



ABOVE & BEYOND

Winter 2010



2010 Rocket Team Invited to the White House

As part of President Obama's focus on increasing interest in math and science in the United States, various groups of student achievers were invited to the White House Science Fair in October. Penn Manor's Rocket Team that won both the Team America Rocketry Challenge and the International Youth Rocketry Challenge was one of the groups invited. 2010 graduates Nate Bernhardt (pictured on left), Jordan Franssen (center) and advisor Brian

Osmolinski (right) had the chance to meet and talk with President Obama. Rocket Team members, Brendan Stoeckl and Tyler Funk, also 2010 graduates, made the trip as well.

Ben Clark Looks to the Stars

Senior Ben Clark is busy competing in the prestigious Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. He was chosen to advance to the regional round at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in early November where he earned top honors for his project, *The Close Binary Fraction: A Bayesian Analysis of SDSS M Dwarf Spectra*, which explores how stars form. Ben will now go head-to-head against the five other regional winners who are all competing for the \$100,000 first prize scholarship in Washington, D.C. in early December.



Distinguished Alumni Nominations Requested

Penn Manor School District is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor. Do you know a Penn Manor graduate whose post graduation accomplishments have resulted in recognition, honor, distinction and excellence in their field? If so, please submit a nomination detailing their accomplishments.

A nomination form can be downloaded from the Penn Manor Alumni Association website at www.pennmanor.net/alumni. Forms can also be picked up at the high school office. To request that a form be mailed to you, call the Alumni Office at 872-9520 ext 1934. Nominations must be submitted to the high school by January 14, 2011.

Penn Manor Senior Citizens Enjoy Dinner and a Show!

Nearly 270 district senior citizens who have a **Comet Classic Card** were treated to a roast turkey dinner on November 18 prior to the senior citizens' performance of the high school play, *Is He Dead?* This is the fourth year for the event. The seniors were entertained during dinner by the string section of the high school orchestra and a brass quintet of student performers. National Honor Society members acted as greeters, helped with parking, served the dinner, and escorted everyone from the cafeteria to the auditorium.

If you are a district resident who is over 60 years of age, contact Cindy Rhoades at 872-9500 ext. 2241 to find out how to receive a Comet Classic Card. As a cardholder, you will be able to attend all regular season home sporting events for free in addition to other events.

Visit Penn Manor online at www.pennmanor.net or twitter.com/pennmanor

Report Card to the Community

Welcome from the Superintendent



As I am writing this message I can hear the delightful holiday music of our Manor Middle students preparing for their upcoming concert. It is certainly hard to believe that the 2010-2011 school year is well underway and in the midst of the holiday season! The great musical performance of our students reminds me that we have much to celebrate in Penn Manor, and this edition of Above and Beyond highlights many of the reasons.

First, we have a caring community who values the importance of public education and supports our local schools both financially and through attendance at school activities. This fact was recently confirmed by the wonderful turnout of 270 Comet Classic cardholders who enjoyed dinner and a show at Penn Manor High School despite the fact that many of these individuals no longer have a direct relationship with any of the children in Penn Manor. We sincerely appreciate these individuals who took time out of their schedules to support a great group of young people.

Our students are another reason for us to celebrate all that is good in our community, as you will see from some of the articles in this edition. Our international championship rocket team recently presented at the first White House Science Fair held in Washington, D.C. It is not every day that a school district has students invited to the White House by the President of the United States. Additionally, we have another student, Ben Clark, who is competing in a prestigious national competition as a result of his original research on star formation. These are just two examples out of the 5300 students who enter the doors of our schools each day to prepare themselves for future success.

While we continue to be thankful, we also know that there are many challenges that lie ahead for our schools. The effects of the economy are being felt in school systems across the nation, and Penn Manor is no exception. The school district is in the process of evaluating all revenues and expenses to be sure that we are using funds wisely in order to fully prepare our students for the demands of the 21st century.

I continue to be very proud of the hard work of all of our students, teachers, and staff. I hope you find this edition of Above and Beyond to be helpful in evaluating the success of our district. A review of the data provides good evidence that Penn Manor continues to excel at providing a high quality education at a reasonable cost to our community.

Michael G. Lechliter, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Penn Manor Philosophy

The Penn Manor School district recognizes, develops, and nurtures the intelligence and sensitivities of its children and adults. It provides a positive and supportive atmosphere where staff and students work collaboratively to define and accomplish goals. A great school district emphasizes academic achievement, promotes cultural awareness, and offers opportunities for personal growth; it is a place where teachers enjoy teaching and students enjoy learning.

Penn Manor Mission Statement

The Penn Manor School District shall strive for academic and personal excellence by fostering a democratic environment which motivates students, teachers, administrators, and parents to work collaboratively to improve the instructional program.

District Snapshot

The Penn Manor School District covers 113 square miles and with 5,263 students, has the fourth largest enrollment in Lancaster County.

| <u>School</u> | <u>Grades</u> | <u>2010-11 Enrollment</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Central Manor Elementary | K-6 | 584 |
| Conestoga Elementary | K-6 | 306 |
| Eshleman Elementary | K-6 | 318 |
| Hambright Elementary | K-6 | 438 |
| Letort Elementary | K-6 | 286 |
| Martic Elementary | K-6 | 353 |
| Pequea Elementary | K-6 | 393 |
| Manor Middle | 7-8 | 523 |
| Marticville Middle | 7-8 | 298 |
| Penn Manor High School | 9-12 | 1764 |
| Graduating Class of 2010 | | 458 |
| Current Kindergarten Class | | 350 |
| Number of teachers | | 384 |
| Number of administrators | | 25 |
| Number of support staff | | 272 |
| Market Value Aid Ratio | | .4526 |
| 2010-2011 Budget | | \$66,974,076 |
| Per Pupil Expenditures | | \$12,725 |
| Tuition Rate – Elementary (10-11) | | \$8,550 |
| Tuition Rate – Secondary (10-11) | | \$8,687 |
| Teacher Salary – Starting | | \$40,987 |
| Teacher Salary – Average | | \$61,130 |
| Community Population (2009 estimate) | | 40,846 |
| Total Assessed Value of Property | | \$2,223,252,738 |
| 2009-2010 Millage Rate | | 16.46 mills |
| District Square Miles | | 113 |
| Bus Miles per Day | | 5,250 miles |



Class of 2010 Valedictorian Grant Elledge (right) attends Penn State University. Salutatorian Jonathan Shue (left) attends Millersville University.

Class of 2010 Fast Facts

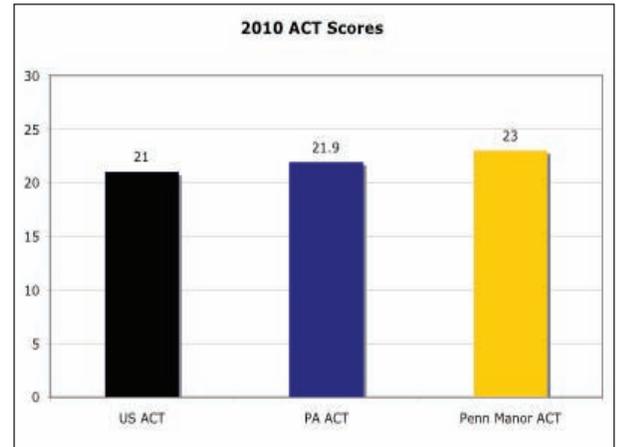
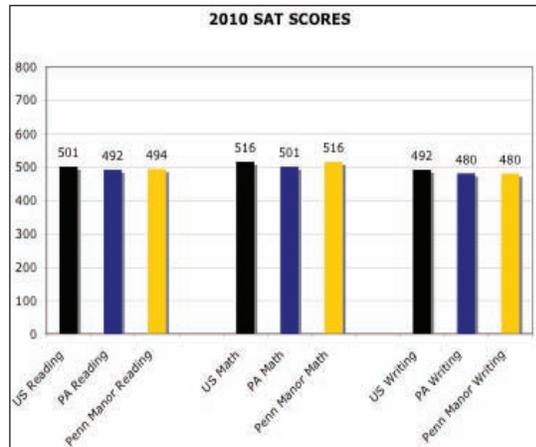
46% of the 458 students in the Class of 2010 are attending a 4 year college, 30% are attending a 2 year program, and 1% went immediately into a branch of the military. The Class of 2010 had six National Merit Commended Students and one National Merit Finalist - Grant Elledge. Seventy students graduated with a 4.0 average or higher. Seventy-five students graduated in the honors program. The Class of 2010 received \$1,402,430 in scholarships and awards.



SAT/ACT Scores

A total of 285 juniors and seniors took the 2010 Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT). Penn Manor's SAT scores were at or above the average Pennsylvania score but slightly below the U.S. average.

Penn Manor's ACT test scores have consistently been above the Pennsylvania and U.S. averages the past several years. That trend continued in 2010.

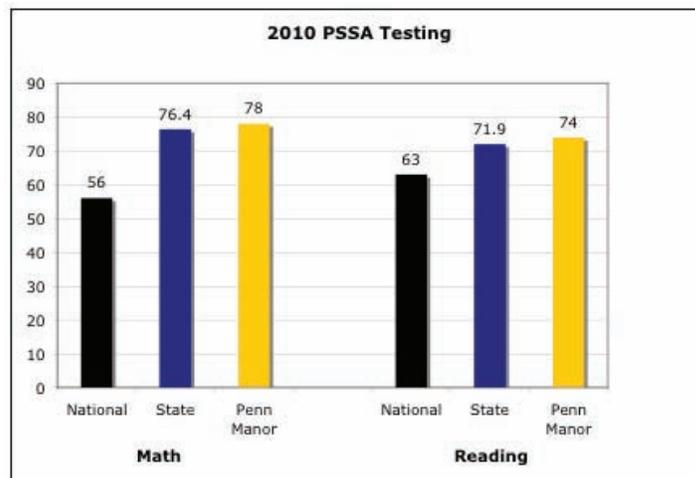


P.S.S.A. Reading and Math Proficiency

The federal No Child Left Behind legislation currently mandates that students meet the performance targets of at least 56% proficiency for mathematics and 63% proficiency for reading. In 2010 Penn Manor's average district scores of 78% for mathematics and 74% for reading exceeded the federal targets and were above the Pennsylvania state average of 76.4 for math and 71.9 for reading. Penn Manor High School is on Corrective Action I due to the performance of the economically disadvantaged subgroup.



Ag in the Classroom introduces third grade students to five different components of agriculture. Students at Martic Elementary pet a sheep presented by the Penn Manor High School's FFA chapter. *Ag in the Classroom* has been a staple in the district since 1984.



For more detailed information on all ten of Penn Manor's schools and their performance on the PSSA tests, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education - Academic Achievement Report website at <http://paayp.emetric.net/>. This site offers breakdown by school, grade, and subgroups.

If you have any questions on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) or PSSA testing, we encourage you to contact your child's building principal or Ellen Pollock, Assistant Superintendent, at 872-9500 ext. 2222.

AP & Dual Enrollment Participation

Penn Manor High School offers **Advanced Placement** courses in which students have the opportunity to gain college credit for high school coursework. A test score of 3 or higher enables students to receive college credit or exempt them from introductory level college classes. The College Board Advanced Placement program is considered one of the most rigorous programs available for high school students.

In May 2010, 193 students completed 317 exams. 88% of Penn Manor students received a score of 3 or higher. 45% of the students earned the highest possible score of 5. Twenty students were honored as AP Scholars by the College Board, thirteen students received AP Scholar with Honor recognition, eleven students were awarded AP Scholar with Distinction honors and one student, Grant Elledge, was recognized as a National Scholar.

Another option offered to Penn Manor High School students is **Dual Enrollment**. Dual Enrollment is an effort by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to encourage students to participate in post-secondary coursework and its increased academic rigor while still in the supportive environment of high school. The intent is to increase the number of students that go on to postsecondary education and to decrease the need for remedial coursework at postsecondary institutions.

For the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year, Penn Manor students are taking a total of 48 classes at Millersville University, HACC, Thaddeus Stevens, Franklin & Marshall College, and through Blended Schools Online World Languages. In order to be enrolled, students must have exhausted all or most of the academically challenging course work at Penn Manor. Courses may be taken in math, science, social studies, English, foreign language or the arts to qualify for Dual Enrollment. A sampling of the courses that students are currently taking include Calculus 3, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Linear Algebra, and Ancient Philosophy.

Notes from the Business Manager

If you have been following the news, you are probably aware of the impending financial issues confronting states, cities, towns and school districts. The effects of the economic downturn are being felt around the country as communities wrestle with maintaining levels of service while being faced with shrinking revenue streams. Our school district is no exception.

There are many financial challenges facing Penn Manor, but we have been planning for these issues for years. The district has been lauded by state auditors, local auditors and local legislators for the way we have handled our finances. We have placed ourselves in a position that will allow us to carefully consider our options. Changes will be coming; however, our strong financial standing will ensure that we will have time to move forward carefully and make the appropriate changes.

Shrinking Revenue Streams

Like other school districts, Penn Manor has few options when it comes to funding our educational programs. The majority of revenue comes from property taxes, including our annual billings, interim bills sent out when property values change in mid-year, transfer taxes collected when properties are exchanged, and delinquent taxes collected from past due accounts. While the school board can increase the tax rate within limits, natural growth occurs only when the tax base expands. As the economy has slowed development, the pace of our natural growth has slowed.

Act 1 was passed several years ago and placed limits on schools' abilities to raise taxes above a state imposed index. The index imposed for the 2011-12 budget will be less than half of what was allowed for 2010-11. Penn Manor is proud that we have been able to keep tax increases down in the past ten years. Currently our millage rate ranks 11th out of the 16 districts in Lancaster County, while we rank 4th in enrollment.



Combining map skills curriculum with pumpkins allows Eshleman Elementary third grade students to visually see where the continents and oceans are located on the earth.



Chris Johnston
Penn Manor School District
Business Manager



Fifth and sixth grade students at Letort Elementary met in small groups with area veterans through the *Adopt-a-Vet* program. The students then created posters based on their conversations and presented the posters to the veterans as part of their Veteran's Day celebration.

Another source of revenue comes from the 1% earned income tax paid to the local tax bureau. The revenue collected is divided between the municipality and the school district where you reside. As the economy has resulted in job losses and slower growth in wages, the money collected from this tax has been declining. New regulations in this area will soon affect the way this tax is collected and submitted, causing cash flow problems as schools and municipalities will wait several months for their funds.

State funding has been a stable source of revenue for decades. However, the state is currently experiencing financial struggles of its own. By using Federal Stimulus Funds to bolster statewide education funding, the state is now facing a budget year without those additional funds. While schools typically do not know the details of state funding until late spring, we have been urged to plan on significant cuts for next year's budget

Cutting Expenses

The theory holds for school districts as it does for individuals and businesses - if revenues are declining then the expenses must go down as well. The district has been working for many years to keep costs low by taking advantage of joint purchasing options for equipment and supplies and using consortiums for benefits, insurances and fuels. We will continue to look for and correct inefficiencies in our operations in order to keep the cost of education down.

Penn Manor offers many wonderful educational, co-curricular and athletic programs. Each program helps a certain group of students, and each program has its fans and supporters. As budgets get tighter, tough decisions will need to be made concerning the fate of some programs. The administration will be reviewing all programs over the coming months and years before making recommendations to the school board. This process may be uncomfortable at times but is deemed necessary in light of our economic constraints.

Expectations

Expectations will remain high for all of our students. Budgets and funding issues will not keep us from preparing our students to excel academically. The budgeting process will focus on what is needed to ensure future student performance.

What's Next?

The district has been holding presentations for community members and will continue working to keep the public informed. Budgeting issues have always been discussed at our public board meetings, and we encourage community attendance and participation. In addition, a link has been established that will allow anyone to submit cost cutting ideas to the business office. Staff, parents and community members are encouraged to share their thoughts.

Penn Manor is aware of the issues confronting the district and we are working hard to determine the best course of action. We truly appreciate the community support that we've received and look for assistance and understanding as we move forward. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to send an e-mail or to respond to the survey.

Email the business manager at chris.johnston@pennmanor.net

Submit cost saving comments and suggestions at <http://is.gd/hHL03> - this link is case sensitive.



News Flash Items

Master Facility Plan and Public Survey:

In August 2009, the School Board authorized a master facility plan study that would evaluate all district facilities and properties and make recommendations for future renovations and use options. A public survey was also commissioned in May 2010 to get input from the public.

The results of the survey are available on Penn Manor's website at <http://www.pennmanor.net/board/facility-study/> or you can request a paper copy by contacting Cindy Rhoades at 872-9500 ext. 2241.

The board will be using the data provided by the Master Facility Plan and survey over the next few years to plan for needed renovations and improvements to district buildings. Public meetings will be held in January and February to review several options for the aging Hambright Elementary School. The meeting dates and times will be listed on Penn Manor's website but if you would like to be personally notified of these meetings, please send your email address to cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net.

Purchase of Land Adjacent to Manor Middle School:

Following discussion at the August 9, 2010 school board meeting, the Penn Manor School Board directed the administration to pursue purchase of the land adjacent to Manor Middle School. On Tuesday, September 7, 2010, the Penn Manor School District approved by a 7-2 vote a resolution authorizing the acquisition of approximately 44.48 acres of land adjacent to Manor Middle School. The district already owns the land on both sides of the proposed parcel.

A public hearing on the land acquisition was held Tuesday, October 12 at 5:30 PM in the Manor Middle School auditorium. After this meeting, the school district filed documentation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in order to obtain Plan-Con C approval. Such approval will permit Penn Manor to seek reimbursement for site costs that may be incurred in the future.

Two independent appraisals were used to determine the fair market value of the land. The highest appraisal came in at \$4 million. The district offered \$3.875 million for the acreage, which was owned by Christian Willis Herr.

According to Dr. Richard Frerichs, board president, "The land the district wishes to purchase is currently zoned residential and could be sold to a developer, which would forever split the two parcels of land currently owned by the district. The purchase of this parcel will unite existing district property and provide room for growth when needed in the highly populated northern end of the district."

State of The District Meetings:

The Superintendent is currently conducting State of the District Meetings to discuss the 2010-2011 budget, financial projections for coming years and the potential impact on educational and co-curricular programs. Everyone is invited to attend.

The schedule for upcoming meetings:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Penn Manor High School | December 8, 2010 at 7:00 pm |
| Conestoga Elementary School | January 11, 2011 at 6:30 pm |
| Hambright Elementary School | January 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm |
| Letort Elementary School | January 24, 2011 at 6:30 pm |
| Central Manor Elementary School | February 1, 2011 at 6:30 pm |
| Pequea Elementary School | February 10, 2011 at 7:00 pm |
| Marticville Middle School | March 10, 2011 at 6:30 pm |
| Manor Middle School | March 24, 2011 at 1:00 pm |

For more information, please contact Chris Johnston, Business Manager, at 872-9500 ext. 2237 or by email at chris.johnston@pennmanor.net



The Penn Manor School District calendar is mailed to district residents in August of each year. This is made possible by the advertising in the calendar that helps to offset the cost of printing and mailing the calendars.

Please show your support to the merchants who advertise in the calendar. Let them know that you saw their ad in the calendar and that you appreciate their support of our school district. Also, be sure to use the valuable coupons located in the back of the calendar.

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The Above & Beyond newsletter is published by the Penn Manor School District. Questions or comments may be directed to editor, Cindy Rhoades, Community Relations Coordinator, at (717) 872-9500 ext. 2241, or cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net.

Fall Sports Teams Have Successful Season



Penn Manor's fall sports teams had a very successful season in 2010. The girls' field hockey team won its fourth straight Section 1 title and the Lancaster-Lebanon League Championship. The team was 2nd in the District 3 tournament and challenged for the state title losing to Emmaus 1-0 in the quarterfinals.

Freshman Greta Lindsley (pictured) captured Penn Manor's first ever Girls' Cross Country Lancaster-Lebanon Championship and placed 4th in the district meet. Both boys' and girls' cross country teams ended the regular season with winning records.

Sophomore Mark Dano finished 6th in the District Golf Championship and qualified for the PIAA Regional Golf Championship.

The girls' volleyball team finished its season as Section 1 and Lancaster-Lebanon League runner-ups and advanced to district play losing in the quarterfinals.

The football team qualified for district play for the second consecutive year with an overall record of 5-5. The team fell to a tough Harrisburg team in the first round.

The boys' soccer team finished 8-7-3, just missing a playoff berth. Girls' tennis finished the season with a record of 4-6 in league play.

The winter sports teams start their seasons in December. Come out and support Penn Manor's talented student-athletes.

Visit Penn Manor online at www.pennmanor.net or twitter.com/pennmanor