

# The Communicator

## WAHS Joan Gaydos to Receive Arts Ovation Award

Joan Gaydos has been named a recipient of Allentown Art Commission's Arts Ovation award to be bestowed on several individuals contributing to the arts in Allentown on May 3, 2007 at the Holiday Crowne Plaza. As co-founder of William Allen High School's Academy for the Arts, Joan and the team at Allen have for the last 11 years built a diverse arts program offering specialized, integrated instruction for aspiring student singers, playwrights and artists. As the Academy Coordinator, Joan schedules working artists and guest workshops as well as builds college partnerships.



Joan will be retiring from ASD after starting in 1971 at Union Terrace Elementary School, followed by 36 years at William Allen



## Superintendent's Message

I want to first express my sincere appreciation to the parents, teachers, support staff, administrators and students who have volunteered to serve on the Board's Safety Task Force. I extend my support to this task force, to the parents and students in this community and pledge my time and commitment as we rebuild together on behalf of our students. I also extend my appreciation to Mary Ramirez, Director of the Bureau of Community and Student Services, who will be providing leadership from the Pennsylvania Department of Education in linking ASD to best practices in school safety, technical assistance and professional development.

Integral to the learning environment is ensuring that our facilities support the increasing enrollment and the demands of new programs and the learning expectations associated with those programs. Weekly meetings are held with our architects and construction manager as we fine tune the scope of the facilities work and the related costs. These discussions are focused on Louis E. Dieruff and William Allen High Schools, South Mountain and Trexler Middle Schools and Jackson and Roosevelt Elementary Schools – the schools in Phase I of the Comprehensive Facilities Plan. Once the scope of work and related budget are discussed and approved by the ASD Board of Directors, the building design can be refined and presented for Board and public discussion. Asbestos abatement will be the summer work for all six schools in preparation of future renovation work.

Please enjoy this edition of *The Communicator*. Many of our staff and students are acknowledged for their honors and achievements. We celebrate these many accomplishments.

Karen S. Angello, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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## ASD Community Safety Task Force Named

In response to community concerns and to ensure that *Safety of ASD Students is the Number 1 Priority*, the Allentown School District Board of Directors appointed the following individuals to serve on the Safety Task Force at its regular meeting on March 22, 2007:

**ASD Board of Directors:** Erlinda M. Agron and Joanne E. Jackson

**ASD Safe Schools Coordinator:** Gretchen Saul

**Parents:** Tina Deutsch, Shalon Esterling, Jason Heiser, Emily Mebust, Sara Packer, Milagros Perez, Corissa Rolon, David Roth, Mary Roylance, Asaf Salloum, Annette Thiel, Mary White, Erin Whitman and Carol Zimmerman.

High School. We know she will continue behind the scenes but she will be greatly missed as WAHS and throughout ASD.

## DocWorks @ Raub MS is Creative, Inspiring.



*Principal Finlayson with  
DocWorks students*

Made possible by a grant through the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, Inc. and in collaboration with Dr. Lora Taub-Pervizpour and Dr. Kate Ranieri from Muhlenberg College's Department of Media and Communication, DocWorks is an after school program for middle school students to explore and document potential careers in two professions within the Lehigh Valley: Healthcare and Life Sciences and Information and Communication. After researching careers and learning the basics of photography, youth interview and photograph professionals from these industries. Students then make a 3-5 minute digital documentary. Mrs. Regina Finlayson, Principal, Raub Middle

**Teachers:** Kim Burke, Laura Miller and Patricia Wilburn

**Administrators:** Principals Ralph Lovelidge, James Moniz and Nicholas Perez

**Students:** Jeremy White, William Allen High School and Katherine Bardales, Louis E. Dieruff High School.

The Safety Task Force will hold its first organization meeting Wednesday, March 28, 2007 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. All other meetings will be held on the following Tuesdays at the same time: April 3, 17 and 24 and May 1, 8, 15 and 22. The Task Force's final recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors on May 24, 2007.

The overall work to be done is as follows:

1. Study and make suggestion on the ASD School Board policies and procedures related to student discipline and student safety.
2. Provide input into the revision of the Code of Conduct
3. Meet with ASD's safety partners (Allentown Police Department, child Protective Services, District Attorney's Office, Crime Victim's Council, churches and others) who will help to address safety in ASD schools.
4. Help develop systems so that parents have their concerns addressed through the schools and know how to access others in the District to assist them.

## Superintendent Calls for Review of Safety Policy and Procedures

In a move directed at providing leadership to the safety concerns of parents, Dr. Karen S. Angello, Superintendent, has requested that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provide support and technical assistance as the District reviews their Safety Policy and Procedures. PDE's Deputy Secretary of Education, Diane Castelbuono, notified Dr. Angello that the Bureau of Community and Student Services will lead the team that will provide the support and technical assistance. Dr. Angello announced this strategic action plan at the meeting of the ASD Board of Directors on March 22, 2007.

In her request to the Deputy Secretary, Dr. Angello requested that PDE focus on the following elements in its review:

1. Provide support and technical assistance to the ASD Safety Task Force
2. Share, with the assistance of the Center for Safe Schools, resources with the Task Force such as monitoring tools, evidence-based programs and safety plans
3. Offer recommendations and support for the Task Force's review of district policies and procedures
4. Offer opportunities for professional development and training

"Allentown School District must continue to strengthen its safety practices and ensure consistency in implementation throughout the ASD," stated Angello. "With the support of the Department of Education and its technical assistance, the ASD Board of Directors' appointed Safety Task Force will assist the District in further strengthening its practices and provide technical assistance in training our professional and support staff. The public's confidence in the District will grow when residents know that there is responsiveness and consistency in implementing the policies and procedures that ensure safety for all our students and staff."

Angello noted this effort aligns with another review that has been underway since June 2006. The ASD Board of Directors contracted with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) to review all of its policies at that time. PSBA will provide the

School, has been an ardent supporter of the program. Dr. Lora Taub-Pervizpour, DocWorks Program Director, says, "Doc Works features a mentoring structure enlisting Muhlenberg College students majoring in pre-health and communication fields. When youth complete the Doc Works session, they can apply for paid positions as youth mentors. Applicants will be guided by Muhlenberg College students to go through a process like what they will encounter in the future, requiring a cover letter, resume and interview."

For further information, go to:  
[www.muhlenberg.edu/communication/docworks](http://www.muhlenberg.edu/communication/docworks)

## The Ropes of Playground Philanthropy

The District has spring fever and with it, there are several ambitious playground projects underway to provide ASD students with the spaces they need to be safe as they do what all children need for healthy growth: PLAY. **Ritter Elementary School** has just accepted a \$10,000 grant from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development for the purchase of

Board in April 2007 its most recent review of the policies contained within the ASD Code of Conduct. This information will be presented to the Safety Task Force, and will also be the focus of the ASD Board of Directors Policy Committee as it continues to demonstrate meticulous care in the Board's role in formulating policy.

## ASD Honorees Spring 2007



### William Allen High School

<u>Santiago Baraciarde</u>	Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Soccer
<u>Alberto Chavez</u>	Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete <b>and</b> Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Soccer
<u>Janelle Davis</u>	Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Volleyball
<u>Kyle Fenstermaker</u>	Won 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, Advertising Design, 2007 SkillsUSA District Competition
<u>William Gardner</u>	Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Football
<u>Jacob Grazer</u>	Recipient, 2006 Eugene Jani Award <b>and</b> Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Baseball
<u>Elizabeth Grumbein</u>	Nominee, LVIAC 2006 Scholar Athlete <b>and</b> Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team, Field Hockey
<u>Jarrad Max</u>	Recipient, 2006 Morning Call "Coach of the Year" Award <b>and</b> District XI Silver Medalist
<u>Mackenzie Noda</u>	Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team <b>and</b> 2006 Morning Call All-Area First Team Field Hockey
<u>Chelsea Ott</u>	Recipient, 3A District Champion <b>and</b> 2006 Morning Call Player of the Year Tennis
<u>Gerardo Rodriguez</u>	Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Soccer
<u>Shelby Schraden</u>	Recipient, Full Scholarship to Syracuse University <b>and</b> Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Field Hockey
<u>Thu Trinh</u>	Nominee, 2006 The Second Mile Community Service Award and Scholarship Program
<u>Amber Troxell</u>	Member, 2006 LVIAC All Conference Team Field Hockey
<u>Elani Yami</u>	Recipient, 2006 LCTI Most Outstanding Clinical Student Award



### Louis E. Dieruff High School

<u>Alyssa Beller</u>	Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete Tennis
<u>Jose Cobo</u>	Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete Soccer
<u>Shahnaz Hanna</u>	Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete Field Hockey
<u>Marc Luong</u>	Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete Cross Country
<u>Drew Mauser</u>	Nominee, National Football Hall of Fame <b>and</b> Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete Football
<u>Linhda Nguyen</u>	Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete Cross Country
<u>Matthew Novatnack</u>	Nominee, 2006 LVIAC Scholar Athlete Golf
<u>Brad Paraszczak</u>	Nominee, Commended Student in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program
<u>Hector Velez</u>	Recipient, 2006-07 Scholar Award Sponsored by the National Hispanic Recognition Program



### Trexler Middle School

<u>Ted C. Carbonetto</u>	Recipient, Division I Winner, 2006 Week Without Violence Essay Contest
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playground equipment. **McKinley ES** has applied for a total of \$15,000 in Community Revitalization Grants from Senator Pat Brown and Representative Jennifer Mann's offices to construct a new playground. The most ambitious undertaking is going on at **Central Elementary School** under the leadership of Teacher, Maureen Cort, and a team of volunteers working to raise \$80,000 for a new playground. Many corporate partners and individuals are making this dream come true for this center city school.

### **Bands in the Round & All-City Music Festival**

An ASD tradition for over 50 years, the District's annual **All-City Music Festival** is set to take place Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. This year's performance will feature over 130 student musicians from grades 3-5 and offer a wide range of musical selections including classical, pop, patriotic and contemporary styles. Several teachers throughout the district will conduct.

Dr. James Moyer, Director of Bands at Lafayette College, will



### **Central Elementary School**

Mary Slotter

Title 1 Teacher, Recipient, 2007 "Mentor of the Year" Award Sponsored by Lehigh County Conference of Churches



### **Union Terrace Elementary School**

Pedro Holguin

Won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Elementary School Category, 2006 PA State Latino Coalition Essay Contest

Franchesca DeJesus

Won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Elementary School Category, 2006 PA State Latino Coalition Essay Contest



### **Washington Elementary School**

Jacqueline Woodruff

Teacher Grade 5, Recipient, 2006 "National Teacher Award" sponsored by the Milken Family Foundation

## **Civic Education Program Impacts Academic Growth, Research Suggests**

In an academic research study conducted at the end of last year, ASD's Department of Accountability and Assessment concluded that culminating activities related to the School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program do foster student academic growth. "The study suggests that the culminating activities foster student growth in reading across the board," says Myron Yoder, ASD Social Studies Coordinator. "Groups that did the culminating activities seemed to perform better on PSSA. Those students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade that did both the mock hearings and Project Citizen performed better than those that did only one of the activities. Those that did only one performed better than those that did none. For a copy of the research study or a list of this year's culminating activities, please email Myron Yoder at [yoderm@allentownsd.org](mailto:yoderm@allentownsd.org).

There are dozens of culminating activities this spring throughout ASD schools. There is also a "Civic Celebration" lunch planned for all elementary schools on June 5, 2007 for all participating students. Over 8,000 students within the District are working on civic education projects.

### **Teacher Training Opportunities**

Tuesday, April 17, 2007 4-6 p.m. Lehigh County Heritage Center:

**ASD Cross Fire- A Scholar Panel Discourse on Civic Issues**, featuring Dr. Phil, Dr. Murphy + Attorney Jessica Lenhart

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is offering the following summer 2007 graduate programs for credit:

1. **The American Revolution: Northern Campaigns** (Boston, MA to New York), June 30-July 6, 2007. This workshop features tours of the Boston Freedom Trail, Concord, Lexington, Oriskany Battlefield, Fort Stanwix National Monument and Museum and Saratoga National Park.
2. **The American Revolution: Southern Campaigns** (Charlotte, NC to

guest conduct at the annual **Allentown School District Bands-in-the-Round** performance Saturday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 200 band members representing the District's four middle schools (Harrison-Morton, Raub, South Mountain and Trexler) will participate. Richard Groller, Band Instructor from Trexler Middle School, is in charge of Bands-in-the-Round this year. Several other conductors will guest-spot.

**Dieruff  
AFJROTC Kicks  
off 'Husky Pride'  
Campaign to  
Herald New  
School Flag**



Donations can be made at AFJROTC fundraisers for a new school flag to raise Husky Pride. The original flag- forever preserved in an enclosed case- has historical and monumental value, as it went to outer space on the Space Shuttle Columbia mission SS-109 on March 1, 2002,

Washington, D.C.), July 14-20, 2007. This workshop features field studies and tours of Cowpens and Kings Mountain Battlefields, Guilford Court House, Alamance Battlefield, Monticello, Jamestown, Green Springs, University of Virginia, Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown, Carters Plantation and Gunston Hall.

3. **The Revolution in the Middle States (Statesmen & Soldiers)**, July 29-August 3, 2007. This workshop features tours of Valley Forge, Philadelphia and the Battle of the Jerseys. Participants will hear from historical interpreters portraying the Founding Fathers with a conceptual discussion of the Founding Documents that were forged in these locations, as well as an analysis of their manifestations in America's political institutions.
4. **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Summer Seminar**, July 22-28, 2007. This nationally acclaimed program focuses on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, and fosters civic competence and the responsibility among upper elementary, middle and high school students. For additional information, visit [www.freedomsfoundation.com](http://www.freedomsfoundation.com)

## Food For Thought

# ASD Nutrition Services Links Food to Performance Every Single Day

You would be hard-pressed to find another institution in the region serving 1.8 million lunches in one year. Yet, ASD's 150 dedicated employees of the Child Nutrition Services Department do that and more. ASD serves meals in 27 sites. This includes 17 transported sites, where 5 schools prepare and transport meals to satellite locations, transported by the Facilities Services' wonderful truck drivers. ASD serves approximately 3,000 breakfasts, 12,000 lunches and 500 after-school snacks every day, and over 1,000 students participate in the special milk program. The Allentown School District participates in all aspects of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the feeding component of the Child Nutrition Act enacted by congress in 1946, and serves breakfast, lunch, after-school snacks and special milk. Each meal served is required to consist of specific nutrients such as calcium, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron and protein. In addition, all meals consist of protein, grains, fruits and vegetables and milk. The newest legislation through NSLP is the implementation of nationwide Wellness Policies. This Policy is the vehicle in which school districts have the opportunity to educate the school community on the importance of healthy living. This includes proper nutrition, adequate exercise and understanding the relationship between nutrition and education. "In recent student surveys, the most popular food item served is fresh fruit!" exclaims Pamela Gallagher, Director, Child Nutrition Services. "This is particularly reassuring due to the nutritional benefits of this bountiful food. Not only is fresh fruit fresh and delicious, it provides students with a variety of vitamins and minerals that promote overall good health."

traveling 3.9 million miles and orbiting the earth 165 times. The new flag, costing approximately \$400.00, will be presented to Principal Moniz by the graduation class of 2007 during ceremonies, if funding allows.

## Kindergarten Registration

*Pre-enrollment is scheduled at the following dates and locations:*

**April 23** Roosevelt

**April 24** Mosser

**April 25** Jefferson

**April 26** Midway Manor  
(Serving Sheridan & Washington)

**April 27** Lehigh Parkway

**April 30** Ritter

**May 1** Muhlenberg

**May 2** Lincoln (Serving Central, Cleveland, Jackson & McKinley)

**May 3** Union Terrace

**May 4** Dodd

*To register, a child must be five years of age, or older, prior to October 1, 2007.*

*To learn more, contact Karen Boardman at [boardmank@allentownsd.org](mailto:boardmank@allentownsd.org).*

## Honors, Awards, Achievements



**Cadet Lt. Col Jose Cobo**, a senior Rifle Team Commander and Color Guard Commander at Dieruff High School, announced at the last drill meet that he has been accepted to Norwich University in Vermont and Penn State Main Campus. Jose is part of the championship drill team that has won national awards this past month for the third year in a row. Congratulations to all.

Students from **Allen High School** who competed in the **Division III category**—“**I’m Only Thinking of You**”—of the **Odyssey of the Mind** competition have qualified to move on to the state competition. Odyssey of the Mind is open to students from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and emphasizes teamwork, creativity and the applications of knowledge and talent. The regional competition involved 110 teams from six countries. State finals will be held on April 14 in Altoona. Good luck, Canaries.

Air Products’ daily online internal newsletter featured Dieruff High School senior, **Nick Harding**, in the company’s tribute to “Pioneers of the past and future for Black History Month” on February 1. The article described Harding’s success as a student, a captain of Dieruff’s football team, a community mentor and a member of Life Church in Allentown.

**Patti Young, Dieruff High School, has been named “Teacher of the Week”** by WLEV 100.7. Patti is the Science Department Chair and teaches biology, anatomy and physiology. “Patti comes to work every day with the same intensity and passion to do her best. She is a dedicated professional and I can’t think of a more deserving person for this award.” says Jacqueline Sham, Academic Assistant Principal.

On February 9, the Air Products’ daily online internal newsletter featured Allen senior, **Bianca Gross**, in the Black History Month tribute article. Gross is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in her class, is a member of the National Honor Society and Scholastic Scrimmage and volunteers at the Lehigh Valley Hospital and with KidsPeace.

**Robert E. Sperling**, Director of Facilities Services, received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award given by the Minsi Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He has been a leader at various levels for 13 years. For the past seven years, he has served as Scoutmaster for Troop 29, and in 2006, he was elected District Chairman for the North Valley District.

Thanks to a William Allen alumnus, five William Allen seniors—who have participated in any of the school’s athletics programs and will be going on to a four- year college—will be awarded a scholarship, each \$500. Now living in San Diego, **Alexander Obledo** donated **\$2,500 for the five scholarships** back in his hometown of Allentown.

**The Allentown Art Museum** received a \$10,000 grant from The Starbucks Foundation to support Art After School, an academic enrichment program that provides underserved youth in the Lehigh Valley with a safe and welcoming after-school environment that may not be otherwise available to them. Trexler and Raub Middle School students are specifically named as participants in this program.

**Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.** has donated \$4,500 to be utilized in support of the

## Chinese & Arabic Offered through LCCC Dual Enrollment Agreement

Elementary Arabic I will be offered at Louis E. Dieruff High School and Elementary Chinese I at William Allen High School for the 2007-2008 academic year. Students enrolled in these courses will receive both high school and college credit.

## Allentown School District Receives Literacy Grant

Allentown School District has been approved to accept \$57,000 for a School Improvement Fund Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education/ Bureau of Assessment and Accountability. Funds will be used in support of staff development in literacy in six schools identified for School Improvement or Corrective Action.

2006-07 Literacy Programs at Sheridan Elementary School.

**Christina M. Lawrence, DMD**, has donated two A-Dec dental operatory lights, valued at \$2,000 for use in the Allentown School District Dental Clinic.

**Trexler Middle School** collected 1,258 cans of food to win this year's **Souper Bowl**. Three middle schools collected almost 2,800 cans overall. Fifth grade teacher Patrick McNulty at Raub Middle School has coordinated the three-year tradition of helping to tackle hunger and uses the contest for a math project with his class. The collected food will go to the District's two food banks.

**William Allen High School's Key Club** motto is *Caring: Our Way of Life* The Club recently donated **\$1,000** to the District's homeless student initiative, showing how the motto can be put into action. The homeless student initiative in the Allentown School District greatly depends on such generosity to assist the District's over 500 homeless students each year.

ASD thanks **the Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Foundation** as it continues its support of the District with a \$20,000 contribution to support the William Allen and Louis E. Dieruff High School library collections in science, mathematics and technology. This gift fulfills a three-year commitment.

Congratulations to the **Dieruff Huskies boys' basketball team** for an impressive 11-13 finish and for making the District 11 4A tourney this past season.

## Mentoring Program for Secondary Mathematics Teachers Continues

Allentown School District is part of the Mathematics Science Project (MSP), a National Science Foundation approved program that has received assistance for three years in establishing professional learning communities and providing research in mathematics and science achievement. The program focuses on providing mentoring for teachers at the school building level utilizing professionals familiar with ASD and knowledgeable about improving mathematics achievement. Research for Better Schools will be providing continued services, which are funded through accountability grant funds and do not use local district funds. Two high schools and four middle schools will receive services as illustrated in the table below. A total of approximately 99 days (**791 hours**) of service will be provided under this agreement from February 2007 through June 2007.

School	Needs
Louis E. Dieruff HS	Mentor for 5 Cognitive Tutor Teachers
William Allen HS	2 mentors for mathematics faculty including Cognitive Tutor Teachers
Four Middle Schools	Mentors for Connected Math and Cognitive Tutor Teachers
<b>Total Service Days/ Hours</b>	<b>99/791</b>

## Girls Soccer Comes to Dieruff

On March 26 at 4:00 p.m. in Keck Park, Dieruff High School debuts its first girls' soccer team as the Huskies play Freedom High School. The soccer program will be coached by Cleveland ES teacher, Rebecca Landis, and Miss Jillian Gruver. If a commitment to the sport emerges, there will be a varsity team in 2008. Twelve games are scheduled for this season. Go, Huskies.

## ASD Wins PENSPRA Communication Awards

ASD was recognized by the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) in the 2006 Excellence in Communications Awards competition for two different projects. Awards of Honor were received for the school district's 2005-2006 Annual Report and for the 2006-2007 calendar.

The Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) was chartered in 1969 as a non-profit for public education communication professionals whose goal is to improve educational communication and

# ASD Students Join Governor's Fitness Challenge

Pennsylvania schools have overwhelmingly accepted the "Governor's Fitness Challenge" and are exceeding all expectations toward helping students make better choices for healthy lifestyles. "I'm pleased to report that 304 schools are meeting the challenge with extraordinary efforts. Since only mid-January, students have logged nearly 1.5 million miles worth of exercise," Governor Rendell said in a press release. ASD schools competing include Raub Middle School and Lehigh Parkway, Union Terrace, Roosevelt, Cleveland, Jefferson, Sheridan and Ritter Elementary Schools.

Schools began competing on January 16 for one of three \$5,000 grants that will be used to help pay for equipment to promote physical activity, such as gym and playground equipment; or to improve nutrition, like vending machines that provide healthy snacks. Winners will be announced on April 30 at the Wellness Policy Conference in State College. Students at participating schools record their minutes of activity and convert them to miles traveled using a conversion tool. Students receive credit for participation in various forms of activity, like running, walking, dancing, swimming or playing soccer. Any type of activity is encouraged.

Converted miles are then used by classes to help them interactively chart their way across Pennsylvania. During their journey, they "stop" at historic landmarks using curriculum provided by the state Department of Education. The program is aligned with state academic standards since students are learning about mapping history, geography and local scientists. The "walking paths" can easily be incorporated into a teacher's lesson plan.

In addition to his fitness challenge, Governor Rendell is encouraging schools to enhance child wellness by investing in school breakfast and providing healthier choices for all food offered throughout the school day. The proposed 2007-08 education budget will invest \$6.5 million in the health of Pennsylvania's children. The Governor's Fitness Challenge is a joint effort of the state departments of Education, Health, Transportation, Agriculture, and Conservation and Natural Resources.

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## ACT 1 Tax Referendum Question on May 15, 2007 Ballot

The Allentown School District Board of Directors, at the recommendation of the Local Tax Study Commission, has placed a referendum question on the May 2007 primary election ballot for school district residents. The question is:

*"Do you favor imposing an additional 1% earned income tax? The revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be used to reduce taxes on qualified residential properties by approximately \$309.00 in the first year and approximately \$442.00 in subsequent years. The current earned income tax rate is 1%."*

Approval of the referendum must be by a majority of the electors voting on the question in the school district. A new tax rate would be effective on the first day of the 2007-2008 school year and would continue in force until the tax is changed or repealed.

support student achievement through systematic, proactive, responsible public relations programs.

## Positive Perspectives on PSSAs

### **Marybeth E. Kornfeind-Ralston, Principal, Jackson Elementary School:**

“The teachers and staff of Jackson School are to be commended for their efforts in preparing our students for the PSSA test. The students worked diligently throughout the six days of testing. They applied the test taking strategies they learned in class. Working together to create both a learning and supportive atmosphere has truly made a difference!”

### **Michele Ryan, Principal, Sheridan Elementary School:**

“The entire Sheridan learning community has been on a year long journey devoted and committed to providing every student a rigorous and engaging learning experience. Over the course of the PSSA administration, the heart, soul and pride demonstrated by all was absolutely inspiring. If the effort put forth is an indicator of our results, our destination of attaining our goals will be achieved.”

### **David Hahn, Principal, Union Terrace Elementary School:**

“The students and staff of Union Terrace Elementary School took PSSA testing very seriously. The students’ perseverance was admirable. They deserve to be commended for their hard work for six long testing days. We are very proud of our UT Tigers!”

### **Lora Kuhns, Assistant Principal, Harrison-Morton Middle School:**

“The students were conscientious, extremely hard-working, focused and we could not have asked for a better performance by them! The students were confident they did well!”

### **Regina Finlayson, Principal, Raub Middle School:**

“Once again, the students and staff of Raub Middle School put forth an outstanding effort. Motivation building and principal incentives were crucial components to a successful week of testing. We cannot thank everyone enough for their dedication and hard work in making Raub Middle School a supportive learning environment.”

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## On the Lookout

<b>4-4-2007</b>	<b>ASD Schools Closed (Staff Development Day)</b>
<b>4-5 to 4-9-2007</b>	<b>ASD Schools Closed (Spring Holiday)</b>
<b>4-11-2007</b>	<b>Middle School Oratorical Contest, Trexler MS, 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>4-12-2007</b>	<b>ASD Committee-of-the-Whole (Education) Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>4-13 &amp; 14-2007</b>	<b>Trexler Middle School presents musical “<i>Once on this Island</i>”:</b>
<b>4-15-2007</b>	<b>William Allen Big ‘A’ Booster Club hosts Longaberger Basket Bingo – West End Youth Center, 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; Greenleaf Street</b>
<b>4-16 &amp; 17-2007</b>	<b>Kindergarten Parent Conferences (Students do not report)</b>
<b>4-18-2007</b>	<b>Elementary Schools Closed- Parent Conferences (Grades K-5)</b>
<b>4-19-2007</b>	<b>ASD Committee-of-the-Whole (Finance) Meeting 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>4-20-2007</b>	<b>Elementary Schools Closed- Parent Conferences (Grades K-5)</b>
<b>4-23 to 4-30-2007</b>	<b>ASD Kindergarten Registration</b>
<b>4-25 to 29-2007</b>	<b>SMMS Kaleidoscope performs in Atlanta, Georgia</b>
<b>4-26-2007</b>	<b>ASD School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.</b>

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The Communicator is published for members of the ASD community.

To contribute to The Communicator, please contact Nidia Whiteman at 484.765.4235 or [info@allentownsd.org](mailto:info@allentownsd.org)

Allentown School District  
31 South Penn St.  
Allentown, PA 18105  
484.765.4001 ph  
484.765.4140 fax  
[www.allentownsd.org](http://www.allentownsd.org)

<b>4-26 to 28-2007</b>	<b>WAHS Spring Musical, “<i>Sweet Charity</i>,” 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>4-29-2007</b>	<b>ASD Middle School Art Show Reception at the Allentown Art Museum</b>
<b>6-17-2007</b>	<b>Stabler Athletic and Convocation Center of Lehigh University 2:30 p.m. Dieruff High School Graduation 7:00 p.m. Allen High School Graduation</b>