

The Lycoming Valley Middle School

- *A Tradition of Excellence*



JANUARY 2007

A Message to Parents and Guardians

The Williamsport Area School District engages in an on-going review of the methods it uses to keep its students and schools safe. As we do so we believe it is important to keep parents and guardians aware of our safety plans and the impact those plans may have on families and the community.

Some of the school safety measures we use may inconvenience you and, if so, we apologize for any difficulties we may cause. However, maintaining a safe environment for your child in the face of potential problems is our highest priority and we take these actions only in order to ensure that safety.

Please know that we have developed our safety procedures in consultation with national experts on school safety, the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety, and local police agencies. Events have taught us that in some instances of concern it is possible to maintain most of the normal

activities of the school day, providing a calm and uninterrupted day for children, while securing the buildings to potential outside risks. To do so, we must use what may be called a perimeter lock-down, which prevents anyone outside from entering and severely limits the opportunity for those inside to leave during this process. Such a procedure will only be used during the time of active concern about something happening in the community and will be lifted as soon as conditions return to normal. This action will, however, prevent anyone, even parents, from entering the building during the time it is in force. If it must be used, there is the potential for inconvenience to parents and others for the sake of our students' safety. Should such an action be necessary we ask that you understand that our intent is to protect your child and that you remain patient until we can reinstitute normal access to the schools.

Thank you,

Mr. James Dougherty,

Mr. Robert Williams

Memory Book Sale

The Lycoming Valley Memory Book sale will be held starting today through January 12 in your child's homebase. The memory book features a picture of each student and staff member as well as group photos of music ensembles and athletic teams. Candid shots of school activities are also included. The 36-page memory book is published by Wentzel Studios, our school photographer. The cost of the book is \$7.00 and must be paid at the time the order is turned in. Late orders will be accepted in the office the week of January 16-19. Please make checks payable to Lycoming Valley Middle School.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner TALENT SHOW

Mark your calendars! The Lycoming Valley faculty is once again sponsoring a spaghetti and meatball dinner to be held Friday evening, February 9, 2007 from 5:00-7:00 P.M.

Lycoming Valley students will be selling tickets at \$6.00 each from Wednesday, January 31 through Wednesday, February 7. 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 will be attached to the report card coming 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.

We are having a student and faculty talent show during the dinner. The talent show will kick off at 5:00 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. The proceeds benefit local organizations and our school.



Report Card Distribution

The end of the second quarter will be Friday, January 19. Second semester will begin on Monday, January 22. January 15 is a school holiday for students and staff in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Lycoming Valley School office will also be closed on January 15. Quarter II report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, January 26. Quarter II progress reports were mailed home on December 8. If you have any questions concerning your child's grades, please feel free to contact your child's teacher at 494-1700. You may also request a conference with a teacher or a team of teachers by calling this same number and asking to speak to Miss Skipper, guidance counselor for student last names beginning with the letters L-Z, or Miss Hanna, guidance counselor for students whose last names begin with A-K.





Holiday Concerts

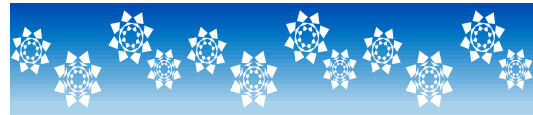
The holiday concerts presented by the Lycoming Valley orchestras, bands and choral groups were superior. Over one - half of our student body is involved in the performing music groups and these students are to be commended for their many hours of participation and dedication to the music program. We would like to extend a special note of gratitude to Mrs. Jean Hormell, choral music teacher and director of our sixth grade chorus, who retired from the Williamsport Area School District after 35 years of service to the district as a music educator. Mr. Gordon, Mrs. Hormell, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Bertrand are to be commended for their outstanding direction and many hours of preparation.



Ski Club Hits the Slopes

The Lycoming Valley Ski Club's first outing to Ski Sawmill is scheduled for today, January 8. Ski Sawmill has been making snow, so we are anticipating making the trip. If any of the four trips is canceled due to poor ski conditions, we will announce the cancellation during the morning announcements so students will have an opportunity during the day to contact parents if necessary. The

buses will depart for Ski Sawmill promptly at 3:30 P.M. from the school parking lot on January 8, 22, 29 and February 5, weather and ski conditions permitting. ***All parents are to make sure that their children are picked up PROMPTLY at 10:00 P.M. After a long evening on the slopes, the advisors should not be expected to stand in the parking lot waiting for parents to pick up their children.***



School Delays and Closings

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.***

School Closing News Sent to You

Did you know that you can sign up to get information regarding school closings, early dismissals and weather delays via e-mail or text messaging? Visit the Williamsport Area School District website at www.wasd.org and click on the Channel 16 Winterwatch link to sign up for this great supplemental service. This will help you stay in touch with all of the district closings, early dismissals and school weather-delayed openings. Don't delay! Visit the school website today and sign up for this free service.



Box Tops for Education Collection

The sixth grade HI-R-TRAC program is beginning the second collection period for the "Box Tops for Education" program for the 2006-07 school year. This program completely funds the HI-R-TRAC initiatives for our sixth grade students. Many households throw away "Box Top" stamps every day found on General Mills products. Each boxtop is worth ten cents to our program. Please search your boxes and canned goods at home for the box top seals and send them to school with your child. They can be given to any sixth grade homebase teacher anytime between now and May 11, our final collection date. Every 6th grade student who brings in 10 boxtops will receive a HI-R-TRAC award as well as help his or her homebase earn an award. Our goal is 5,000 boxtops. We appreciate the continued support from the seventh and eighth grade students and parents. Thank you for your help with and support of this project.



Thank You for Giving

"The Giving Spirit" at Lycoming Valley Middle School has been truly evident during our four months of school thus far and December was no exception. The *Penny Drive* goal of \$1,000 was exceeded and on December 20th, Mrs. Steele, coordinator, presented checks in the amount of \$600 to the Salvation Army and the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. The total amount for the Penny Drive was \$1,200. A huge thank you to Mrs. Steele and all of the students, staff and community who helped make the *Penny Drive* a success. Mr. Weaver and Mrs. Nork's homebase, the Learning Center, earned the award for the homebase which gave the highest donation.

Another part of our giving project included our canned food collection and our mitten and hat tree. On December 21, 27 hats, 36 pairs of gloves and mittens, 8 scarves and 206 non-perishable food items were donated to the American Rescue Workers for distribution. Thank you to all who gave so generously. You truly demonstrated the Lycoming Valley "spirit of giving."



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:

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

Art News

In art news, Mrs. Mapstone is proud to announce that Carrie Myers, an eighth grade student, has won the June Baskin Award for her computer-generated self-portrait in this year's Scholastic Art Competition. This prestigious award includes a check for \$100.00. Congratulations to Carrie for being a talented asset to the art department and to our school.

Other students whose works were included in the show are Sarah Mynczywor, Alisha Wood, Kyle Schneider, Morgan Smith, Carissa Updyke, Tim Yen, Hillary Mundell, Kelsey Solomon, Katelyn Yost, and Kevin Miller. Carrie won her award on the local level. All of the artwork will now be sent to New York for the national judging. Good luck to these fine artists.



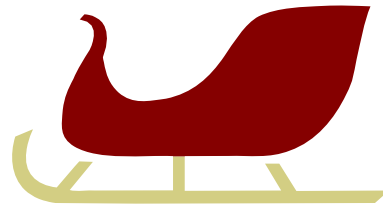
Carrie Myers

*Winner of the WASD June Baskin Award
Computer-Generated Self-Portrait*



Geography Bee Champion

Congratulations to Jason Artley for winning the 2006 National Geographic School Level Geography Bee. Jason will be taking an entry test here at Lycoming Valley to try to compete at the state-level competition in Harrisburg. He has the potential to win a \$25,000 scholarship if he would win the national competition in Washington, D.C. Good luck, Jason!



Please mark your calendar:

*January 15, 2007
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School*



PTO News

We hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready to tackle a new year. Our PTO provides an excellent opportunity to become involved or just sit back and learn what's going on at our school.

Our **next meeting will be Thursday, January 18th** at 7:30pm in the school dining room. Please stop by and join us! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

At our January PTO meeting we will be voting on several proposed by-law changes, obtaining volunteers to assist at the February spaghetti dinner and March PSSA snack distribution, and selecting a nominating committee. This committee will be accepting nominations for executive board positions. They will announce their slate in the March ECHO.

If you are interested in serving on this committee please e-mail us at LycopTo@wasd.org before our Jan. 18th meeting (or if you're able, please come to the meeting).

If you are interested in learning more about PTO executive board positions please e-mail us (as above). Officer descriptions are also available on our school web site (click on the PTO heading to access our site).

Let's start the new year out right by becoming informed and taking an active part in our school. Hope to see you on the 18th.

Upcoming Social

There will be a social for all students of Lycoming Valley on January 19, 2007 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The social will be held in the gymnasium. There will be a DJ and an admission fee of \$1.00 will be charged. ***Parents should not drop students off before 6:00 p.m. and must pick students up promptly at or before 8:00 p.m.***

Counselor Corner

The first half of the year is almost at a close, and the second half will begin shortly. This will begin a rather busy time for all. 8th grade students will be particularly busy in the coming months.

It seems hard to believe, but the scheduling process for the 8th grade will begin soon. The entire eighth grade class will tour the high school on the morning of February 7 to find out about electives which they can schedule for ninth grade. At some point, your child will bring home a letter from the counselor describing your role in this process. You play a huge role in helping map out your child's future.

With this process in mind, you as the parent must realize that your children's grades in 8th grade impact what classes they will taking in high school. If your children have high grades, then they may be recommended for higher-level courses. If grades are not at the higher level, then the recommendations will not be either.

In conclusion, do not let your children eliminate themselves from opportunities by not achieving the grades of which they are capable. If you have any questions throughout the process, please do not hesitate to call your child's counselor, Miss Hanna or Miss Skipper, at 494-1700.