



# ABOVE & BEYOND

A newsletter for Penn Manor School District

Winter 2012 Issue

## Comet Classic Cardholders Treated to Dinner & a Show



For the 5th year, senior citizens who are Comet Classic Cardholders were treated to a hot meal and the dress rehearsal performance of *Dracula*. Over 250 district senior citizens filled the cafeteria on November 17th as the Manor Singers and the Brass Ensemble entertained them with holiday music. Dinner was chicken pot pie, green beans, pepper cabbage, rolls and cupcakes. Following the dinner, the senior citizens, led by members of the National Honor Society, made their way over the auditorium to enjoy a performance of *Dracula*.

If you are over 60 years of age and live in the Penn Manor School District, be sure to get a Comet Classic Card. There is no charge for the card and it allows you to attend home regular-season sporting events for free as well as other events that are planned throughout the year. Contact Cindy Rhoades at 872-9500 ext. 2241 for more information.

## Parents of Tiny Comets Enjoy a Night Out

On November 30, nineteen Tiny Comets attended the first Parents' Night Out. Several district principals, personnel, and high school students from the Child Development classes entertained the children with a movie, crafts, music and games while parents spent a few hours on their own.

Tiny Comets is a district-wide program designed to connect children not yet in school and their parents to the district. Parents' Night Out, along with PERKS Story Time are two of the programs offered. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.pennmanor.net/tinycomets/>.



## State of the District Meetings

Two community "State of the District" meetings will be held for Penn Manor residents. There will be a review of the district's budget and the factors that influence it followed by roundtable discussions. This is your opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and help the district establish the priorities of the Penn Manor community. The same material will be covered at each meeting so attend the one most convenient for you.

Thursday, March 15 at Manor Middle School at 6:30 PM  
Wednesday, March 28 at Marticville Middle School at 6:30 PM



# Superintendent's Message

On a daily basis nearly 50 million students across the United States walk through the doors of our public schools. Rich and poor, gifted and special needs, those who speak perfect English and those who have no understanding of a word of English . . . they all enter our doors and look to our schools for hope and encouragement. Knowing the importance of our public school mission, we believe that it is our foremost responsibility to provide the best support possible for each of the 5300 students in the Penn Manor School District.

In this issue of Above and Beyond you will read about ways that Penn Manor impacts the lives of people in our community beyond the classroom. From programs for parents of our "Tiny Comets" to a special program to thank our senior community members who are Comet Classic cardholders, we recognize the important role the entire Penn Manor community plays in the lives of our students. We are pleased to share just a few of many examples with you.

In addition to the above programs, a number of student-led organizations in our schools are making an impact on our community through their service. While stories on television and in the news may seem to emphasize negative actions of young people, this month we highlight Penn Manor students working to "Do Something" positive through their efforts to raise awareness of breast cancer, help feed families in need, and provide toys for children.

One final way we are reaching into the community is by extending educational opportunities beyond the walls of the traditional classroom. In recent months the district has also been working to ensure that our public schools will be poised for the challenges in the coming years. While it is important to maintain our brick and mortar buildings (as evidenced by the recent re-dedication of Central Manor Elementary School) in order to support our academic programs, we realize that an education in the 21st century will look different. Recognizing this fact, the Penn Manor School Board on January 2, 2012 endorsed a partnership with Manheim Township and Hempfield School Districts that will provide for an "Open Campus" pilot program during the 2012-2013 school year. The plan calls for developing online and hybrid courses so students have the choice for individual classes as to whether to take them in a traditional, online, or hybrid manner.

In the face of continuing economic and political challenges facing public school districts, we are looking to continue to provide innovative and sound educational opportunities for our community. I continue to be very proud of the hard work of all of our students, teachers, and staff and the support we receive from the parents and community of Penn Manor. Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael G. Lechlitter  
Superintendent of Schools



Current kindergarten students journal during a recent lesson.



## Dr. Richard Frerichs Recognized as Master School Board Member

Dr. Richard Frerichs, a retired Millersville University professor and current Penn Manor School Board president, was recently recognized by PSBA as a Master School Board Member. This year, five school board members from across the state were recognized for their exceptional accomplishments in exceeding the goals of effective governance and meeting the needs of students for the 21st century through educational excellence and equity for all students. Dr. Frerichs has been a member of the Penn Manor School Board since 1997. He has served as board president for the past 3 years and is also the president of the board of directors of the Lancaster-Lebanon IU13. Congratulations!

# Help District Schools Raise Money Without Spending Any of Yours!

Fundraising is a way of life for schools and PTO's. It helps to provide field trip experiences, additional computers, playground equipment, classroom supplies and other items to supplement the school district budget. Schools and PTO's in the Penn Manor School District have found creative ways to raise money without going door to door. You can help by just looking around your kitchen. Many items you purchase regularly may contain labels, tops, caps that can spell money for schools!

**Labels for Education ([www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com))** - This program has been around since 1973.



Some eligible brands are Campbell, Prego, BIC, Emerald Nuts, Glad Food Storage, PopSecret, Dannon Kids Yogurt, Swanson, Pepperidge Farm. Just clip the UPC labels and give to any elementary school in the district. The points earned can be redeemed for free education resources. Check the website for a listing of the specific products that qualify.

**BoxTops 4 Education ([www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com))** - Clip the BoxTop coupon from participating



brands such as Betty Crocker, Green Giant, Ziploc, Pillsbury, Progresso, Kleenex, Yo-plait, General Mills and give to any elementary school in the district. For the 2010-2011 school year, BoxTops awarded \$59 million to schools.

**MooMoney ([www.getmoomoney.com](http://www.getmoomoney.com))** - Save the lids from Turkey Hill milk products purchased at a Turkey Hill Minit Market. The lids must contain the Moo Money sticker. Each lid is worth 5¢ to the school.

**CapriSun Pouches ([www.terracycle.net/en-US/](http://www.terracycle.net/en-US/))** - CapriSun pouches are redeemed by the schools for 2¢ per pouch.

**BAGS (Buy All Groceries for Students)** - When you purchase Grocery Gift Cards at participating elementary schools, the gift cards are used just like cash when you go grocery shopping. The Letort PTO sells grocery certificates for the following stores: John Herr's, Giant, Weis, Stauffer's, and Darrenkamp's. The Eshleman PTO sells gift cards for Weis, Giant, John Herr's, Stauffer's and Lowes. The gift cards are purchased at a discounted rate which helps the PTO earn money.

**Giant A+ Program ([www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/](http://www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/))** - When you shop at Giant Food Stores and use your reward card, you can help a district school (elementary, middle schools and high school) accumulate points that translates into dollars for the schools. You need to visit the website to designate which school will receive your points. (This does **not** affect gas points you are accumulating.) For the 2011-2012 school year, Giant gave \$3 million to schools.

Schools sponsor other programs such as Cans for Computers, recycling cell phones and ink and toner cartridges, collecting aluminum can tabs. Check with the school closest to you for more information on how you can help.

## Penn Manor Calendar Coupons



Clipper Magazine has been producing the Penn Manor School District calendar since the 2000-2001 school year. The ads and coupons in the calendar help to offset the price of producing and printing the calendar allowing the school district to mail one calendar to each district resident.

Please use the money-savings coupons in the back of the calendar and mention a merchant's ad when visiting their business to thank them for their support of the calendar and the school district.

## New High School Club Encourages Students to DO SOMETHING!

*Do Something!* This is the name of one of Penn Manor High School's newest clubs. *Do Something* is a nationwide organization aimed at getting students more involved in the community. The goal of the club is to help the local community by organizing fundraisers to support local causes and volunteering service hours throughout the year. With over 50 members, the *Do Something* Club at the High School has already participated in several service activities. In October, the club sponsored Breast Cancer Awareness week. Through a bake sale and the sale of pink ribbons to adorn backpacks, over \$2,500.00 was raised for the Susan G. Komen For A Cure Breast Cancer Foundation.



In November, *Do Something* members, along with Penn Manor's Student Council, collected donations for a food drive benefiting Penn Manor families in need of Thanksgiving dinners. Together, both organizations were able to raise enough money to provide over 100 families with food boxes including turkeys. Students volunteered their time to collect and distribute toys during the holiday season for Toys for Tots and participated in Holiday Mail for Heroes. With the hard work and dedication of students, the *Do Something* Club has made a positive impact on the local community in only a few short months! If there is a local organization that could benefit from the help of the Do Something Club, please contact adviser, Melissa Frerichs, at [melissa.frerichs@pennmanor.net](mailto:melissa.frerichs@pennmanor.net).

## Penn Manor Staff & Students Reach Out to Help

Several years ago, Peg Murr, a first grade teacher at Hambright Elementary, attended a district in-service that opened her eyes to the poverty in our district. She started collecting personal hygiene and cleaning items with help from co-workers and friends and stored them at her home. The small stockpile of donated items grew and now occupies a large area in her basement. She has many helpers among her fellow teachers and staff throughout the district as well as community members. The two district social workers as well as the district guidance counselors let her know when there is a need and she and her team provide the necessary items.

The district social workers, Deb Meckley and Joy Meley, founded the Penn Manor Family Fund to help students and families in the district. The Family Fund has helped students headed to the Career and Technology Center who are unable to pay for textbooks, tools, or uniforms; families who have lost their homes to fires and floods; and students who are unable to afford what most take for granted. They organize clothing drives, collect food, help pay utility bills, provide furniture and appliances, pay for prescriptions and more with the help of staff, students and the community. Each year, the social workers start the school year with 40 backpacks full of school supplies to give to students in need.

The Penn Manor Education Association (PMEA) members jumped in to help as well. In addition to helping with Ms. Murr's stockpile, this past fall, they collected donations at a Penn Manor football game to benefit the Family Fund. Staff in the district support Dress Down Days during the year where employees make a contribution to wear jeans on a specific day which benefits the Family Fund.

Students also understand that their peers may be experiencing hardships. In November the traditional Powder Puff football game between the senior and junior girls benefitted the Family Fund. The game features a homecoming king. The king is a senior boy who has been nominated by his peers and raises the most money for his charity. This year, the charity for each of the king candidates was the Family Fund. Combined with the ticket sales for the event, the Powder Puff game sponsor, Varsity Club, was able to present a check for \$1,365.50 to the Family Fund.



Community members have helped out as well by donating needed items and sending donations to the PM Family Fund and Cafeteria Fund that ensures that all students receive a school lunch. For more information about the Family Fund and how you can help, contact Deb Meckley at [deb.meckley@pennmanor.net](mailto:deb.meckley@pennmanor.net) or 872-9520 ext. 1259.

## Dollars for Scholars

Applications are now available for Dollars For Scholars of Lancaster County interest-free loans for the 2012-2013 academic year. Loans are available to residents of Lancaster County pursuing their education during the upcoming academic year as full-time students at any accredited post-secondary institution. The loans are granted on the basis of financial need. Visit [www.dollarsforschoolarslanc.org](http://www.dollarsforschoolarslanc.org) for complete information



## Where do you get your Penn Manor News?

You can find out what is happening at Penn Manor in a variety of places:

- The district website at [www.pennmanor.net](http://www.pennmanor.net)
- The high school online newspaper at [www.pennpoints.net](http://www.pennpoints.net)
- Follow Penn Manor on Twitter at [twitter.com/pennmanor](http://twitter.com/pennmanor)
- Check out Penn Manor Blogs at [blogs.pennmanor.net](http://blogs.pennmanor.net)
- Planet PM News is another source of information at [www.pennmanor.net/planet](http://www.pennmanor.net/planet)
- Follow the Superintendent on Twitter at [twitter.com/mleichliter](http://twitter.com/mleichliter)
- LancasterOnline now has a Community News page for each school district. Check out Penn Manor's at [lancasteronline.com/pennmanor/](http://lancasteronline.com/pennmanor/)

## Athletic Wall of Honor Nominations

Nominations for the Athletic Wall of Honor are currently being accepted. This award is designed to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals whose athletic accomplishments have brought recognition, honor, distinction, and excellence to the Penn Manor School District.

If you know of a deserving individual or team, please fill out a nomination form and return it by June 1, 2012 to Penn Manor High School, Attn: Jeff Roth, Athletic Director, P.O. Box 1001, Millersville, PA 17551. Nomination forms are available at [www.pennmanor.net/alumni](http://www.pennmanor.net/alumni) or by calling 872-9520 ext. 1367 or 1867.



Don't Miss Penn Manor High School's spring musical, *Seussical the Musical*. Performances will be at 7:30 PM in the high school auditorium on Friday, March 2, Saturday, March 3, Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10.

For tickets, contact Melissa Mintzer at (717) 872-9520 ext. 1515 or by Email at [melissa.mintzer@pennmanor.net](mailto:melissa.mintzer@pennmanor.net).



## Veterans Eligible to Receive Penn Manor Diplomas

"Operation Recognition" authorizes school districts to grant a high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States military during World War II, Korean Conflict or Vietnam War. In order to recognize and honor veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II, Korea or Vietnam, the Penn Manor School Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the following requirements:

- Was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America
- Served in the United States military between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 or between June 27, 1950 and January 30, 1955 or between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975
- Attended high school between 1937 and 1946 during WWII or between 1947 and 1955 during the Korean Conflict or between 1958 and 1975 during the Vietnam War
- Would have been a member of a graduation class during 1941 through 1950 for WWII or 1951 through 1957 for Korean conflict and 1961 through 1975 for Vietnam War but did not graduate due to entry into military service.
- Is a current resident of this district or attended high school in Penn Manor or a predecessor of Penn Manor.

For more information or to apply for an honorary diploma, contact Cindy Rhoades, Community Relations Coordinator, at 872-9500 ext. 2241 or by email at [cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net](mailto:cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net). Diplomas can be awarded posthumously to veterans who meet the above requirements.

## Board of School Directors

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The Above & Beyond Newsletter is published by the Penn Manor School District.

Questions or comments may be directed to Cindy Rhoades, Community Relations Coordinator, at (717) 872-9500 ext. 2241, or [cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net](mailto:cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net)

## Dates You Need to Know...

**Snow Make-Up Day:** Friday, February 17 will be used to make-up the day missed in September due to flooding.

**PSSA Dates:** Please consider **not** scheduling vacations or appointments on these dates:

PSSA Reading/Math	Grades 3-8, 11	<b>March 12-23</b>
PSSA Writing	Grades 5, 8, 11	<b>April 16-20</b>
PSSA Science	Grades 4, 8, 11	<b>April 23-27</b>

**Kindergarten Registration:** 2012-2013 kindergarten registration will be held from 8 AM to 4 PM - March 6 at Conestoga, Hambright, Letort; March 7 at Martic and Central Manor; March 8 at Eshleman; March 9 at Pequea. Evening hours by appointment. Contact Louise at 872-9540 ext. 3600.

### District Early Dismissal Change:

The district early dismissal originally scheduled for **Friday, May 18** has been changed to **Friday, May 11**.

### Graduation for the Class of 2012:

Commencement will be held on Tuesday, June 5.

### First Day of School for 2012-2013:

Monday, August 27, 2012

## WANTED School District Motto

The Penn Manor School Board is searching for a motto that best describes the values and purpose of the Penn Manor School District and is asking for your input. The definition of a motto is:

1. a maxim adopted as an expression of the guiding principle of a person, organization, city, etc.
2. a sentence, phrase, or word expressing the spirit or purpose of a person, organization, city, etc., and often inscribed on a badge, banner, etc.

The motto should be short and to the point. Some examples of mottos used by area school districts and colleges are:

School District of Lancaster – *Together We Can*  
Solanco – *Connected to the Community*  
Conestoga Valley – *Honoring Our Past...Building Our Future*  
Elizabethtown College – *Educating to Serve*

If you would like to submit a motto, please contact Cindy Rhoades: email - [cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net](mailto:cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net), phone - 872-9500 ext. 2241, or mail - PM Motto, P.O. Box 1001, Millersville, PA 17551 by March 30, 2012. The public will have a chance to vote on the motto for the school district.