

**The Lycoming Valley Middle School**  
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



***THE SPIRIT OF GIVING***

Yuletide is a "season of giving" and we are celebrating that with three very special projects at Lycoming Valley. The "Annual Penny Drive" began Thursday, November 30 and will conclude on Friday, December 15. Students are encouraged to bring their pennies, change or dollars to contribute to their homebase containers. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and The Salvation Army will share the proceeds of the penny drive. Our goal is to raise \$1,000. We express our gratitude to Mrs. Steele for coordinating this drive for the school.

Our "spirit of giving" continues with our non-perishable food collection for St. Anthony's Center. We will be collecting these food items starting December 1, 2006 and ending our collection on December 21. On December 22, 2006 the food items will be presented to St. Anthony's Center.

In our dining room stands an empty tree. By December 22, 2006, we would like to see a tree covered with new mittens, gloves, scarves and hats that will be given to children and youth in the greater Williamsport Area. The items from the mitten tree will be given to the American Rescue workers so that they may distribute them to those who are in need of

**ECHO**  
**December 2006**

such items. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN OUR ANNUAL "SPIRIT OF GIVING!"

***Keystone Achievement Award***

The Lycoming Valley Middle School was notified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education that the school will be presented with the *Keystone Achievement Award* in recognition of meeting our Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets for two consecutive years. This award is given in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Federal Programs Coordinators (PAFPC) for the past three years.

Lycoming Valley Middle School has been recognized for three consecutive years with this award. The blue keystone award plaques hang in our main office hallway. In a letter from Gerald L. Zahorchak, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, he states "We hope you will view this recognition as one indicator of our appreciation of your efforts and as a promise of our continued support, encouragement and service to your school and school district." This recognition would not have been possible without the achievement of the outstanding students who have been part of the Lycoming Valley School community and the support of their parents. Thank you for helping us to achieve this recognition.

## *School Delays and Closings*

### **2nd QUARTER IPR'S**

The second quarter interim progress reports will be mailed on December 15, 2006. You should receive them in the mail by December 18 or 19. Progress reports are not sent for all students. If you have any questions concerning your child's academic achievement, please contact your child's teacher by calling 494-1700. All teachers have voice mail so you can leave a message and they will call you back at their earliest possible convenience.

### **MEMORY BOOK SALES**

The Lycoming Valley Memory Book sale will take place January 8-12 in your child's homebase. A flyer with an envelope attached will be sent home on Friday, January 5. The memory book features a picture of each student and staff member. Also included are pictures of ensembles, teams, and many candid shots. The book costs \$7.00 which must be paid at the time the order is placed. Checks should be made payable to "Lycoming Valley Middle School." Last year our memory book took on a new look thanks to our new school photographer, Llew Wenzel from Wenzel Photography in Muncy. We received many positive comments from both students and parents in regard to our new and expanded memory book. You will certainly want to purchase one. The memory books will be distributed on the last day of school, June 8.



School closings and delayed openings are determined out of concern for student welfare. You should refer to the local television and radio stations for the latest information. Most begin broadcasting cancellations or delays at 5:30 A.M. You should already be making prior arrangements for your child should an early dismissal occur during the school day. Please make sure that your child knows these plans. Early dismissals will be announced over the radio and television well in advance of dismissal so ***please refrain from calling the school.***



### **CONCERTS! CONCERTS!**

The Lycoming Valley Middle School Performing music ensembles and their directors have been working many long and hard hours preparing for the holiday concerts this month. You will not want to miss these presentations by our fine performing groups. Please put the following dates on your calendar and come enjoy the sounds of the season.

*Thursday – December 14 – 7:30 P.M. – LGI*

***The 6th, 7th, 8th grade Orchestras***

*Monday – December 18 – 7:30 P.M. - Gym*

***The 6th,7th, 8th Grade Chorus Concert***

*Tuesday – December 19 – 7:30 P.M. – Gym*

***The 6th,7th,8th Grade Band Concert***



## *Lycoming Valley Talent Show Coming*

Each year, the faculty and staff of Lycoming Valley host the annual spaghetti dinner in order to benefit many local organizations. Last year donations were given to the James V. Brown Library, the Old Lycoming, Trout Run, and Hepburn Township Volunteer Fire Companies and the American Red Cross. Additionally the faculty sponsors a \$250 award each year at the Williamsport Area High School Commencement that is awarded to a former Lycoming Valley student. Funds have also been used to purchase items that directly benefited our students at Lycoming Valley.

Last year we had a record attendance at our spaghetti dinner and we would like to have an equal or greater number of people this year as well. Our dinner will be held on February 9, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. We will be holding our third annual talent show to benefit the organizations that benefit from the spaghetti dinner process. We are inviting students to sign up and audition to be considered for participation in the talent show. Students may do solo acts or perform in groups and any type of talent will be considered. Sign-up for auditions will be held the week of December 18-22 in the main office. If a group is auditioning, all members' names must be listed, what type of talent, and specific title of song or performance venue. Auditions will be held on specific dates after school in January. ***In order to be in the audience for the talent show, you must purchase a ticket to the spaghetti dinner.***



## *Quarter II*

Quarter II will end on Friday, January 19, 2007. This is only 13 school days after the return from winter break. Our tentative date for report card distribution is Friday, January 26, 2007.



## *HI-R-TRAC "C" is for Compassion*

Our three "Spirit of Giving" projects on the front page of the *ECHO* demonstrate our school spirit for giving. This month in our sixth grade *HI-R-TRAC* program we will be concentrating on compassion and how we can demonstrate compassion to those around us on a daily basis. Please help your children to think of ways in which they can demonstrate compassion to those around them. We began our emphasis on the "C" of HI-R-TRAC on November 28th and will conclude on January 12th; however, the gift goes on and on long after our emphasis ends.



*May we take this time to wish you and  
your family a very Merry Holiday  
Season filled with joy, happiness,  
and love.*

*The Lycoming Valley Faculty and Staff*

## LUNCH MONEY ACCOUNT

Please remember to send all lunch money to school with your child on the first day of each week. This money should be taken directly to the cafeteria during homebase and placed in the box located in the food service area. Students ***should not*** hand envelopes of money to cashiers while going through the lunch line. The new student ID card is also your child's cafe card and if lost there is a \$3.00 replacement fee that must be paid in the office before the new card is ordered. ***The policy set by the food service is that students who owe the cafeteria money will not be given lunch.*** Please make sure that your child has money in his or her account at all times so he or she will receive lunch on a daily basis.

### ***Excuses for Absence or Tardiness***

A ***written excuse***, signed by the parent or guardian, is required for ***ALL absences***. The written excuse must be presented to a school secretary immediately upon return. An absence is considered unexcused after three days without an excuse. Students who arrive in homebase after 8:30 A.M. are considered to be tardy and must report to the office with a note from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the tardiness. Students who are excessively tardy may be assigned to Saturday school. Many students have been receiving unexcused absences due to not having a note from a parent after three days of being back in school.



The Williamsport Area School District does not discriminate in employment or education programs, services, or activities based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, marital status, or non-relevant handicaps and disabilities, in accordance with State and Federal laws, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990. Inquiries should be directed to:

Debra Savage, Director of Personnel  
Williamsport Area School District  
201 West Third St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701 1-570-327-5500

## ***Magazine Shopping Helps Us***

During the month of September, our students were involved with selling magazines to benefit the Lycoming Valley student activity fund. If you did not renew or purchase your magazines during the campaign, you can still benefit the school in the following manner:

- You can shop at home 24/7 and your purchases will result in the school earning money from your purchase
- Log on to QSP.com and from there you can shop for hundreds of magazine and music titles
- You can send an e-mail to a family member or friend from the QSP website - If the family or friend purchases anything, the school will receive money for your effort
- QSP offers "My QSP" on the website so you can track your sales and purchases to see how you are benefiting our school.

***PLEASE REMEMBER, YOU ARE HELPING OUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU PURCHASE YOUR MAGAZINES AT QSP.com.***

***Happy Holidays***





### *Counselors' Corner*

With the holiday season approaching, many of us are deciding what gifts to give to loved ones. As parents of middle school children, you may already have received a laundry list of gift ideas from your child. Many children will be asking for video games and it can be difficult for parents to know what types of games are out there. You may or may not be aware that video games are rated in a similar manner to movies. The rating symbols are different, but if you become familiar with them, you can make an informed decision about the games you want your child playing. These ratings can be found directly on the video game package along with a description of the content of the game (usually only necessary for games rated Teen, Mature, or Adult Only).

The following is a list of the ratings used by the Entertainment Software Rating Board and is taken directly from their website:  
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/feature/-/71576/102-9579632-2557740>

Titles rated Everyone (E) have content suitable for people ages 6 and up. These titles will appeal to people of many ages and tastes. They may contain minimal violence, some comic mischief (slapstick comedy, for example), or some crude language. This rating was formerly known as Kids to Adult (K-A).



#### **Teen**

Titles rated Teen (T) have content suitable for people ages 13 and up. Titles in this category may contain violent content, mild or strong language, and/or suggestive themes.



#### **Mature**

Titles rated Mature (M) have content suitable for people ages 17 and up. These products may include more intense violence or language than products in the Teen category. In addition, these titles may include mature sexual themes.



#### **Adults Only**

Titles rated Adults Only (AO) have content suitable only for adults. These products may include graphic depictions of sex and/or violence. Adults Only products are not intended to be sold or rented to persons under the age of 18.

Please remember that research shows that most young children are exposed to graphic video games through parents or other adults. Be aware of what games are in your home and be careful not to allow children to watch other adults play games that would not be appropriate for them.



#### **Early Childhood**

Titles rated Early Childhood (EC) have content suitable for children ages 3 and up and do not contain any material that parents would find inappropriate.



#### **Everyone**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's school counselor. If your child's last name starts with A - K, contact Christine Hanna or L - Z contact Kate Skipper. Have a safe and happy holiday season and enjoy spending some extra time with your children during the winter break.



## *Scholastic Writing Contest*

Congratulations and good luck to the following eighth grade students who are competing in the 2007 Scholastic Writing Contest, sponsored in our region by the Harrisburg *Patriot-News*. Winning entrants may receive gold keys, silver keys, or certificates of merit. Pieces written by gold key winners then compete on the national level in 2007.

Madelin Beattie, personal essay  
Kevin Burg, humor  
Tom Dixon, science fiction  
Caitlin Clemons, personal essay  
Nakisha Cramer, poetry  
Morgan Logue, short short story  
Desirae Flook, poetry  
Eli Getgen, personal essay  
Lindsay Fox, short short story  
Dakota James, short short story  
Katie Jedrziewski, short story  
Kevin Miller, humor  
Michael Reamsnyder, science fiction  
Dillon Shipman, short short story  
Taylor Short, poetry  
Maggie Snook, short story  
Alicia Witt, fantasy

## *School Website*

Please remember to visit our school website at [wasd.org](http://wasd.org). After arriving at [wasd.org](http://wasd.org) click on schools in the upper right portion of your screen and then select the picture of Lycoming Valley on the next screen. Once at the website, you can browse through our monthly calendar of events and read interesting articles concerning the latest happenings at the Valley. You can also read our monthly newsletter online. Also for your convenience, the past copies of our newsletter are archived on the website as well as important information and news from our PTO.

## *JANUARY ECHO*

The January edition of the ECHO will not be sent home until Monday, January 8. We return from the holiday break on January 3 and will need time to gather information in order to write and publish the *ECHO* during the week. Included with the *ECHO* will be order forms for this year's spaghetti dinner, to be held Friday, February 9 (see article on page 3). Please look for the *ECHO* in your child's backpack on January 8!

