valley Community College
University of Delaware
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee at Knoxville
West Virginia University

Budget Perspectives

Facing the challenge of the budget for the 2003-2004 school year, the district confronted the following facts:

The proposed operating budget for 2003 – 2004 totals \$14,957,300, representing an increase of \$587,000 or 4.2% over the previous year. Noteworthy expenditure increases include:

- **Employer Retirement/Social Security Contribution** - \$112,500
- **Health Insurance Premium** - \$356,000
- **Special & Regular Transportation** - \$31,500

Noteworthy expenditure decreases include:

- **Tuition to Vo-Tech** - \$38,000 decrease
- **5% reduction in each of the following: Maintenance, Technology, Student Activities, and Instructional Supplies & Equipment**

A 5.0 mill real estate tax increase is required to fund the budget. The real estate tax millage rate for 2003 – 2004 will total 126.25. The 5.0 mill real estate tax increase translates into an average increase of approximately 55 dollars per residential taxpayer. One mill of real estate tax generates approximately \$62,500.

Our school district continues to receive minimal support from the state. Westmont Hilltop School District's Basic Education Funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will total \$2,367,365 in 2002 – 2003, or approximately \$1,394 per student. The average state funding per student in

Cambria County is \$4,129. Our school district receives \$2,734 less per student than the Cambria County average.

The district continues to struggle with the increased cost of providing state-mandated programs such as cyber charter school payments; property, health and liability insurance; and general operating increases, while receiving minimal state subsidy increases. Approximately 80% of the school districts in Pennsylvania receive more state subsidy per pupil than Westmont Hilltop.

The district's total expenditures per average daily membership of \$7,438 during 2001 – 2002, the most recent data available, reveal that our school district spends approximately \$51 less per student than the Cambria County average. This statistic indicates that the Westmont Hilltop School District is operated in a cost efficient manner in comparison with other local school districts. The Board of Education and the administration remain committed to providing a quality educational program while maintaining sensitivity to the burden on the resident taxpayer.

During the past several years, our district has been one of the few districts in our area that has experienced a modest increase in student enrollment. During this same period, the district has taken serious measures such as a 5% reduction in discretionary spending to minimize the effect of limited state subsidy, the drastic retirement rate increase, health insurance increases, cyber charter school payments, and

general operating increases. The board and administration has continued to request that the state recommit to its obligation to adequately fund our public schools in a fair and responsible manner.

Because of the inequities in the state funding system, local tax sources account for approximately 70% of the district's operating budget. With virtually no commercial tax base and limited new housing construction in the district, resident property owners continue to bear the cost of budgetary in-

continued on next page

Westmont Hilltop Endowment Fund: Purpose and Process

An endowment is funded by tax deductible donations that are invested to earn interest. Donations can be designated for a particular cause by a donor or given as "non-designated" with the use to be determined by the advisors who govern the non-designated portion of the fund. Through the Westmont Hilltop Endowment Fund, gifts of enduring support may be given. For more information, call the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies at 536-7741 or the WHSD at 255-6751. Online information is available at:

<http://www.cfalleghenies.org>.

Budget and Endowment

Budget

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creases. School district representatives have lobbied state legislators to increase the amount of state support for public schools and to distribute funding to schools in a fair and equitable manner. They also have

requested that state legislators sponsor and support legislation to allow districts the flexibility to pursue alternate means to raise revenue and alleviate the heavy financial burden that local property

taxes impose on property owners. The following is a communication from the Board of Directors that was delivered to Governor Rendell and Secretary of Education, Dr. Vicki Phillips.

Perspectives on Governor Rendell's Proposal for Education

**Westmont Hilltop School District
827 Diamond Boulevard, Johnstown, PA 15905**

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide perspectives specific to the Westmont Hilltop School District related to the governor's proposed education funding initiatives. The proposal impacts districts differently depending on the aid ratio and the revenues that the district can generate.

We applaud the state's initiative in bringing the basic education funding to the 50% level. It has been impossible for our district to keep pace with the cost of health insurance, retirement costs, and general operating costs without raising taxes every year, despite the fact that we have operated under a directive of no increase in discretionary spending for the past seven years. That represents an approximate 14% cut in operating expenses based on a cost

of living adjustment of 2% per year. We are at the point of looking at potential program and staff reductions that would negatively impact our educational programs.

The Westmont Hilltop Context

The Board of Education and administration operate the school district in a fiscally responsible and cost-effective manner. The following comments were extracted from the recent Standard & Poor's analysis of our school district:

Relative to other school districts in Pennsylvania, the Westmont Hilltop School District (WHSD) achieves well above average student results with spending that is comparable to statewide levels. The district's spending per student is comparable to the state average, but lower than the average of a group of

peer districts with similar results. During the period examined, the district's per student operating expenses were less than the state and peer increases. On a per student basis, the district's instructional expenditures are moderately below the state average and lower than the peer group average. In the state of Pennsylvania, only 18% of schools receive less per student revenue from state sources than the WHSD. The district's comparatively high tax burden results from low state funding and reliance on local sources.

The proposed .95% increase in the PA income tax would mean a total increase of 2.9 million dollars for our district wage earners; whereas the real estate tax reduction would result in a 1.5 million dollar savings to residential property

owners. This money being raised locally will be distributed to other districts with higher fund balances, higher state aid ratios, and greater access to funding resources and grants that favor some districts. Approximately 26% of our district residents are 62 years of age or older. Senior residents, many of whom are retired and live on fixed incomes, must bear the burden of annual tax increases needed to adequately fund our school district.

Under the governor's proposal, our district would receive only a \$78,530 increase in basic education subsidy. The \$287,000 increase for full day kindergarten would not cover the costs of this initiative, whereas other districts currently offering full day kindergarten will receive a windfall. The overall increase in the tax burden for district residents under this proposal is \$890,430. If it costs the district and its residents more money to accept the funding, there is really no benefit for our district.

Numerous school districts with a large surplus in their fund balances are receiving the greatest state funding. This system is unfair to those districts, such as ours, that must annually choose between increasing real estate taxes, depleting a modest fund balance, or eliminating educational programs to balance the budget. We propose that a reasonable cap on a district's fund balance be used to determine the need for additional funding from the state. This process could conceivably create a pool of monies that could be more fairly distributed to those who historically have had no alternative but to raise local property taxes to maintain educational excellence.

Our Proposals

We propose that districts be allowed the flexibility to increase earned income tax without the constraints imposed by Act 50. This would allow districts such as Westmont, with a large number of retired residents and residents on fixed income, to distribute the tax burden more fairly to the wage earners within the school district. Alternatively, we suggest the investigation of other taxing options, such as a sales tax, that might result in a more equitable distribution of the burden.

We propose that full-day kindergarten and pre-school programs have far less of an impact in a district where most kindergarten students enter school having been to one of several local pre-schools that are preparing our students well. Most of our kindergarten students enjoy enriching home lives where parent involvement and concern for the educational process is high. Students benefit from the time they spend with their parents at this early age. In situations where this ideal does not prevail, we have made arrangements, through the Instructional Support Team, for the student to receive an extended day.

We request to be able to use the \$287,000 increase currently designated for full-day kindergarten to reduce class size in K-3, a major issue for our district, and one that would tremendously benefit our students. We are currently considering a program reduction in order to bring about reduced class size within the restrictions of our budget.

While the proposed education budget continues to provide funds for charter school start-ups, no funding is proposed to encourage school districts to explore funding incentives for mergers or consolidation of services. Consider a freeze on any new charter school development and include funding for district mergers and consolidation of services.

Summary

In summary, the Westmont Hilltop School District has taken serious measures such as a spending freeze and other initiatives to minimize the effect of limited state subsidy, the drastic retirement rate increase, cyber charter school payments, and general operating increases. The board and administration of the Westmont Hilltop School District respectfully request that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania re-evaluate the financial burden placed on local school budgets by the Commonwealth and recommit to its obligation to adequately fund our public schools in a fair and responsible manner.

It is unreasonable to assume that with 501 school districts, each with their own distinct populations, demographics, educational needs, and distinct financial characteristics, that a one-size-fits-all solution is possible. We therefore encourage flexibility in decision-making and freedom for locally-elected boards of education to represent the will of the public in meeting the educational needs of the community.

Westmont Hilltop School District Board of Education

Mrs. Karen M. Azer: President

Mr. Joseph R. Goodwin: Vice-President

Dr. Robert W. Zellers: Treasurer

Mr. Mitchell G. Azar, Mr. Ronald P. Carnevali, Sr., Mr. John M. Khuri,

Dr. Daniel R. Meenan, Mr. Scott D. Watson, Mr. George P. Wolfe

Mr. Gregory T. Sanford: Secretary (non-member)

District Administrative Staff 2002-2003

Dr. Susan J. Anderson, *Superintendent*

Mr. Steven D. McGee, *Director of Education*

Mr. Gregory T. Sanford, *Business Manager*

Building Administrative Staff 2002-2003

Dr. Patrick Duffy, *High School Principal*

Mrs. Margaret McDonald, *Elementary Principal*

Mr. Darren McLaurin, *Middle School Principal*

Mr. Thomas McNroy, *Middle School Assistant Principal*

Mr. William Marshall, *High School Assistant Principal*

Administrative Offices

827 Diamond Boulevard • Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 814-255-6751 • Fax: 814-255-7735

Email: sja@westy.jtwn.k12.pa.us

Mission Statement

The mission of the WHSD, in partnership with our community, is to prepare each student to be an informed, ethical, responsible adult in a changing and competitive global society through high expectations and a challenging educational program offering knowledge and skills within a safe, nurturing environment.

Civil Rights Statement

The Westmont Hilltop School District, an equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, educational programs or activities, based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, ancestry or disability. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with state and federal laws including: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IV, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 & 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American Disabilities Act of 1992.



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