

The Echo



Lycoming Valley Middle School—A Tradition of Excellence

Inside Our Classrooms

Constitution Day Observed

In 2004, the United States Congress designated September 17th as a federal holiday in order to commemorate the day of the signing of the United States Constitution. On Constitution Day, public schools across the country engage in activities to remind students at all levels the importance this day has for citizens of the United States.

At Lycoming Valley, the students in all Social Studies classes engaged in the same activity. During their prospective Social Studies class, the students met in the L.G.I. to engage in a short discussion, and view a video on the Constitutional Convention. The emphasis being the number of compromises and debates that occurred during the con-

vention and the research the framers of our government engaged in order to form a “more perfect union” that allows the people to have the governmental power in our country. Through this discussion and video the student began even more prepared to be responsible citizens

9-11 Remembered

Mr. DeWire’s Seventh Grade Social Studies Classes reviewed a timeline of the events of 9/11 and discussed personal memories of the event. Most students were then in first grade when the attack occurred. Students then spend time writing journal entries or letters to victims, rescue personnel or the attackers asking the difficult questions and expressing emotions about this historic tragedy.



Ways to keep in touch

Visit us at
www.wasd.org

Visit the PTO site

Read *The Echo*

Email Teachers

October 2007

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Dates to Note

- Oct 3. Picture Day
- Oct 19 Spirit Wear Orders Due
- Oct 29– Nov 2 Book Fair
- Oct 31– Clone Day
- Nov 2 Picture Make-up Day
- Nov. 8&9– Parent/Teacher Conferences

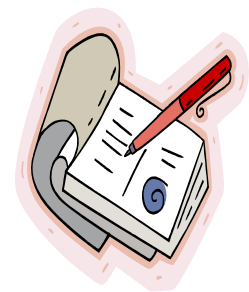
News from the Art Room

Lycoming Valley really ran away with the awards at the Lycoming County Fair this year. LV beat out all other middle schools in red, white and blue ribbons- fifteen all together. The following students won ribbons; 3rd place- Ashley Thompson, Trista Yarger, Jessica Fenstamaker, Zach Mosso, Alaina Mosso

and Autumn Schemery. Second place winners were: Darian Feigles, Nicole Ficacci, Kayla Diehl, and Carissa Wead. First place winners were: Tyler James, Amanda Otto, Courtney Beam, Sierra Dowell, and Tylor Cochran.

Congratulations to all of these fine artists!

On another colorful note....has anyone noticed our pig at the mall out side of Macy's? Pig-casso looks great amongst his fellow porksters. The library still hasn't put a sign up for him yet, stating that he is from Lyco Valley. Mrs. Mapstone reports she will be sure to get word out that the porker belongs to LV..



Dress Code Reminder

The weather is usually very warm during the month of September so please help your child choose proper attire when dressing to come to school. Please read the following reminder concerning the dress code found in the Student Rights and Responsibility manual. This year's copy is being mailed out again to all homes from the Office of Student

Services.

The wearing of clothing that exposes the midriff or buttocks is not permitted. The wearing of pants or shorts below the waist is not permitted.

Examples of dress not permitted: flip flops, tank tops, spaghetti strap tops, midriff shirts, muscles shirts, clothing with inappropriate wording and scanty shorts that do not extend beyond the student's fingertips when the hands are held at his or her side.

Upon entering the building, hats must be immediately removed. The wearing of clothing/jewelry that exhibits references to drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, violence, sex, profanity, or gang-related activities is not permitted.

School officials may impose limitations on dress if attire causes a disruption of the educational process or constitutes a health or safety hazard under the guidelines of the policy.

Personal Items at School

The following is a quote from the student handbook found in the front of the student agenda under "general rules".

"Valuables such as trading card collections, expensive leather jackets and jewelry, electronic games and large sums of money have no place in the school and should be left at home."

This statement includes any type

of popular trading cards which are not allowed on the bus or in school. Although portable IPOD, MP3, and CD players are permissible on the bus only, the school will not be responsible or liable for theft or loss. All stu-

dents must provide a lock for his or her PE locker. This should be a combination lock and stay on the PE locker at all times. If a student chooses to use a key padlock on his or her locker, an extra key must be given to the gym teacher.

Cell phones are not to be used in the school building or bus at any time.

Picture Day- Oct 3

School picture day was on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. Wenzel Studio from Muncy, PA provided the photographers again this year. If your child was absent, make-ups will be on November 2, 2007.



Clone Day- Oct 31

Our annual clone day celebration will be held on Wed. Oct 31, 2007. Students are encouraged to clone with one or more persons to be dressed similarly as possible. Prizes will be awarded to those who are the most creative and most realistic clones. Students do not need to buy any special attire. All school dress code rules apply.

PTO Needs Your Support

The PTO began its annual membership drive on September 4th and concluded on September 7th. **157 parents, teachers and administrators joined the organization to date.** This is short of our membership goal of 200. **Our need is for at least 43 more people to join the PTO in order to meet the annual budget.** The PTO does not conduct any large fundraisers throughout the year. The membership drive is the major means of funding school activities. If you have not

joined and would like to give your support to the PTO and our students we encourage you to do so. Membership is just \$5.00 per adult. You can place your money in an



envelope, put your child's name and home base on the outside and send it to the office. If you would like to send a check, please make it payable to Lycoming Valley Middle School PTO. It is never too late to join the PTO. The money generated by the membership drive goes directly to sponsor activities for your child. **Please take a minute and show your support by sending in your \$5.00 today! Your assistance in obtaining our goal will be greatly appreciated.**

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

The Office of Student Services mailed free and reduced lunch applications information in August. If this application was not completed and returned to school by October 1, the account will revert to full price meals. If you are still in need of an application, please contact the school office. The full price for second-

ary breakfast is \$1.00, reduced price is \$.30. A full secondary lunch is \$1.75. The reduced lunch is \$.40 and the price for

milk is \$.40

Free and Reduced lunch applications can be obtained by contacting the school office.



Scholastic Book Fair At Lycoming Valley

The annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held over the lunch periods during the week of October 29th - November 2nd, 2007. A flyer containing descriptions of many of the books available is attached to the ECHO. This will allow you and your student to see many of the selections offered to make purchase decisions together. The purpose of

the book fair is to encourage our students to read for enjoyment. It is a great place to purchase selections to support our children's independent reading. The more words read improves our children's reading ability. Reading a wide variety of texts assists in improving reading comprehension and vocabulary development..



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A Tradition of Excellence

www.wasd.org
Click on Lycoming Valley

Middle School is a big change from that of elementary school. Parents can help support this transition by monitoring the following:

- Agenda book— Ask to see it daily. It will have assignments including upcoming tests and projects. It may be used by teachers and parents as a two way communication tool.
- Attendance— Help establish the work ethic. Students with good attendance earn better grades and score higher on standardized tests.
- Sleep— 8 hours of sleep at night
- Breakfast— Eat healthy in the morning before class begins.

Attached to *The Echo* each month will be the *Middle Years* providing helpful tips for supporting your middle school child.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Nov. 8 & 9

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on November 8 & 9, 2007. You will receive an invitation soon in the mail. Please choose a block of time that works best for your family. Plan to spend about an hour with your child's teachers.

Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable! Talk with the teacher. Come prepared with questions. Report cards will be reviewed as well as standardized testing data. We look forward to seeing you over these very important dates!

Sixth Grade HI-R-TRAC Begins

Our HI-R-TRAC program was kicked off on Sept. 28 at an assembly. Our goal is to support students to become strong school citizens and work toward academic excellence. We identified several traits that we will be looking for each student. Honesty, Initiative, Responsibility, Trust, Respect, Attitude, Compassion. Students may earn Lyco Loot and use it as a chance to earn a prize.

At the end of each marking period, students may sub-

mit their earned Lyco Loot and take a chance on an interesting prize. Parents, we need your help! First please help us emphasize the concept of respect in all areas of life. Secondly, all students are encouraged to bring in 'Boxtops for Education' which in turn

generates funding for our program. Please look at your General Mills products at home. All Lycoming Valley students may bring in the box tops and deposit them in a box outside of room 206.



PTO News

Wow one month is already past since the beginning of our school year and the PTO is off to an energetic start! We have been busy with some new initiatives in hopes of promote school spirit and enhancing the feeling of connection for both students and their families.

The 1st of our new initiatives is the offering of Lycoming Valley "Spirit Wear". We are selling both pullover and zip front hoodies until October 19th when all orders will be due in the school office with payment attached. You may have seen our samples (sizes: S, M, L) displayed at September 6th's teacher visitation or currently in the school lobby. Order forms are attached to this ECHO and can be downloaded from our web site (under forms).

Our 2nd new initiative is the sponsoring of Lycoming Valley "School Spirit Dinner Nights". We will be planning 2 events in the fall and 2 in the spring. Our first was held on Monday, September 17th at Pizza Hut, from 4-9. Not only do these events bring students, families and faculty together, but provide us with some additional funds for the further support of our school and student activities. We would like to thank all those who attended on the 17th, and hope to see even more of you at our November "School Spirit Dinner" to be held at Bonanza Steak House. Specific date and time will be published in the November ECHO, distributed as a flier at Parent-teacher conferences as well as on our web site "November Highlights".

To aid in communication and bring parents "into the loop" we will be:

Sending monthly e-mails with important PTO event dates along with a direct link to that month's ECHO (just in case it doesn't make it out of your student's locker or backpack). If you would like to be included in this service but did not provide an e-mail on your PTO membership envelope, please e-mail us at LycoPTO@wasd.org and we'll place you on our list. Additionally if you would like your information removed from this list please let us know.

Our 3rd initiative is to continue to update our PTO web site monthly under the "Highlights" as well as providing access to Meeting Minutes, Annual Budget, forms and fliers... To view our web site: go to wasd.org, select schools, and then click on the picture of Lycoming Valley. You will see the PTO link on the Lycoming Valley home page.

We have four PTO meetings throughout the year with our first having been held on Tuesday, September 19th. At this meeting our budget was approved as it appears on our PTO web site. Meetings are open to all and your attendance is encouraged. This is your chance to see what our PTO is doing at Lycoming Valley, network with other parents, receive updates directly from our Principal and Assistant Principal and learn how you can become an active part of your child's middle school years. If you have any questions concerning the PTO program, please contact one of our officers listed in the packet mailed to your home in August, or e-mail us at LycoPTO@wasd.org.

Upcoming PTO meetings:

Tuesday, Nov. 20th

Tuesday, Jan. 15th

Tuesday, April 15th

(All on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the school dining room)

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



THIS MONTH WE'D LIKE TO THANK:

All those who have joined the PTO and those able to attend our meetings

Karen Fischer, our membership chairman **and** those who assisted at the membership table both in the mornings and at Orientation/visitation

Tina Jedrzewski, hospitality chairman and all who provided baked goods during Sept. 6th Teacher Visitation.

Those who participated in our "Pizza Hut" School Spirit Dinner Night

Lauri Moon, our e-mailer who keeps you informed

Donna Fox, our "Spirit Wear" coordinator

Bobbi Jo Staver, our "School Spirit Dinner Night" coordinator

REMEMBER THE BOOK FAIR

October 29th - November 2nd

