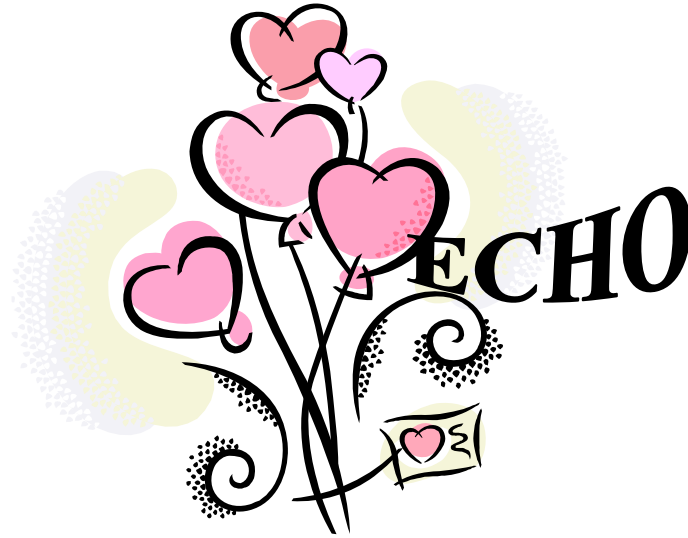


The Lycoming Valley Middle School

A Tradition of Excellence



February 2007

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!

Tickets went on sale Wednesday, January 31, for the annual Lycoming Valley faculty and staff spaghetti and meatball dinner to be held Friday evening, February 9, 2007 from 5:00-7:00 P.M.

Lycoming Valley faculty members will be selling tickets at \$6.00 each through Wednesday, February 7 from 8:00-8:40 a.m. in the office lobby. We ask that you purchase tickets in advance so that we can anticipate the number of meals to prepare. Take-outs will be available! The order form was attached to the report card that should have come home to you on January 26. The PTO will have a dessert table where you can purchase your dessert and support the activities sponsored by the PTO for our students. Please contact Mrs. Tina Peterson at 998-9023 if you would be willing to donate baked goods.

We are having a student and faculty talent show during the dinner. The talent show will kick off at 5:15 p.m. in the dining area with acts you just won't want to miss. ***You must purchase a ticket in order to see the talent show.*** Purchase your tickets for family and friends and spend a cold, February evening being entertained by our students and faculty. Remember the proceeds benefit local organizations.

Scholastic Writing Awards

Congratulations to the following eighth graders who have won awards in the Scholastic Writing Contest, sponsored in our area by the Harrisburg Patriot News:

Silver Key: Madelin Beattie, personal essay, "Krista Moves"

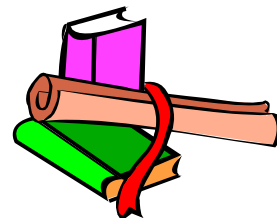
Silver Key: Caitlin Clemons, personal essay, "Helen's Harp"

Silver Key: Dillon Shipman, short short story, "Frightfully Amazing"

Certificate of Merit: Morgan Logue, short short story, "It's a Tragedy"

Certificate of Merit: Taylor Short, poetry, "Loving Ways"

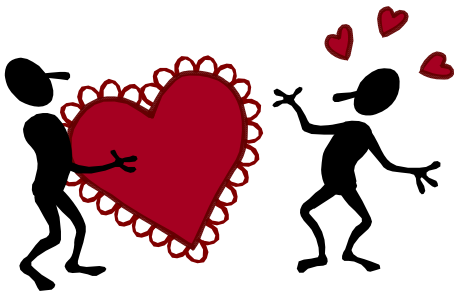
The silver key winners will be invited to a reception and award ceremony at Strawberry Square in Harrisburg later in February.





Ski Club Hits the Slopes for Final Time

The Lycoming Valley Ski Club made two fun trips to the slopes on January 22 and 29. We will be making our two remaining trips to Ski Sawmill this coming Monday, February 5 and our last trip on Monday, February 12. We have had a great time on the slopes but unfortunately have had a few accidents which resulted in students going to the hospital. However, the students who were injured received compliments from the Ski Patrol concerning how well they handled the situation. **All parents are to make sure that their children are picked up PROMPTLY at 10:00 P.M. on February 5. Thank you for your cooperation this ski season.**



Quarter III IPR'S

Quarter III IPR'S are due in the office on Thursday, February 22. By Wednesday, February 28, 2006, you should have received them at your home via postal delivery. All teachers do not issue progress reports for all students. You may contact your child's teacher by calling 494-1700 and leaving a message on teacher voice mail. The teacher will call you at his or her earliest convenience. You should have received your child's quarter II report card on Friday, January 26, 2007.

The Freshman Academy

There is a new and unique opportunity available for incoming freshmen at the Williamsport Area High School. This opportunity is called the Freshman Academy, and it is directed toward improving the academic skills and performance of students and to prepare them for rigorous academic or honors coursework. The following is a list of some of the information and opportunities available within this program.

- Small class size
- Easier access to technology (laptop labs, wireless internet, etc.)
- Specialized instruction to meet specific learning needs
- Reading course to augment reading levels and comprehension
- Immediate remediation and parental contact
- Common teachers; program-dedicated counselor and principal
- Coordinated content class schedule, allowing for longer periods of instruction time as needed
- Localized courses to reduce tardiness and develop social responsibility
- Multi-teacher instruction in classrooms
- *Academy Success* after-school program to raise proficiency

If you have any additional questions about the Freshman Academy or would like your child considered for this program, please call Miss Kate Skipper or Miss Christine Hanna at 494-1700.



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

“Pig-casso”

If you have not been down to the art department recently, it would be worth your while to see what is brewing. Our life-size pig, sponsored by Dr. Finn, fondly referred to as Pig-casso, is being painted in bright, Pablo Picasso-like colors and shapes. Several students have made a creative contribution to the pig effort and many more have volunteered. Many hours have been served to bring this hog to life.

Mrs. Mapstone and Mr. Dougherty have made ‘pig-runs’ in Mr. Dougherty’s van to pick up the pig, drop off the pig to be primed at Catherman’s body shop, and to bring him back to school to be sanded by Mr. Hensler’s classes, painted by the students in Mrs. Mapstone’s classes. Following the painting process, he will take another trip to the body shop to have his final, glossy coating. His final trip will be to the mall where he will be displayed before being auctioned off. Proceeds will benefit the children’s wing of the James V Brown library.

In other art news, the arts here at Lycoming Valley, have been incorporating other subject areas, such as math, reading and writing and science for years. We use math with measuring, perspective and Tessellations; reading with various art related articles and directions; science with the study of light and various experiments with color; and this year, writing with journals. Now we have extended our incorporating science with the dissection of the squid in the seventh grade classes. Before the Japanese Gyotaku or ‘fish-printing’ project, Mrs. Mapstone shows the class how to take the ink sack from the squid and how it is used to produce sepia (brown ink) which can be used for a project. Some students have printed the squid as part of their Gyotaku project.



8th Grade Scheduling

On February 7th, the 8th grade students at Lycoming Valley will take a tour of Williamsport Area High School. They will be shown many different programs and areas of the high school on this tour. It will be a good experience for the students so that they can get an idea of the programs the high school has to offer. This trip always begins the high school scheduling experience.

Shortly after the high school tour, Mr. Ted Piwowar, Director of Career and Technical Education, will visit with the 8th grade students during their Unified Arts classes. Mr. Piwowar will give them information that they should know about everyday life at the high school, and he will also give them more information about the programs they may not have seen during the tour.

The next step in the process will involve Miss Skipper and Miss Hanna entering the classrooms, going over scheduling with the students, and giving them their course recommendations. Miss Skipper and Miss Hanna hope to be able to do this by the end of February. This timetable will depend upon the delivery of recommendations and high school student handbooks.

If you already have a desire to discuss course opportunities with your child, you may be able to view a copy of the high school handbook on the web. Go to www.wasd.org, click on Schools, click on High School, go under the Resources menu, and then click on Student Handbook. You must have Adobe Reader to be able to view the handbook.

If you have any further questions about this, please contact Miss Kate Skipper or Miss Christine Hanna at 494-1700.

PTO News



The PTO Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for 2007-2008 PTO Executive Board Officers. These positions include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding/Assistant Secretary and are for a one-year term. If you are interested in running for any of the above offices or would like additional information, please contact a member of the nominating committee (Bobbi Jo Staver – Chairman, Tina Jedrziwski, Donna Fox or Kim Shultz) or e-mail us at Lycoproto@wasd.org. Officer descriptions are also available on our school web site (click on the PTO heading to access the PTO site). All nominations need to be submitted by Feb. 22nd in order to be considered for these slated positions. Remember, this is your PTO so step forward and get involved.

As a PTO one of our goals is to help families develop a connection with the school community, keeping you informed and involved. With this in mind we are offering to send families a reminder before upcoming PTO events. If you are interested in receiving an e-mail reminder please notify us via the above listed e-mail address and we will include you on our list.

For a fun evening we hope to see you all at the spaghetti dinner/ student talent show on February 9th. Remember to stop by our PTO dessert table to purchase some delicious treats for eating there or take home.



Academic Success

We have completed one half of the 2006-2007 school year. Your child's report card that you received on January 26, 2007 is a good indicator whether or not your child is experiencing academic success. If your child is cumulatively failing two or more subjects, there is a danger of failing the present grade level. Please contact one of your child's teachers or guidance counselors at 494-1700 in order to discuss a positive plan for your child's academic success.

PSSA 8th Grade Writing Test

Eighth grade students will be taking the state-mandated writing assessment in three sessions February 12,13, and 14. The students will be expected to show proficiency in the mechanics of writing and English language usage (20 multiple choice questions). Also, they will be expected to write an informational essay and a persuasive essay from writing prompts that they will see for the first time when they are taking the assessment. Students are familiar with the five-paragraph essay format from their work in both Pennsylvania Studies and Language Arts this year and from their work in their sixth and seventh grade classes.

Just as for any school day, you can help by seeing that your son or daughter gets a good night's sleep and eats a good breakfast.

We are looking forward to our students taking the opportunity to show off what they have learned about writing!



"R5" Coming to Lyco Valley

On Thursday morning, February 8, the group R5 will be coming to our school to present an assembly. We are excited to host this group which is traveling from Omaha, Nebraska to perform for both Lycoming Valley and the Williamsport Area High School. The assembly program deals with two major issues that confront students on a daily basis. These issues include differing forms of bullying and harassment. This group uses multi-media and actors to present their positive message to the students. Teachers will be

following up the assembly with discussions in the classroom with the students.