

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Winter 2012

It's that time of year again when countdowns are observed in signaling the coming of anticipated events. Many of us monitor the countdown of shopping days until the arrival of Christmas. School students count down the days until their Christmas vacation begins. The onset of the New Year is welcomed with a countdown. In the world of state education, countdowns are observed as well, although not always with welcoming anticipation, but often with anxiety. Two such educational events are mentioned in this message.

One such countdown of an event involves public schools across the state and the anticipation of the Keystone exams. These exams were designed by the state as end-of-course assessments that measure proficiency in a particular content area. Online Keystone exams were administered for the first time to our students at the high school. Algebra I, literature, and biology were given to our students during a prescribed window of time from December 3rd to the 14th. The state has indicated that additional Keystone exams will be forthcoming depending upon the availability of state funding.

Another countdown to an event that has been introduced to public education is Educator Effectiveness. Act 82 of 2012 is an unfunded state mandate that requires school districts to implement this new model of evaluation for classroom teachers, educational specialists, and principals. This new evaluation system will begin with the 2013-14 school year for classroom teachers. Educational specialists, such as guidance counselors and school nurses, and principals will be evaluated with the new system at the start of the 2014-15 school year. It will replace our current PDE model of educator evaluation. Our district was fortunate to have applied for and acquire Race To The Top grant monies to help with the cost of training administrators and teachers with the Educator Effectiveness model. This past summer, the administration was trained in the use of this new evaluation tool. The professional staff was presented with a segment of training at our Act 80 day on November 16. PDE began this as a multi-phase project with the goal of improving teaching and learning by implementing better teacher, educational specialist, and principal evaluation systems and providing these professionals with the feedback they need to improve their practice.

In other news, a new member joined our Board and the president and vice president retained their current positions. We welcome Joshua Hopkins to the Purchase Line Board of School Directors. He is a graduate of Purchase Line and resides in Commodore with his wife and children. The board reorganization meeting was held on December 3, 2012; and congratulations are extended to Mary Ann Pittman and James Stiffler on their

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reappointment as board president and vice president. The Board holds its work sessions and regular meetings the first and second Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. The meetings are open for public attendance.

The Board has been discussing the sale of the North Elementary building. Appraisals have been conducted to determine the real estate value. The Board was presented with three options of sale by our school solicitor. The North Elementary building could be sold by the process of public auction, sealed bid, or approved private sale. Each of these venues have determined requirements which may involve legal conditions, cost, and time. There is no guarantee of option for bringing the best selling price. At the December 10 regular meeting, the Board reviewed the progress to date in selling the building. The Board will again review the updated progress involved in selling the building and possibly make a decision at the January 14 regular meeting on a sale option.

We will be saying goodbye shortly to Mrs. Connie McBroom, Supervisor of Special Education. Mrs. McBroom will resign her position on January 4, 2013, to take a position elsewhere. She began her tenure with our district in February 2011. Since her coming, she has been instrumental in making needed enhancements in the education of our special needs and gifted students and our special education department. We thank her for her work and wish her well in her new position. Mrs. Barbara Mozina was recently hired by the Board as our new Supervisor of Special Education. Mrs. Mozina comes with thirteen years of experience as a special education teacher and supervisor. She will begin her position with our district on January 17, 2013.

As the countdown to Christmas is nearing, let's purpose to be mindful of the reason for the season. The hussle and bussle of the Christmas season is exciting and is a time to be spent with family and friends near and far. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year that is filled with health and happiness.

Tina M. Hazelet
Superintendent



“Coming Together for Literacy”

Bridging the Gap between
Community and School

The Purchase Line Junior Senior High School has joined with parents and community members to share a common interest in reading popular literature. On four different occasions, students, faculty, administrators, parents, and community members have met to share a meal and to discuss the following literary works: *The Hunger Games*, *On the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, *The Night Circus*, and *The Fault in our Stars*. We are currently planning our next event for *Mrs. Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children*.

The District, eager to bring the community into the school and to increase parental involvement, has been able to use School Improvement and Title I funds to purchase the student selected novels. Community interest and involvement are crucial to our students’ success and it is the district’s goal to encourage community and parental involvement in literacy. During our July reading of *On the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, a novel whose setting takes the reader back to Seattle during WWII, community members offered our students real lessons and perspectives of war torn America that textbooks could not offer. Everyone within the District is encouraged to read our selections, and to share the novel during our “Coming Together for Literacy” meeting.

Mrs. Carol Putt-Ayers would like everyone to “come out and join us as we journey through the next book. Coming Together for Literacy is a way to spend time reading with your child, as well as others in a great literacy adventure - Come and spend the evening with us.” Please plan to attend our January meeting or contact the high school office for more information. Announcements will be made when more information is available.

By Mrs. Zeglen and Mrs. Conrad

“Do You Own It?”

This school year the Purchase Line High School Administrators are encouraging students and parents to buy into their child’s education. This has started with our “Do You Own It?” campaign. We want students to be an active component in their education.

Those that have bought in early are seen displaying their “Do You Own It?” T-shirts.



Keystone Exams

The Keystone Exams came into full implementation December 3-14 for Purchase Line students. The Keystone Exams are the new state assessments to measure Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for students in high school. These assessments are taking the place of the Grade 11 PSSAs in writing, reading, mathematics and science.

For the winter wave, PDE highly suggested schools administer the Keystones to all students in grade 11, as well as any student who may have completed English 10, Biology, and Algebra I in the past and have not already scored proficient. The 11th grade student scores will be used to determine AYP this year instead of the Grade 11 PSSAs. Students taking the Keystones this year and are not in 11th grade, will have their scores banked for when they are in grade 11.

There will be three testing windows each year for students to try to become proficient on these exams. There is a winter window with two waves, a Spring window which is in May, and a Summer window which is the end of July and beginning of August. We chose to do the first winter wave, because the January wave is scheduled for the middle of our midterms. We have been trying to figure out how to administer these with the least disruptions in the school day. However, with the exams being approximately 180 minutes each, disruptions for the two weeks were unavoidable.

This is a transition year between the PSSAs and the Keystone Exams hence the large volume of testing in December. Over 160 students took the Keystone Algebra I test this month. The entire junior class also took the Literature and the Biology exams. At the end of the year, any student not scoring proficient in the winter assessment window, as well as, students currently completing Algebra I, Biology 10, and English 10 courses will take the exams.

Once a student scores proficient or advanced on the Keystone Exam, he/she will not be required to take that subject exam again. Students can take the exam up to three times a year until they score proficient or advanced. Any student graduating in the year 2017 or beyond will have to be proficient or advanced on the Keystone Exams in order to graduate high school. For students who do not score proficient or advanced, the state is currently preparing a Project-Based Assessment that will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of educators designated by the state in order to receive a high school diploma along with district requirements.

All teachers, administrators and anyone that may come in contact with Keystone Exams and PSSAs this year must undergo training in the administration and security of the exams, as well as sign a document that says that they have not and will not violate the testing security requirements. These security requirements include but are not limited to copying questions, examining the test questions, assisting students with answers, talking about test questions with students or anyone else, having posters with possible answers on the wall and on the walls in the restrooms, not securing electronic devices from students during testing...

Purchase Line Jr-Sr High School has transitioned to full implementation of online testing. Online testing allows for tighter test security, and a more efficient test administration process. As per the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE's) suggestions, all teachers and students taking the exam are to review the 20 minute video on the Keystone Exams and do the on-line testing tutorial. The testing schedule and process may not seem ideal, but we try, and we must make sure that we are in compliance with PDE recommendations/requirements.

With all of the reports nation-wide about cheating on high stakes tests, PDE began last year to randomly monitor schools' test security procedures. On December 5, a representative came to Purchase Line to monitor the Keystone Exam administration policies and procedures. He met with administration and observed the Keystone Literature Module 1 administration. According to Mr. Price, high school principal, the monitor from PDE was pleased with the methodology we have put in place to secure the integrity of the Keystone Exams.

Mrs. Lambie, the high school assessment coordinator, said "I appreciate the support of the superintendent and administration. I also am thankful for the cooperation and patience of the faculty and staff. The assessments that we do both state and local take a lot of time to plan and implement. They make it easier with their willingness to help and be flexible. Providing a double lab to test in has been a big help. It was a major factor in helping us get through the monitoring process. By moving online, we have also been able to limit the number of displaced classes and teachers with this change. Our technology people have helped us tremendously in coordinating this effort and so far we have had no computer 'glitches' and everything has gone smoothly."

By Mrs. Lambie





What are *Word Walls*?

By Ms. Misurda & Mrs. Gay

You probably have noticed or heard about a “word wall” displayed in your child’s classroom. It is an organized collection of words usually placed on one particular wall in a classroom. This display is an interactive tool for teaching reading and spelling to children. There are different types of word walls including sight words, word families, alphabet, and vocabulary words learned in various subject areas across the curriculum. Word walls have many benefits. They teach children to recognize and spell high frequency words, see patterns and relationships in words, build phonemic awareness skills, and apply phonics rules. They can also be used to connect old knowledge to new knowledge as students move from one topic to the next. A teacher will often refer to words during future lessons throughout the school year, and challenge students to recall the definitions. Word walls can provide reference support for children during reading and writing assignments. Children learn to be independent as they use the word walls in daily activities.

Creating a word wall at home is easy and a great way to expand your child’s vocabulary. They are simple to maintain, economical, and a powerful learning tool. Here’s how to get started:

- Select a place in your home where the word wall will have room to grow and be visible to your child.
- The word wall should reflect a variety of subject matter such as reading, math, science, social studies, and any topics that arise during conversations you have with your child.
- When your child encounters a word he/she does not know the meaning of, find it in the dictionary, discuss its meaning and uses, and have your child write the word on an index card and place it on the word wall.
- Review the words with your child on a regular basis. For example, if your child has a writing assignment, have him/her refer to the word wall as a resource for improving the quality of their writing.



Title I Word Wall

**Title I Grade 2 students adding words they wrote to the correct word family picture.
From left to right: Courtney Jarvie, James Overman, Tessa Hudson, and Chad Ferguson.**



Science PSSA Scores

By Mr. Peterson

Each year since 2008 students in grades 4, 8 and 11 have been required to take the Science PSSA Test. This test includes content area questions about chemistry, physics, biology, earth science, astronomy and environmental science. In addition, there are many questions about the experimental nature of science as a process. Our students have excelled on this test every year it has been given. This past year, 2011-12, was typical. At the district level, 61% of students in all grades statewide perform at proficient or advanced levels. 75% of our students at Purchase Line scored proficient or advanced, so this is 14% higher than the state average. In grade 4 alone, our students scored 12% higher than the state average; in grade 8 our students were 13% above the state average; in grade 11 we were 16% higher than the state average. Indiana County schools collectively score significantly above the state average each year. In 2011-12, compared to other Indiana County Schools, Purchase Line ranked 1st in percentage of students who were advanced and 1st in percentage of students who scored proficient or above. When grades 4, 8 and 11 are considered independently, Purchase Line is by far the highest ranked and most consistent school in Indiana County. Mr. Peterson is proud of our students and of the effort put forth by our science faculty at all grade levels at Purchase Line. Keep up the good work!



Pictured above are Mr. Peterson, High School Science Department Chairman, and members of the senior class who participated in the 2011-12 PSSA Science Test.



A Tradition: Life Skills Gives Thanks

By Mrs. Bish

On Thursday, November 8, 2012, the Junior and Senior High Life Skills hosted their annual Thanksgiving Feast. This year the students and staff shared the day with Mrs. Smith's Elementary Life Skills class, high school staff, administrators, and school board members. The Junior and Senior



High Life Skills students worked hard to prepare for the feast. During the weeks prior to the feast, the students learned about Thanksgiving traditions, manners, social skills, and kitchen safety. The students worked together to prepare the food and the classroom for the event. During the feast, the students served food and socialized with their guests.



The Junior and Senior High Life Skills would like to thank everyone who attended our Thanksgiving Feast and helped to make the day a success! We look forward to continuing our tradition for years to come.



Happy Holidays!

Electoral College

By Mrs. Knapp

With 2012 being a presidential election year the Social Studies Department could not pass up this opportunity to discuss the process of electing the president. As many of us, and our students, know there are two votes cast for president: the Popular vote and the Electoral College vote. The idea of the Electoral College has, in recent years, attracted a lot of media attention and it tends to remain a vague idea, and vague ideas have ways of attracting unpopular criticisms. So, to give our students an understanding of how the Electoral College works our Department Chair, Mr. Ninosky, organized a mock election for November 6th. As we discussed our upcoming election in a department meeting, concerns were raised regarding how much the students understood about the positions of each of the candidates. In response to these concerns Mr. Falisec composed a list of questions to help students identify their personal positions on issues and discover which party they would then vote. Our classes spent the days prior to the election discussing these questions (samples of which follow this article). On Election Day ballots were cast in class. Each period of social studies classes were assigned to vote as particular states and as the votes were tallied we were able to report them via the TV monitors in the cafeteria and hallway for students to see the results. The activity generated a great deal of interest in voting, the Electoral College process, and the political atmosphere of our nation. Our election results were 422 votes for Mitt Romney and 116 for Barak Obama. Although we as a school did not pick the winning candidate, we were representative of the wider rural area of Pennsylvania. The day following the election students who had predicted a win for Romney were very disappointed and wanted to know why this had happened - this allowed us to use internet based voting maps to show how rural and urban areas vote and how since urban areas outnumber rural areas they are usually the controlling factors in national politics. Again this sparked a great deal of interest in politics and allowed us to link issues we cover in our classes with the issues our students will face in the future. We would like to thank all those who were invaluable in helping us pull off our mock election, especially the administration for their support, the guidance and technology departments who helped us to display our results, the print shop for printing all the surveys, and the students for their participation – it was truly a collaborative effort that proves we are “working together to prepare students for tomorrow”!

Sample Survey Questions:

1. Should the death penalty remain legal?
2. Should the US Federal Government have bailed out General Motors and Chrysler?
3. Should drilling in the Arctic be allowed?
4. Should the US use military force if Iran does not dismantle its nuclear program?

Electoral College Quiz – Test Your (or your student’s) Knowledge!

1. How is a state’s number of electoral votes determined?
2. What is the total number of electoral votes?
3. What is the smallest number of electoral votes a state can have?
4. Which state has the highest number of votes? And how many does it have? And for which political party does it usually vote?
5. Which state has the second highest number of electoral votes? How many? And for which political party does it usually vote?
6. How many electoral votes does Pennsylvania have?
7. How many electoral votes does a candidate need to win?

Answers:

1. Number of House of Representatives + Number of Senators = Number of States Electoral Votes
2. 538 (Washington, D.C. has 3 votes)
3. 3
4. California, 55, Democrat
5. Texas, 38, Republican
6. 20
7. 270



A Mathematical Cornucopia of Pumpkins

By Mr. Pack

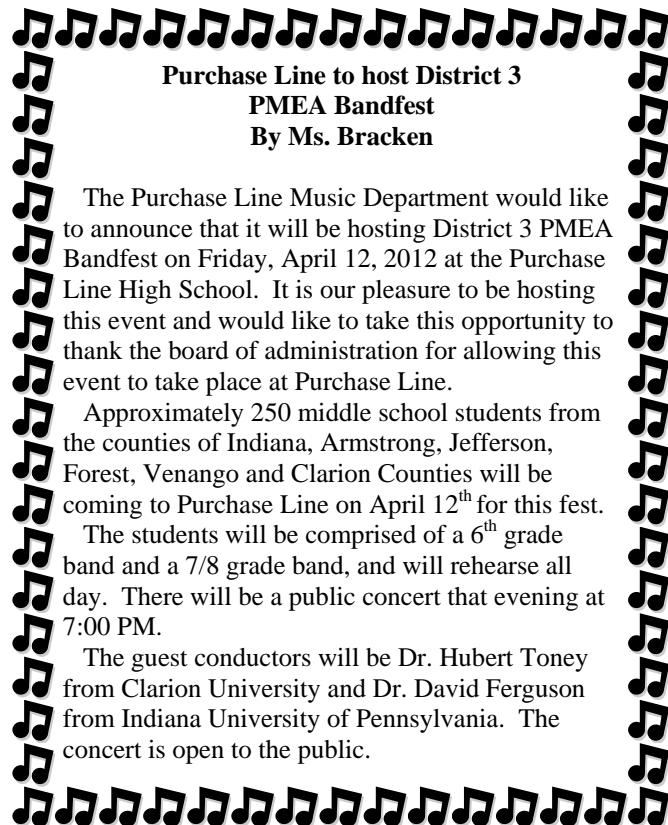
During Fall Fest, the Fifth Grade at Purchase Line Elementary celebrated a morning of educational pumpkin math activities. Throughout this themed activity, we were able to address several academic standards such as measurement, analyzing data, graphing, and estimation.

Students counted seeds and measured their pumpkins to obtain useable data and analyzed the data to see if they could find relationships. They explored the many attributes of the pumpkins such as: estimating and measuring the height and finding the circumference of their pumpkin. They graphed the data using Mr. Pack's Promethean Board. The students found the mean, median, mode and range of the data. Students also learned about symmetry and how to plot ordered pairs while playing the Pumpkin Farmer game.

The students had a great time discovering math through this activity. A special thank you to Mr. Jim McMullen for donating all of the pumpkins for this year's



activity!



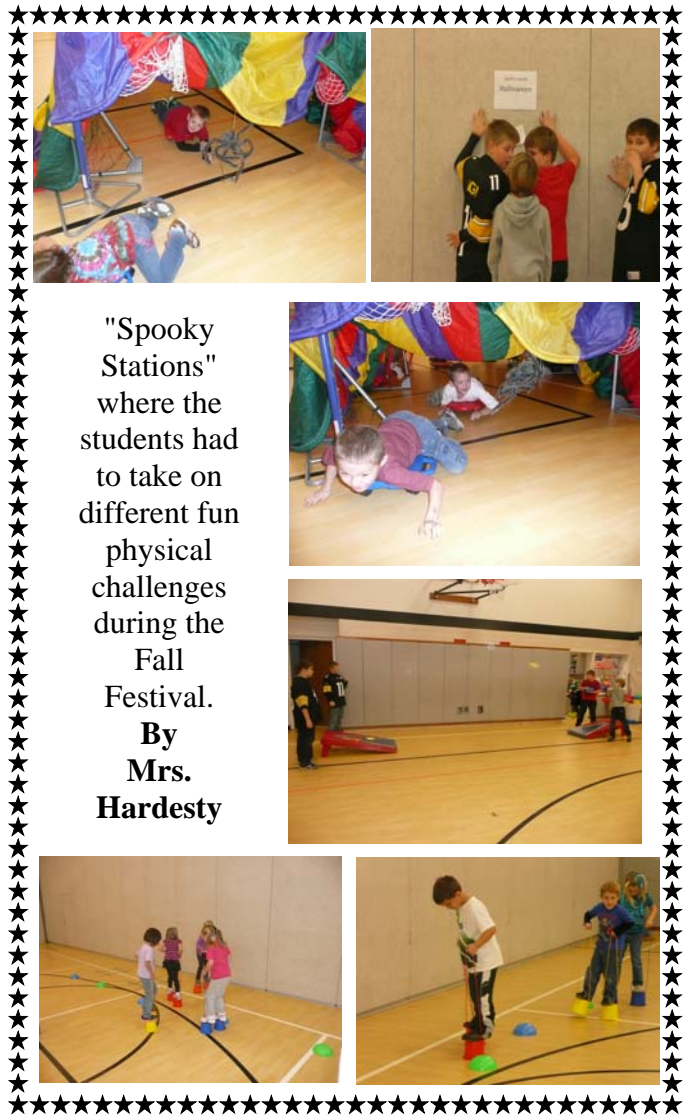
Purchase Line to host District 3 PMEA Bandfest By Ms. Bracken

The Purchase Line Music Department would like to announce that it will be hosting District 3 PMEA Bandfest on Friday, April 12, 2012 at the Purchase Line High School. It is our pleasure to be hosting this event and would like to take this opportunity to thank the board of administration for allowing this event to take place at Purchase Line.

Approximately 250 middle school students from the counties of Indiana, Armstrong, Jefferson, Forest, Venango and Clarion Counties will be coming to Purchase Line on April 12th for this fest.

The students will be comprised of a 6th grade band and a 7/8 grade band, and will rehearse all day. There will be a public concert that evening at 7:00 PM.

The guest conductors will be Dr. Hubert Toney from Clarion University and Dr. David Ferguson from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The concert is open to the public.



"Spooky Stations" where the students had to take on different fun physical challenges during the Fall Festival.
By Mrs. Hardesty



Elementary Gifted Program By Ms. Lynch

This year one of the many activities the gifted program is participating in is career exploration. At the beginning of the school year each student shared what career they may like to do when they grow up! As a way of exploring different careers, several members of our community are visiting our school to share with the students about what education, job responsibilities and skills you need in that specific career. Some of those visitors include members of the IUP basketball team and several Indiana County corrections officers. The members of the IUP basketball team focused on teaching the children about the importance of education, determination, motivation, dedication and the foundations of team work. The team showed off several tricks and dunked the ball a few times. The students really enjoyed the visit.

Row 1: Abigayle Kitchen, Rachel Snyder, Zander Bennett, James Huey

Row 2: IUP assistant basketball coach Kevin Funston, Sam Kauffman, IUP basketball player Cornell Yarde, Abigail Ewing, Emily Peles, Hannah Homerski, IUP basketball player Davon Katrayl



**PURCHASE LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION**

We want to welcome new kindergarten students coming in School Year 2013-2014. Children who will be five (5) years old **prior** to September 1, 2013, may enroll in our kindergarten program. Registration of children for 2013-2014 kindergarten classes in the Purchase Line School District will take place February 28th and March 1st, 2013 at the elementary school. Registration for the incoming students will be by **appointment only** so that teachers may screen each child to help prepare him/her for their first year in school. You will be notified of the time and date for your child's registration appointment. On the assigned kindergarten registration day, the parent or guardian must bring an **official birth certificate**, all health and immunization records of the child, parent/guardian's driver's license or other proof of residency. All children, **prior to admission to their first year of school**, are **required** by law to have the following immunizations:

- 4 doses of Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Toxoid (If 4th dose before 4th birthday then 5th dose is needed.)
- 2 Measles Vaccine
- 2 Rubella Vaccine (German Measles)
- 4 or more doses of Trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B Vaccine
- 2 Mumps Vaccine
- 2 doses of Varicella (Chicken pox) vaccine or history of disease for new registrants (Kindergarten or First Grade)

If your child will be five (5) **prior** to September 1, 2013, please complete the following form and return it to the elementary school office. You will receive notification of the day and time you are scheduled for Kindergarten registration. Transfer students (those students coming from another school district) must also meet the age requirements or must have attended school a minimum of ninety (90) days in another district. District residents (those who lived in the district one (1) year prior to enrolling their child) will not be permitted to use the transfer policy. If you know of anyone - a friend, neighbor, or relative, who should be informed of this registration, please pass along the information. Thank you! We look forward to meeting you and your child.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FORM

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____
(First) (Middle-Required) (Last)

CHILD'S BIRTHDATE _____ ETHNICITY _____

CHILD'S CITY AND STATE OF BIRTH _____
(City) (State)

FATHER/MOTHER'S NAMES _____
(Or name of person with whom child lives)

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

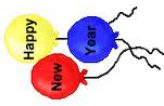
CELL PHONE (mother) _____ CELL PHONE (father) _____

SCHOOL MESSENGER NUMBER _____
(Phone number to be contacted at in the event of an early dismissal)




Name of brother/sister in Purchase Line Elementary School with whom information could be sent home: _____
Grade and/or homeroom number _____

Please be sure to complete this form carefully to help in the process of making appointments. Promptly return it to the elementary school. **Please indicate if you require a particular date and time for your appointment.**



January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 No School - Christmas/ New Year's Break 	2 JHBBB - Blairsville - A - 4:00 pm VBBS - Blairsville - A - 6:00 pm VGBB - Blairsville - H - 6:30 pm	3	4 JHBBB - Northern Cambria - H - 4:00 pm VGBB - Northern Cambria A - 6:00 pm VBBB - Northern Cambria H - 6:30 pm	5
6	7 School Board Work Session - 7:00 pm Financial Aid Night - 7:00 pm - High School Cafeteria	8 VGBB - Homer-Center - H 6:30 pm Elementary PTA Meeting - 7 :00 pm	9 JHBBB - Homer-Center - A - 4:00 pm VBBB - Homer-Center - A - 6:30 pm	10	11 VBBB - Harmony - H - 6:30 pm Student Council Dance - 9:00-11:00 pm - Cafeteria	12
13	14 School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm	15 VGBB - Ligonier Valley - H 6:30 pm	16 JHBBB - Ligonier Valley - A - 4:00 pm VBBB - Ligonier Valley - A 6:00 pm	17 VGBB - Marion Center - H - 6:30 pm	18 JHBBB - Marion Center - A 4:00 pm VBBB - Marion Center - A 6:30 pm	19
20	21 No School - Staff Development	22 JHBBB - Penns Manor - H 4:00 pm VBBB - Penns Manor - H - 6:30 pm	23 VGBB - Penns Manor - A - 6:30 pm	24 End of Grading Period and First Semester JHBBB - Saltsburg - H - 4:00 pm VBBB - Saltsburg - H - 6:30 pm	25 VGBB - Saltsburg - A - 6:00 pm	26
27	28 VGBB - Harmony - A - 6:30 pm	29 4 Sight Testing - Grade 3, 7 & 8 JHBBB - United - A - 4:00 pm VBBB - United - A - 6:00 pm	30 4 Sight Testing - Grade 4, 7 & 8 VGBB - United - H - 6:30 pm	31 4 Sight Testing - Grade 5 JHBBB - Blairsville - H - 4:00 pm VBBB - Blairsville - H - 6:30 pm		

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1 4 Sight Testing - Grade 6 VGBB - Blairsville - A - 6:00 pm</p>	<p>2 </p>
3	<p>4 School Board Work Session - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5 JHBBB - Northern Cambria - A - 4:00 pm VBBB - Northern Cambria A - 6:00 pm Elementary PTA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>6 VGBB - Northern Cambria - H - 6:30 pm - Senior Night</p>	<p>7 JHBBB - Homer-Center - H - 4:00 pm VBBB - Homer-Center - H 6:30 pm</p>	<p>8 ACT 80 Day - 2 hour Early Dismissal - High School - 12:24 pm Elementary - 1:35 pm VGBB - Homer Center - A - 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p>
10	<p>11 School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>12 VBBB - Harmony - A - 6:00 pm Elementary PTA Meeting - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 JHBBB - Ligonier Valley - H - 4:00 pm VBBB - Ligonier Valley - H 6:30 pm - Senior Night</p>	<p>15 JHBBB - Invitational Tournament - H - 6:00 pm VGBB - Ligonier Valley A - 6:00 pm</p>	<p>16 JHBBB - Invitational Tournament - H - 6:00 pm JH Invitational Dance - Cafe - 9:00-11:00 pm</p>
17	<p>18 No School - Presidents' Day </p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
24	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Kindergarten Registration Musical - 7:30 pm - Auditorium</p>		

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Kindergarten Registration Musical - 7:30 pm - Auditorium	2 Senior Class Spaghetti Dinner - 4:00-7:00 pm - Cafeteria Musical - 7:30 pm - Auditorium
3	4 School Board Work Session - 7 pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11 School Board Meeting - 7 pm	12 PSSA Writing - Grade 5 and Grade 8 Elementary PTA Meeting - 7 pm	13 PSSA Writing - Grade 5 and Grade 8	14 PSSA Writing - Grade 5 and Grade 8	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Baseball - Northern Cambria - H - 4:00 pm JHGVB - Marion Center - H 4:00 pm Softball - Northern Cambria H - 4:00 pm	26 Baseball - Harmony - H - 4:00 pm Softball - Harmony - H - 4:00 pm	27 Early Dismissal High School - 1:24 pm Elementary - 2:35 pm JHGVB - Northern Cambria A - 4:00 pm	28 No School - Easter Break	29 No School - Easter Break	30
31						



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STUFF THE BUS

By Mrs. Huffman and Mrs. Lambie



Nothing can bring a group of people together like a competition or coming to the aid of people in need. What's even bigger than that...combining the two.

Each December, Purchase Line students and faculty come together to help a worthy cause. This year is no different – it's only bigger. Sharon Huffman, the high school nurse, spearheads the December fundraising efforts with the help of students and faculty.

This year the school looked into charity options for our December efforts. With the devastation that hits so close to home, we thought we'd do what we could to help our neighbors who are still feeling the effects of Super Storm Sandy, but where and what became the questions.

Other schools have stuffed busses and collected much needed supplies. We could do something similar. The idea came to maybe raise the stakes. How about a friendly competition – maybe between us and Northern Cambria. It's for a good cause. This was the beginning of the "Stuff the Bus" competition. Northern Cambria's principal agreed.

Once we collect the supplies, where do we take them? What do we do with them? Mrs. Lambie, high school guidance counselor, contacted a minister in the New York City area who works with a homeless outreach ministry as a lead. He led her to the people of Far Rock Away, New York. Far Rock Away is an economically depressed area of Queens who, as of the end of November, still did not have power. The First Presbyterian Church in Far Rock Away runs a food pantry and clothing bank and has agreed to take our supplies and deliver them to the citizens of Far Rock Away.

The competition ran from December 3-17. Events to support these efforts in the school began with a homeroom collection competition, donut auction, PL Idol, Duct Tape Fashion Show, Find the Elf, Reindeer Games, Ping Pong Tournament, and the First Annual Cornhole Tournament. This is in addition to the Faculty/Staff Basket Auction and Cinnamon Roll Sale.

"We are just overwhelmed with how the community is responding out of the goodness of their hearts and/or the need to beat NC. No matter what the reason, it is the giving season. We are so appreciative of our students, faculty, and community. There's no place like home, and we are proud and humble to send a piece of our home to those in need," said Mrs. Huffman.