

The Echo



Lycoming Valley Middle School—A Tradition of Excellence

Pennsylvania Art Educator of the Year at Lycoming Valley

The Pennsylvania Art Education Association announced that the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Middle School Art Educator is Mrs. Michelle Mapstone, art teacher at Lycoming Valley Middle School!

Mrs. Mapstone's award recognizes her exemplary contributions, achievements, and service to art education at the state, regional, and national levels.

PAEA Awards Committee acknowledged Mrs. Mapstone's many ways in which she worked within the community and the field promoting art's value and importance in education.

Most recently, Mrs. Mapstone is involved in the restoration work of the Hiawatha Mural Project.

She also exhibited her own art work at Java and Juice in downtown Williamsport in the month of August. Among her works are her recently published novel, Dead Men Pay Cash. The inspiration for her artwork comes from many aspects, she said, and the assortment of medium as well. "I love to express myself through all kinds of media, such as oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, pottery, stained glass and also through fibers." Mrs. Mapstone's eclectic artwork ranges from sports figures, to portraits of her parents, to computer art, and even to area churches. Mrs. Mapstone has been with the Williamsport Area School District since 1987.



Ways to keep in touch

Visit us at www.wasd.org

Visit the PTO site

Read *The Echo*

Email Teachers

September 2007

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Dates to Note

- Sept 4 -7 PTO membership drive
- Sept 6 Teacher Visitation 7:00-9:00 PM
- Sept. 18 PTO meeting 7:30
- Oct 3 Picture Day

Welcome to Lycoming Valley

We would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new students and new staff and administrator. New additions to the faculty are; Mr. DeWire, Social Studies; Mr. Thompson, Science; Mr. Harris, Science; Mrs. Kreger, Lan-

guage Arts; Mr. Berry, Technology; Mrs. Moore, guidance counselor, Mrs. Lax, 6th grade chorus and Mr. Killian, Assistant Principal, formerly the Assistant Principal at Stevens Elementary School.

We also welcome back our

returning 7th and 8th grade students. We expect you to be leaders and role models for the new students.

We look forward to an exciting new year at Lycoming Valley!



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.

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

The Office of Student Services mailed free and reduced lunch applications and Family Educational Rights information in August. If you did not receive this packet, please contact the school office. The lunch application must be returned to the school or the Food Service Department at the District Service Center if

you believe you may qualify for free or reduced prices for breakfast and lunch. The full price for secondary breakfast is \$1.00, reduced breakfast is \$.30 and \$1.80 for full secondary lunch. The price for reduced lunch is

\$.40. The price for milk is \$.40. WASH is now contracting all food services with Chartwells School Dining Services. Chartwells is an industry leader in providing nutritional education to students and parents.

To learn more about Chartwells School Dining Services, visit the website at www.eatlearnlive.com



Picture Day- Oct 3

School picture day will be Wednesday, October 3, 2007. Wenzel Studio from Muncy, PA will be providing the photographers again this year. Picture flyers will be sent home 10 days in advance. Please carefully follow the instructions on the flyer and Do NOT send the payment to

school before picture day. Your child will hand the envelope with the check or cash to the photographer at the time his or her picture is taken.



PTO Membership and Meetings

The first open PTO meeting was held on August 22 during the New Parent Orientation. At this meeting a budget was presented for approval and committees were announced in order to provide service to the school throughout the coming year.

The annual PTO membership drive will begin Tuesday, September 4 and continue through September 7. Dues are \$5.00 per

person. Your support is needed and appreciated as this is the only major fundraiser for the PTO during the year. All funds generated are used for programs and event at Lycoming Valley. A membership flyer with attached envelope was mailed home in August before school began. You may go to the PTO site from our school webpage and download the membership form. Send the

completed form along with the membership fee with your child.

Meetings are open to all parents of LV students. The PTO meets four times a year. (3rd Tuesday of the month) Please mark your calendar and join us for the September 18th meeting at 7:30 in the dining hall. You may also email your thoughts and ideas to LycoPTO@wasd.org

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

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

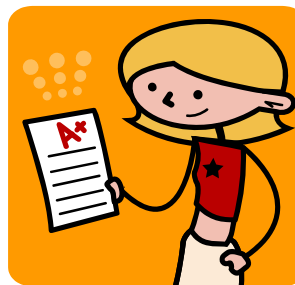
permissible on the bus only, the school will not be responsible or liable for theft or loss. All students must provide a lock for his or her PE locker. This should be a combination lock and stay on the PE locker at all times. If a student chooses to use a key padlock on his or her locker, an extra key must be given to the gym teacher.

Excuses for Absences or Tardiness

A written excuse signed by the parent or guardian is required for all absences. The written excuse must be presented to the school secretary immediately upon return. An absence is considered unexcused after three days without an excuse. Students who arrive in homebase after

8:28 AM 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 that are ex-



Students that are successful in school, attend school regularly.

cessively tardy may be assigned to Saturday school.

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1825 Hayes Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

570-494-1700
fax 494-1706
jkillian@wasd.org



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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.

Echo Publication— Keeping Informed

The Echo is the established newsletter of the Lycoming Valley Middle School. You might have noticed a different look from the past. This newsletter is also available on our school's website.

This monthly publication will be distributed September-May on the first Friday of each month. The Echo includes information concerning dates of school events and is intended to inform families of activities at Lycoming Valley.

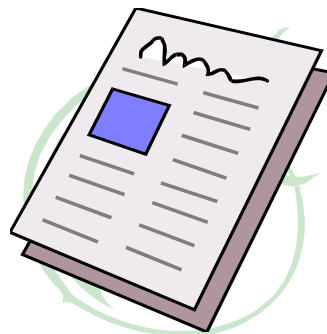
Teachers will also submit articles and photos about activities that occur in the classroom.

Please ask your child for the Echo if you have not seen it by the second week of the month. Stay informed and keep involved through the middle school years!

You can also keep updated by visiting us on the web at—
www.wasd.org

Click on schools and select Lycoming Valley Middle School.

Read The Echo online!



The Echo will be sent home the first Friday of each month.

A Message to Parents/Guardians:

The Williamsport Area School engages in an on-going review of the methods it uses to keep its student and school 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 the 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 lockdown, which prevents anyone outside from entering and severely limits the opportunity for those to leave during this process. Such a procedure will only be used 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. John Killian



Contacting Teachers

We encourage parents/families to keep in contact with your child's teachers throughout the year. All teachers have both e-mail and voice mail accounts. If you would like to speak to a teacher in person, please call 494-1700. If the teacher is with students, you will be connected with the voice mail and the teacher will call you back within a 24 hour period. If you would like to contact a teacher via e-mail, please use the teacher or administrator's first initial, followed by the first seven letters of the teacher's last name, all in lower case with no spaces, followed by @wasd.org. (jkillian@wasd.org)

You will also find staff e-mail addresses on the district website by clicking the "employee e-mail" tab.

Another way to e-mail is by visiting the school's homepage through www.wasd.org and click on Lyco Valley. Once you are on the school homepage, click on "teachers" tab at the top.

Also consider communicating with teachers through the agenda books that all students will have.

Student Expectations

All students were included in orientation assemblies on the first day of school. Expectations for all students were provided by the principals during this assembly. Our expectations are very simple and we would like to provide them for the parents as well as the students. The are as follows:

- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself at all times.
- Act like young ladies and young gentlemen.
- Respect others and the rights of others.
- Follow the teachers' requests.
- Be where you are supposed to be on time.

