

For immediate release

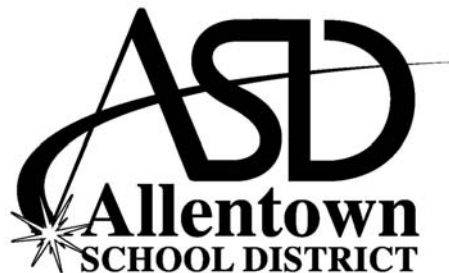
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**SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CELEBRATES HARRY TREXLER DAY WITH A NEW
CHILDREN'S BIOGRAPHY AND MEALS ON WHEELS GIFT**

(Allentown, PA) December 15, 2004 – Harry Clay Trexler was a 1) farmer; 2) founder of PP&L; 3) owner of a lumber business; 4) a brigadier general; 5) father of the Allentown park system; 6) all of the above. (Name all that apply; answer at end of news release)*.

Five classes of third grade students at Sheridan Elementary School in Allentown will make history of their own on December 22 as they celebrate the life of Harry Clay Trexler with a community outreach collaboration with Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County and an Author's Tea celebrating ASD's new children's biography on Allentown's legendary philanthropist, "The Life of Harry Clay Trexler." Written by retired Dieruff English teacher, Melissa W. Bell, the book is currently being distributed to all third grade teachers in the District to be utilized as part of the Reading and Social Studies Programs for the 1,275 third grade students who attend ASD.

Harry's New Children's Biography for ASD

With a generous financial contribution of \$13,380 from the Trexler Trust Foundation, Allentown School District has published 10,000 copies of "The Life of Harry Clay Trexler," a 28-page four-color biography depicting General Trexler's life and accomplishments. "The goal of this piece of literature is to offer third graders in the Allentown School District not only an important local history lesson and the reading of an intriguing biography, but also to provide inquiry-based questions, challenging words and classroom strategies that integrate reading, civics, social studies, history, English, and community service," says Myron Yoder, ASD social studies curriculum coordinator. "The accompanying teachers' guide has been field-tested; the book meets standardized requirements; and it will become an institutional part of teaching about the important history of the community we live in, which had been eroding from our curriculum." Written by Melissa W. Bell, and designed by Suzanne Burke, West Market Design, the book contains 30 photographs from the era in which Trexler lived, 1854-1933. The photos are part of the official collection of the Lehigh County Historical Society, and are printed with permission from the Society. The social studies curriculum unit was created by Sheridan teachers Kim Saeger, Tracy Donovan and Kathy Schaffer.

An Author's Tea in Celebration of Harry and Student Recognition

At Sheridan, classes of third grade students are currently reading “The Life of Harry Clay Trexler,” in anticipation of an Author’s Tea, taking place from 9:30 a.m – 1:00 p.m. on December 22. Author Melissa Bell will be meeting with students in five periods throughout the day in Sheridan’s library to sign copies of their Trexler books and to describe the process of writing and publishing a book, to increase their interest in the literary arts. “I plan to show the students my old manuscripts with their many edits and the designer’s layouts so that they can visualize the possibility of using the literary arts as more than a grade accomplishment in their lives,” says Bell. Members of the Trexler Trust have been invited to attend the Author’s Tea at Sheridan, to witness history in action.

Before taking early retirement in 1997, Bell’s teaching career spanned over 32 years. She joined Allentown School District in 1972 where she devoted the next 25 years to teaching English and literature to seniors at Dieruff High School. She chaired the English Department at Dieruff the last two years before retirement and was named a 2004 Outstanding Teacher by the Allentown Education Association. She continues to serve Allentown School District as a trainer for the We the People, Project Citizen and Foundations of Democracy programs from The Center for Civic Education, Calabasas, CA. She is a member of PENN Cord, a group of Pennsylvanians working with the first lady of Pennsylvania, Judge Rendell, on restoring civic education in public schools. Bell lives with her husband in Coopersburg, PA. Bell is also currently working on a fourth grade book entitled, “The Legacy of Harry C. Trexler.”

Designer Suzanne Burke has been a freelance designer since 1987, after having served at Rodale Press as an art director. She is a graduate of Kutztown University and holds a BFA degree in Communication Arts.

Meals on Wheels: A Student Effort in Support of Harry’s Philanthropic Vision

In the spirit of Trexler’s goal-setting nature, Sheridan art teacher, Chuck Ricketts, and classroom teachers Jerome Heist, Kim Saeger, Jennifer Lasko, Danielle Pahula, Tracy

Donovan and Kathy Schaffer, have been working on an independent project with Sheridan students, who are creating goodwill gifts, such as candy cane ornaments and cards placed in hand-tied lunch bags with winter scenes decorated on them, to accommodate Meals of Wheels daily food distribution to 360 clients throughout the County over the holiday and into 2005. “The project is an opportunity to acknowledge our children’s role as responsible and active participants within our community,” says Michele Ryan, principal. “Such service is in honor of Harry Trexler’s sense of duty, which every third grade class is demonstrating after reading the book.”

Sheridan classes will be recognized for achieving their reading and community service goals on December 22, when representatives of Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County drive to the school to pick up the students’ gifts. “We were really excited that the Sheridan third graders and their teachers chose Meals on Wheels for their community service project,” says Meals on Wheels Executive Director, Pamela Bechtel. “The fact that every client will receive handmade decorations is a terrific effort. The children can really be proud of their hard work. They’ll be making a lot of people happy and brightening a lot of holidays.”

The History of Sheridan Elementary School

With over 600 students, Sheridan Elementary School was founded in 1985 and remains ASD’s newest school. Located at 521 North Second Street, the school has viewed its role in the neighborhood as a community resource, where parental involvement and partnerships with local businesses and organizations are important. Principal Michele Ryan reports that in 2004, PSSA results showed improvement, with math at 41.9 percent and reading at 34.6 percent proficient + advanced results for fifth grade students. Sheridan Elementary is classified as School Improvement I, having exceeded its AYP target in math at 41.9 percent, but continuing to utilize ESOL practices to improve reading results. “We thought that an author’s tea, centered around an historic local figure such as General Trexler, would be a novel way to keep students’ interests keen on reading,” says Principal Ryan. “The author’s tea is being offered to all ASD elementary schools as a culminating

event in the teachings of Harry,” says Yoder. “The books, curriculum and author’s tea offer were delivered to schools on December 1.”

How to Obtain Copies

Journalists are invited to obtain copies of the ASD book on Harry Trexler by contacting Myron Yoder at Allentown School District or Susan L. Williams; contact information is at the top of this news release. The public will be able to find the book at the new location of the Lehigh County Historical Society in its gift shop located at the new Lehigh County Heritage Center, 4th and Walnut Streets, when it opens in spring 2005.

About Allentown School District

As the fourth largest of 501 districts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allentown School District educates approximately 17,500 students in 23 pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools located throughout the City of Allentown, and employs over 2,000 administrators, professionals, staff members and employees. The District has successfully completed a three-year Empowerment Plan. 2002-2003 PSSA scores revealed 62.8 percent of all students were in the basic, proficient or advanced PSSA categories. Over two-thirds of ASD’s students take part in a district-wide free or subsidized lunch program.

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*All of the above.