

The Bulldog Times



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Editor: Mr. Barnes

Northern Lehigh Middle School

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Mrs. Drake to become a part of history

Veteran teacher preps for retirement and starts packing for the great, warm South

By Tyler Trumbauer

I'm sure you all probably know or have seen Mrs. Drake this year and thought she was just the old social studies teacher, but Mrs. Drake is a very cool person. Except she will be leaving us after the end of the school year. I know it is a sad thing but try to hold back your tears until the end of this article.

Mrs. Drake knew she wanted to be a teacher when she was a little girl but then she changed

See Drake, page 2



Mrs. Drake, who will retire at the end of this school year, will not know what to do with herself in the warm, peaceful Florida sun.

Obama from the left and right



With our new president, Barack Obama, comes many new opinions, thoughts, perspectives and suggestions. Eighth-graders, Cory John Wagner, a proud Republican, sheds some light on the next four years from the "right." Juli Makl, one of NLMS's newest students, offers a more liberal approach.

See page 5 for their views.



From teaching history, to entering history



Mrs. Drake will be turning in her desk chair at Northern Lehigh for a hammock on the Florida shores.

Drake from page 1

her mind. So, she moved on and she was a social worker and worked in a law firm then she went back to her childhood dream and became a teacher. If you have had her as a teacher you know that she knows a lot of things and in order to learn those things she went to college. She went to Marywood University undergrad school and Wilkes University. That is one of the many ways she became so smart.

Mrs. Drake has a lot of experience. She has been teaching for 29 years. Also throughout those years she has been through many different schools and different grades. She has taught at catholic schools, Wilkes-Barre area schools, and of

course the awesome Northern Lehigh. In those three schools she has taught mostly 6th grade, some kindergarten and 1st grade and 7th also. Her favorite grade to teach out of them all is 7th grade.

I'm sure you are all wondering why she is retiring. Well, I got the answer. She is retiring because she wants to do other things in life like travel with her husband, enjoy life and also get some R&R. After 29 years it is just time to retire and Mrs. Drake said that she always wanted to quit while she was at the top of her game and while she liked it, unlike the athletes Joe Montana, or Brett Favre. While she is not traveling around the world, she will be based in Florida and the Poconos. She has a

condo in Florida and a house in the Poconos.

She also says that she will stay in Florida for the rest of her life. Even though she is going to Florida, she didn't picture herself ever moving to Florida in her life. She said that when she was young that she thought she would never get old. So I guess being a retiree never crossed her mind.

When she is living it up in the Florida sun she will be missing the art of teaching. The reason she will be missing teaching is because she likes interacting with the kids and watching them succeed.

Mrs. Drake is a great teacher. You almost always have fun in her class. So make sure you make her last year a memorable one.

SouthEast team hopes for many 'Hearts' for the 'Homeless'

By Brianna Handwerk

The SouthEast team is conducting a service-learning project through February entitled "Have a Heart for the Homeless." The theme of homelessness and the ability for a young boy to survive on the streets of New York City are in the novel "Monkey Island," which students have just finished reading.

The goal of this project is to demonstrate every individual's role in affecting a positive change for the less-fortunate.

"The best part of this campaign is being able to help local people throughout the Lehigh Valley and in our very own district," said Mr. Barnes, English teacher on the SouthEast team. "Our students might forget just how lucky they are to have notebooks, paper, and even a pencil for class. Too many people in our world, even on a local level, would give anything to have something as simple as that."

Mr. Valentini, Site Coordinator for Pennsylvania's



Some items that may be donated are school supplies and bathroom supplies, such as hair products, soaps, etc.

Homeless Children Initiative, spoke to our team about the plight of the homeless – especially the children. The average age of a homeless person is 9 years old. He shared first-hand experiences from 20 years of working with the homeless and read several of his unique poems from a collection called "7 Hours of Sanity" – all verses about homeless children.

Based on the needs of homeless children, the South-

East team is asking for donations of all types of toiletries and school supplies. Soaps, toothpaste, writing pads, pens, pencils, rulers, crayons, mouth wash, combs, after-shave, binders, etc. No item in either category is too small to accept.

"We want our students to understand the feeling of helping our fellow people," Mr. Barnes said. "In my Eng-

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Helping our troops and getting the word out

By Sam Pryor

Sgt. Richard Cripps of the 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade, 1-18 Infantry Battalion, Delta Company (D-1-18, 2BDE, ITD) needs some assistance. He and his men are stationed by a small community in Iraq and they have met some of the local children.

One day, one of the children came up to Sgt. Cripps and asked him for a pen. The Sgt. was happy to give the little boy a pen and the boy was way beyond thankful simply for a pen.

The families in that com-

munity cannot afford much and just receiving a pencil or pen makes the children happy. The troops sure would really appreciate it if you could simply go out to buy a pack of pens, pencils, crayons or markers and send them to

this mailing address: Sgt. Cripps, Richard M.

Delta Company
1/18 INCOP402
2 HBCT1ID
APO-AE 09344

Thank you for your help!



Have a Heart for the Homeless

Hearts from page 3

lish classes, one of my journal questions was, "What is something for which you could be more thankful?" The majority of my students said they could be more thankful

for what they already have in their lives, including family and an education. Have a Heart for the Homeless is the perfect way for our kids to reach out a hand to someone else. Strangers helping strangers is a beautiful thing." Do-

nations will be collected each day throughout February in the middle school home-rooms. At the conclusion of the drive, Mr. Valentini will personally deliver donations to local shelters and individuals in need.

The next four years from two different perspectives

...The Left...

By Juli Maki

Let's just say this isn't the greatest time for the president to take on America. The economy is crashing, citizens are losing their jobs, and our country is trillions of dollars in debt.

Our new leader, Barack Obama, thrives to change what has gone wrong. It certainly won't happen overnight but we hope and believe it will happen. His plans are to get the troops out of Iraq by the end of 2009. He wants our education system to provide more opportunities, as well as hiring new teachers, and, of course, he is going to try and get us out of debt.

Mostly, America is known for its power

See Maki's Left, page 6

...The Right...

By Cory John Wagner

All right, my fellow Republicans, the time has come. The time we have all feared. The fear that a Democrat would become our president has been realized. As we all know, Barack Obama has been inaugurated and is now our 44th President of the United States.

Some people are happy with this outcome but for someone like me, this was not the outcome I most anticipated.

Now I want to make this clear right off the bat. The reason I don't like Obama has nothing to do with nationality. I just simply don't agree with Democrat ideals. Obama has a few standpoints that I really don't like.

See Wagner's Right, page 6



Phinally!

By Selma Pjetrovic

After a long drought, the Philadelphia Phillies won the 2008 World Series last October, beating the Tampa Bay Rays. The final score was 4-3 with the Phillies coming out on top. It was their first world championship since 1980. Many fans went straight to celebrating their success, even attending the huge parade in Philly. The two most important people this championship made happy were Mr. Schell and Mr. Reinhard.

The Phillies have broken the curse and everyone hopes that they will be back next season taking the championship home again.



Makl's Left, from page 5

of control, and when we feel like something is not going our way, we want to step in, and what have we always done? Fight...war...guns...power...greed.

Barack Obama clearly does not agree. He believes in communication, working things out. The last thing we Americans should do is fight.

So as we've been living this lifestyle, I think we deserve a change. A good change. It is time for something different.

Wagner's Right, from page 5

For one thing, I fear that Obama will oppose the choice to keep and carry firearms.

I may only be 13 years old, but I am all for the right to keep a gun in my house, so I don't have to worry about some robber breaking in and harming my family.

Another huge disparity I have with our new leader (and probably the largest one) is the war. I am a firm believer in the war in Iraq and no one is going to make me think otherwise.

All Obama has been talking about is how he wants to end the war. I think, and this is only my opinion, if we bring our troops home, considering that we have captured one of their leaders (Saddam Hussein), they may try to attack us again out of renewed anger.

Now just because I say these things, that doesn't mean that I think Obama won't do a half-decent job. There are some things that he will probably end up doing well but I would much rather have seen John McCain giving the inaugural speech.

Oh, and really, can he come up with something more original than "change"? All we've heard is change this, change that, change is coming. For the love of God, think of something a little more original than "change" next time. Every president promises change... but will this one deliver?

NLMS girls B-ball is full of heart

By Kendra Smith

This year's team is a very competitive group. They are coached by Mr. Reinhard. Although they are a young team and inexperienced, they are very dedicated. Unfortunately, they have more losses than wins. The girls have done everything asked of them to be competitive though and are very tough defensively.

The team's captains are

Emily Moore, Nikki Horn and Autumn Stauffer, all returning eighth-graders. The leading scorer is Kelsey Follweiler. Coach Reinhard said, "This is one of the hardest working teams I have ever coached. They refuse to quit, fight through adversity and do everything asked of them. They are a lot of fun to coach."

The team is made up of an A Team, a B Team and the managers. The A Team is

made up of returning eighth-graders and seventh-graders that played in summer leagues.

The B Team has mostly newcomers to the sport but they have improved greatly throughout the season.

The managers this season are Jessie Pavalko, Nicole Gill, Lauren Zellner and Kendra Smith. Together, they make up a hard-working basketball team.



Northern Lehigh welcomes Spike!



Come say hello to Spike, who lives outside the art room.

NLMS dance team 'surprisingly fun'

By Darian Mosluk

This year's Dance Team was surprisingly fun. We got to spend time with our friends and dance. Our "animals" weren't as attractive as they could have been but we still rocked it. We also try

our best to perform as well as possible.

While supporting our JV basketball boys, we also appeared in our school's 2008 fashion show. It was our first performance so we were kind of nervous but we made it through.

Our first dance was to Disturbia's "Live Your Life" and "Let It Rock." We practiced real hard and hoped it showed through our performances. I had a really fun time this year dancing for our school and we hope everyone enjoyed watching.



Miss Bankos gets real experience

By Ruth Milburn

As everyone on the SouthEast team knows, we have a new student teacher. Miss Bankos has come to us from Kutztown University and is very happy to be here. She is Mrs. Marushak's student teacher, and will be with us until the end of February. She has been quoted as saying she loves this school and if she could stay with us until the end of the year she would. Miss Bankos is working at a degree in secondary education of English. Some people may think that she pretends to love poetry, but she really does. There are some very interesting qualities about Miss Bankos. She was in the newspaper for three years when she was in high school. Her favorite band is Muse, and her favorite color is purple. She is really into the Twilight series, but said she feels like she should say something more "reading teacherish." Her birthday is December 1 and her favorite food is tuna noodle casserole.



Miss Bankos has been student-teaching with Mrs. Marushak.

Listen up! Middle school announcements

- **Read-On!** All students and faculty...read until April 3 to benefit Child Advocacy Center! Drawings will be held on DNN every two weeks.
- **Team North...**Please remember our Field Trip date change to June 3.
- **Have a Heart for the Homeless** will continue through February!
- **Final Yearbook Sale! ...until 13.** Soft covers are \$17 and hard covers are \$20. You can purchase a yearbook during your lunch period.
- **Congratulations to the following students** who earned their American Red Cross CPR certification recently: Katelyn Kirchner, Jamie Miller, Austin Berger, Samantha Miller-Brown, and Emerald Snyder. Also, students will be able to sign up for Net Sports intramurals soon which begin on Wed., April 1 after school in the gym. These sports include: tennis, badminton, ping-pong, and volleyball. A pizza party will be held on the last day of intramurals which is April 29.

Math-a-Thon helps skills, raises money for a good cause

By Connie Hepner

The Math-a-Thon is a program designed to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital (where). As some of you may know, St. Jude's has never and hopefully will never turn a family away because they cannot afford to pay.

The money our middle school students raise will help out families that cannot pay and to help with children's

cancer research.

"I feel it's a great way for not only students to help out and learn, but also the community," said SouthEast team math teacher Mrs. Hubbs.

If any of you are wondering what the form is, it's a comic book.

It not only helps a great charity but it also helps build students' test-taking skills and problem-solving strategies, which is good for the PSSAs.

How does Mrs. Hubbs

handle it all? She runs the yearbook, five different math classes, a baby at home and her own life. That's a pretty hectic schedule.

"I have to be very organized," Mrs. Hubbs said. "And it's not that hard anymore. It's just part of my job."

Kudos to her! And a special thank-you to Mrs. Hubbs for donating her time to our school and showing students how to help a great cause.



Koda Koch gets to work on her Math-a-Thon project.

Once a dawg...

By Selma Pjetrovic

What is so special about Northern Lehigh? It is a place where you see new faces. It's a school district where friends are made and kept. At Northern Lehigh, dreams can come true.

It is the beginning of something new. Sports are number one after education. The dawgs are wild, but that's what makes Northern Lehigh the school it is. Just remember, once you're a dawg, you're always a dawg.



Danny "Gonzo" Gonzalez searches for the right answer in the Math-a-Thon.

Why?

By Selma Pjetrovic

Why are Lucas P. and Caleb J. so tall?

Why is Harlee S. so quiet?

Why is Mrs. Becker so generous?

Why does Chelsea H. pull your hair?

Why is Miss Binder the best?

Why doesn't Connor H. listen?

Why does Mr. Battista say

"so is your face"?

Why is Darien M. so skinny

but strong?

Why is Selma always in the halls?

Why is Ashley O. so cute?

Why are Shorty, Boo and
Moe everywhere?

Why do girls think they're
better than boys?

Why can Erika K. draw?

Why does Mr. Barnes love the Mets?

Why does Adam O. get in trouble
with the substitute teachers?

Why is the yearbook staff awesome?

Why does Mr. Schell make history
come to life?

Why should you
follow your dreams?

Why are seventh-graders so shy?

Why is Northern Lehigh the best?

Can you tell me "why"?