This edition of the
Know Your Schools
newsletter highlights our
winter concert series with
photos from every
school building. We’ve
also featured the fall play
"A Midsummer’s Night
Dream." These
outstanding
opportunities in the
performing arts are
something the entire community can be
proud of. And you never know where
they will lead, as you will read in our
story about Don Frantz, Class of 1969.

Lower Dauphin is a wonderful
school system, blessed with outstanding
community support. Our mission is to
maintain these opportunities for all
students even in tough economic times.

On behalf of our students, thank you
for your continued support.

Sherri L. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Look for Lower Dauphin on the
Web http://www.ldsd.org

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As we approach spring, our thoughts
in school inevitably turn to
budgeting for the upcoming school year.
It may seem strange to begin to prepare a
budget for next year a full six months
before the new school year begins, but
those are the requirements school
districts operate under.

As we look ahead to the 2009-2010
school year, I am pleased to report that
any tax increase required to balance the
budget will be kept well below the state-
manded index – a composite of the rate
of inflation, workers’ average wages and
the district’s relative tax base. The state
index for Lower Dauphin for next school
year is 5.2 percent, and we presented an
early budget with a 3.48 percent increase.

Following on the heels of a zero
percent increase last school year, I can
safely attest to the hard work our
administrators, teachers and staff are
doing to keep costs in check.

We all recognize that these are
difficult economic times and that
government needs to do its part to
operate as efficiently as possible. While
being efficient, we are not yet being
forced to scrimp on programs and
opportunities for our
students.

One way we hope to
continue to provide for
student opportunities is
through the Lower Dauphin
Falcon Foundation. As a
foundation board member, I
am very familiar with the
efforts of this nonprofit
organization and its mission
to support the school district
financially.

The Falcon Foundation recently held
its first annual Blue and White Gala,
raising around $16,000 to support your
public schools. They also held a dinner
theatre on March 13, in conjunction with
the spring musical “The Pajama Game.”
The foundation’s final fundraiser of the
year will be held Friday, April 24, at the
Hershey Country Club for its Second
Annual Golf Outing.

I urge you to get involved with the
foundation, either as a volunteer or as a
contributor. As time goes by, I am
confident that the foundation’s efforts
will help support the district in times of
uncertain tax revenues.

The school board adopted a
resolution to that effect at its January 19
meeting.

“Looking at an absolute worst-case
scenario, we can stay under 5.2 percent,”
said Superintendent Sherri Smith. “And
this scenario includes no increases in
funding from the state or federal
governments for our basic education
subsidy or for our special education
subsidy and only historical growth in
local sources.”

Under the provisions of Act 1 (the
state Taxpayer Relief Act), school
districts are required to pass a resolution
stating that they will keep below the
state-mandated index or begin

(Continued on page 2)
First-look LD budget to keep taxes below state index

(Continued from page 1)

developing a full budget this winter.

“It’s so very early we weren’t comfortable trying to create a budget this soon,” Dr. Smith said. “But even looking at this worst-case scenario budget we’re able to come in below the state index. That’s why we recommended passing the resolution – so we can continue to refine the numbers.”

Under this early rough draft of the budget, revenue is predicted to increase to $53 million without any increase in state subsidies and only historical growth trends in local sources.

This budgetary snapshot also included some known increases in expenditures like replacing sections of the roof at East Hanover Elementary, installing security cameras at the middle school and hiring up to five new teachers, but Dr. Smith said it is too early to get into too many specifics.

However, looking at some best guesses and before making any cuts to expenditures, Dr. Smith predicted an overall increase in spending of $2.2 million.

“Obviously since we’re able to stay under the index at this early stage, we haven’t done a lot of refining of these expenditure numbers,” Dr. Smith said. “I’m extremely confident that our preliminary budget that we’ll develop in the spring with more real data to work with will be much lower than this first rough draft.”

The current district budget is $51.7 million. The property tax bill for a home in Lower Dauphin assessed at $100,000 is $1,810.

Three high school teachers earn national certification

Lower Dauphin High school teachers Darby Fischl, Daniel Mikula and Melanie Wenger were among 122 Pennsylvania teachers to earn National Board Certification, the highest standard for the teaching profession in the United States.

To earn the voluntary certification, a teacher must undergo an extensive series of performance-based assessment that include teaching portfolios, student work samples, and a thorough analysis of the candidate’s teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge as well as their understanding of how to teach that knowledge to students.

Mrs. Fischl teaches science at the high school. She has been employed by the district for 14 years. She has a bachelor’s degree from Millersville University with a certification in Earth and Space Science. She is certified in the National Board’s Adolescent and Young Adult Sciences category.

Mr. Mikula teaches English at the high school. He has been employed by the district for five years. He holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Xavier University. He earned his teaching certificate from Wayne State University and Penn State and he holds a master’s degree from Penn State in curriculum. He is certified in the National Board’s Adolescent and Young Adult English/Language Arts category.

Mrs. Wenger also teaches English at the high school. She has been employed by the district for more than 12 years. She earned her bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from Kutztown University. She is certified in the National Board’s Adolescent and Young Adult English/Language Arts category.

Middle school staffer receives state teaching award

On December 5, Lower Dauphin Middle School English teacher Lynne R. Ravas was one of four Pennsylvania teachers to receive the Pennsylvania Holocaust Education Council’s “Best Practices in Holocaust Teaching Award.”

The “Best Practices in Holocaust Teaching Award” acknowledges Pennsylvania educators who have dedicated their knowledge, creativity and commitment to teaching middle school and high school students about the Holocaust. The recipients were selected based upon the following criteria: demonstration of exemplary teaching in the field of Holocaust education; development of programs that can serve as an outreach model to other schools and educators; and engagement in actual use of the “Clara Isaacman Memorial Holocaust Trunk” and other PHEC resources in the classroom.

Mrs. Ravas received a plaque and a $100 gift certificate from PHEC to purchase additional Holocaust materials.

Mrs. Ravas incorporates teaching about the Holocaust into her English lessons on topics such as journal writing, book and film reviews. The entire eighth-grade also takes a field trip to the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.
Hundreds of community members attended winter concerts across the school district in December and January and they were treated to the wide range of vocal and instrumental talents of our students.
When the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation was formed in 2006, it was with the hope of raising money through a series of special events to support school district programs and operations.

On January 24, that hope was realized with the final piece of the foundation’s fundraising puzzle – the Blue and White Gala. The foundation’s other fundraisers, the annual golf outing, direct-mail campaign and spring musical dinner theatre, have all brought in substantial contributions to the organization.

The Blue and White Gala topped them all with a profit of more than $16,000 in its first year.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with the success of our inaugural effort,” said Marion C. Alexander, co-chair of the event. “Lower Dauphin has meant so much to so many people. It was extremely gratifying to see our friends and neighbors giving back to support the district’s efforts through the foundation.”

In addition to dinner and dancing, the $100 per plate event also featured a silent auction.

The auction brought in $X,XXX of the event’s total. Items were donated to the auction by the following: Errol and Wendy Aksu; William and Marion C. Alexander; Applebee’s; Cagnoli Music; Dr. Janet Calhoon; Carley’s Ristorante Piano Bar; Chatter Box Café; Cracker Barrel Country Store; CocaPlex Cinema; Crystal Pools, Inc.; Down a Country Road; Fire Alley; Fractured Prune-The Donut Shoppe; Fulton Theatre; Giant Food Stores; Diane Gibson; Gold’s Gym Hershey; Hershey Area Playhouse; Hershey Theatre; Hollywood Casino; Houlihan’s; Hughes Awards & Sporting Goods, LLC; Inn at Poplar Corner; JC Penney; Kirman Eye; Randy and Rachelle Kline; Lenox Factory Outlet; Lower Dauphin Middle School Store; M & T Bank; Macy’s; Shelley McCloskey; Vince and Renae Paladino; Mike and Maria Paula; Phillips Seafood Restaurants; Constance Rhoad; Rhoads Pharmacy & Gift Shop; Romano’s Macaroni Grill; Royer’s Flowers and Gifts; Ruby Tuesday; Staples; Starbuck’s Coffee Company; Stock’s on 2nd; Studio 20; Sugar Shack; Sullivan’s, Inc.; Drs. Robert Tamburro and Patricia Gordon; Tanger Outlets; The Dancer’s Pointe; The Family Athletic Club of Hershey; The Hotel Hershey; The Inn at Westwynd Farm; The Soda Jerk Diner; The Sun; Toys On The Square; Trend Vending Company; Tyson Fence Company; Jim and Michele Tyson; Union Canal House; Wal-Mart; Warner Chrysler Jeep; Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts; Bob and Cathy Wreski; and Yale Electric Supply Inc.

The reception before the dinner featured Dr. Judith Witmer playing piano favorites. Lower Dauphin Class of 1969 member Don Frantz served as the master of ceremonies.

“I am so proud to be the superintendent of schools in a community that obviously cares so much about the education of its young people,” said Superintendent Sherri Smith. “We owe a tremendous thanks to the volunteers who made this event possible, the businesses and individuals who helped make it a success and everyone who contributed in some way toward tonight’s success.”
Lower Dauphin grad speaks to performing arts students

Lower Dauphin graduate Don Frantz told performing arts students at the high school that Broadway is a magical place.

He should know. A member of the LD Class of 1968, he is a successful Broadway producer with Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast” and “The Lion King” to his credit. His most recent production, “A Tale of Two Cities,” closed November 16.

“The cool thing about Broadway is that it’s such a small piece of geography,” he told an audience of about 40 Lower Dauphin High School students. “There are 40 theatres with about 70,000 seats in this small space.” He then asked the students to imagine the crowded sidewalks of Broadway.

“At 7:45 people start walking faster. At about 7:55 they’re walking a little faster,” he said. “Then at 8 o’clock everyone sits and at 8:05 the sidewalks are empty.

“That’s the magical moment of Broadway,” Frantz said. “Hang outside as long as you can before your show starts.”

But he conceded, there’s an awful lot of magic taking place on stage as well. “Everyone is mesmerized and they hear the greatest words and music and lyrics,” he said. “It’s all live. It happens one night only; never to be repeated again. You never know what’s going to happen — that’s the magic of theatre.

“It can change your life.”

He recalled that the first musical he ever saw was a traveling production of “The Music Man” which made a stop at the Hershey Theatre. His first Broadway show was “Pippin.” And he told the students that “each show has changed my life.”

He also gave them some free advice. First, he said that “no matter what they ask you to do, say ‘Yes.’” And secondly, he told the students to “never take ‘no’ seriously enough to change your mind.”

Frantz said that by not taking “no” for an answer, he created The Amazing Maize Maze, the world’s first maze in a corn field. After two years of trying, he convinced a farmer to allow him to convert an acre corn field into a maze for a $200 payment (the value of the corn). In three days, the corn maze brought in 11,000 people at $3 per head.

“The farmer said he thought I was crazy,” Frantz admitted. “But that’s part of the creative process — to take things that don’t belong together and if it works, ponder it a bit more until you come up with something you can believe in.”

Nissley appointed to vacant seat on Lower Dauphin School Board

Hummelstown resident Rod Nissley was appointed to a vacant seat on the Lower Dauphin School Board on November 17.

Nissley took the oath of office at the school board’s reorganizational meeting on December 1, and will fill the remaining year of the term of former board member Garry Bashore who resigned earlier this month for personal reasons.

Nissley and his wife, Sara, live in Hummelstown and have four children. He is a technical services representative for Heritage Poultry Management Services Inc.

During his interview with the school board, he spoke of his vision for the school district which includes creating “an environment where the highest-quality professional staff can give students a quality education while still being fiscally responsible to the taxpayer.”

He stressed his experience on nonprofit boards and committees as one of his areas of strength. Nissley served as a township supervisor in East Hanover Township. He is chairman of Lower Dauphin Communities That Care, treasurer of the Care Club at the high school, and a member of the district’s strategic plan committee. He also served as chairman of the school district’s Act 1 Tax Study Commission.

“I feel I’ve got a lot of pretty useful experience sitting on these boards,” he said. “I believe I have a lot to offer.”

Nissley was one of four candidates interviewed by the school board. Other candidates included Barbara Atkinson, Martin Higgins and Rebecca Kline.

“We have four outstanding candidates tonight,” said Superintendent Sherri Smith in November, thanking them for their interest.

“It’s a shame we only have one seat open,” added board member Renae Paladino.

Rod Nissley takes the oath of office from board President Renae Paladino.
Ted Meador wins 14th annual middle school spelling bee

Correctly spelling “levee,” Lower Dauphin Middle School eighth-grader Ted Meador became the school’s 14th spelling bee champion.

The middle school’s annual spelling bee was held on December 16, and featured 26 other spellers. Each of the middle school’s nine academic teams contributed their top three spellers to the competition which lasted for more than an hour before Ted was crowned the champion.

The son of Steve and Kathy Meador, Ted finished in third place in last year’s all-school spelling bee.

Eighth-grader Halley Cole stuck with Ted for two rounds before she finally missed a word to finish in second place.

Eighth-grader Brittany Grubb captured third place after outlasting three other competitors in a tie-breaker competition.

“It’s extremely difficult to win this contest going against some of the best spellers in the entire school,” said Daniel Berra, school principal.

“We wish them all the best of success as they advance to the next level.”

That next level was a written spelling exam in Harrisburg in February with Ted and Halley advancing to the regional oral bee in the spring.

Mitch Wolfe captures middle school geography bee title

Mitch Wolfe knew that Tenochtitlan, the current site of Mexico City, was the island capital of the Aztec Empire before it was conquered by Spanish explorers.

That knowledge won the eighth-grader the championship of Lower Dauphin Middle School’s 10th Annual Geography Bee on December 12. He defeated sixth-grader James McDonough in the championship round.

Eighth-grader Alen Sauder placed third.

To reach the championship round, Mitch and James had to top three other contestants after the seven-round preliminaries. After two rounds of run-off questions, the three finalists were selected. Mitch and James both answered that Texas was the state which experienced devastation from Hurricane Ike. Alen missed the question setting up the three rounds of championship questions.

In the championship rounds, Mitch bested James 2-1 to claim the title.

The school’s annual bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and features questions requiring knowledge of U.S. geography, the cities of the United States, cultural geography, world geography, map reading and the continents.

Mitch recently took a written test to qualify to participate in the state geography bee later this school year.

“This is a very challenging contest,” said Nadine Krempa, middle school assistant principal and bee moderator. “It takes a lot to make it through to the final round – confidence, patience, concentration, and, of course, a whole lot of geographical knowledge.

“We’re very proud of all our competitors and the skill they displayed here today.”

Upcoming Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation Event

April 24 - LDFF 2nd Annual Golf Tournament
at Hershey Country Club’s East Course
Six student athletes make college choice announcements

Six Lower Dauphin High School student athletes announced their college choices where they will continue their academic and athletic careers.

In a special ceremony in the school library on February 4, the student-athletes, representing field hockey, girls’ soccer, boys’ soccer, and track and field, made their announcements while parents, coaches, and teachers looked on.

Field Hockey
Carrie Diamond – The daughter of Jon and Ivona Diamond, Carrie was a three-year varsity starter and four-year varsity letter winner, as a midfielder. In 2008, Carrie was one of the team’s tri-captains. She scored 17 goals and had 11 assists to lead an inexperienced LD field hockey team to its third consecutive District III championship. She finished her career with 31 goals and 19 assists. “Carrie is an intense competitor who has developed outstanding stick work and passing skills,” said coach Linda Kreiser. “Carrie is an elite athlete who values the team aspect of the game. Her coaches and teammates could count on her to elevate her play in the most competitive games.” Some of Carrie’s field hockey accomplishments include: 2007 & 2008 Mid-Penn Keystone All-Star Team, 2008 Mid-Penn Keystone Co-player of the Year, 2007 & 2008 PHSFHCA First Team All-State, and 2008 NFHCA Regional All-American. Carrie also earned Academic All-State Honors as well as National Academic Honors. Carrie will continue her education and field hockey career at the Princeton University.

Casey Lammando – The daughter of Ed and Marcia Lammando, Casey was a two-year varsity starter as a sweeper for the Falcons. In 2008, Casey was one of the team’s tri-captains. “Defensively as a sweeper, Casey shut down some of the best attackers in our state,” said coach Kreiser. “Casey’s strength, stick skills, and anticipation were her greatest attributes. She tenaciously worked to keep the ball out of our defensive end and she deserves much credit for our outstanding defensive record.” During her senior season, with only two returning defensive starters, Casey led our defense to 16 shut-outs with the opponents scoring 14 goals in 26 games. Some of Casey’s field hockey accomplishments include: 2008 Mid-Penn Keystone Division All-Star, and 2008 PHSFHCA All-State First Team. Casey will continue her education with a full scholarship to play field hockey at Appalachian University in Boone, N.C.

Grace Bathurst – The daughter of Troy and Anne Bathurst, Grace was a three-year varsity letter winner and two-year starter as a side back. “Grace is an intelligent, dedicated, and persistent athlete who often had to mark the strongest opposing forwards,” said coach Kreiser. “Grace was always a steady dependable defender, but in 2008 she has displayed some of her career best performances for the Falcons. She dominated the left side of the field with outstanding interceptions, tackles, and circle play throughout the season.” Some of Grace’s field hockey accomplishments include: 2008 Mid-Penn Keystone Division All-Star, 2008 PHSFHCA First Team All-State, and 2008 Patriot News Big 11 Honorable Mention. Grace is announcing that she will continue her education and field hockey at Slippery Rock University.

Sarah Black – The daughter of Cheryl Black, Sarah has earned two varsity letters after missing last season due to an injury. As a sophomore, she was named to the Mid-Penn Keystone Division Second Team. She is also very active with club soccer, earning numerous awards and recognitions for her play. “Sarah is an outstanding player with excellent skills and great vision,” said coach Randy Behney. “She will be a dominant player in the midfield this year.” Sarah will continue her education and playing career at Kutztown University.

Boys’ Soccer
Dan Parr – The son of Brian and Karen Parr, Dan was a four-year starter and letterman on the boys’ soccer team as a central midfielder and central defender. “Dan was our team captain,” said coach Gerry Lynch. “He is a very skillful player who controlled the team from his central midfield position and scored some key goals for us this year.” Some of his soccer accomplishments include 2008 Mid-Penn Keystone Division First Team All-Star and Co-MVP; 2008 All-State team and numerous national and international honors and experiences through his club teams. Dan plans to continue his education and playing career at Rutgers University.

Track and Field
Michael Brown – The son of Cynthia and Smittie Brown, Mike is a three-year starter and letterman on the track and field team. The school record holder in the 110- and 300-meter hurdles, Mike won gold medals in both events at the PIAA, District III and conference championships in 2008. “Mike is the silent leader on this team,” said coach Greg Miller. “He is never one to boast or brag; he just goes out and gets the job done. The rest of the team looks at what he does on the track and really feeds on his performances.” Mike plans to continue his educational and athletics career at the University of Pennsylvania.
Londonderry Elementary School honored the veterans in its school family and in the community at-large with a special ceremony on November 11.

The celebration began with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from the school serving as color guard. Those students included Jonah Melnic, Josiah Dorwart, Taylor McQuaid and Megan Beckley.

School music teacher Charity Judson led students and staff in the National Anthem.

School Principal Mike Lausch gave some brief remarks followed by a PowerPoint presentation on the meaning of service by fifth-grade teacher and veteran Jay Kerstetter.

Fourth- and fifth-graders were honored for essays about Veterans Day and the veterans in the audience were recognized.

Students writing essays included: Anakin Ream, Brittany Halbleib, Elise Musser, Kailey Zimmerman, Hunter Smith, Allison Rissmiller, Rachel Yeager, Jocelyn Hanula, Taylor McQuaid, Sarah Tinker, Marni Granzow, Logan Buffington, Chase Mader, Sammie and the veterans in the audience were recognized.

Fourth- and fifth-graders were honored for essays about Veterans Day and the veterans in the audience were recognized.

Fourth-grader Marni Granzow and fifth-grader Allison Linton won trophies for their essays.

The celebration closed with the entire audience singing ‘God Bless America’ accompanied by Mrs. Judson on the piano followed by Boy Scouts retiring the colors.

South Hanover Elementary School honors community’s veterans

More than a few tears were shed as the entire student body of South Hanover Elementary School stood to sing “Proud to be an American” while waving little American flags at the closing of the school’s annual Veterans Day celebration.

Forty-two veterans attended this year’s event – mostly friends and family of the school’s students and staff. Each veteran was “adopted” by a classroom and was presented with a commemorative book featuring a certificate of honor signed by the students, a class photo in which the students spelled out the words “thank you,” and a copy of all the essays submitted by fourth- and fifth-graders in the school’s annual essay contest.

Teacher Elaine Enders explained that the gifts were just one small way for students to thank the veterans’ commitment to America. Mrs. Enders organized the Veterans Day celebration at the school and her father, an Army veteran, was in attendance at the program November 11.

Fourth-grader Maeve Bryant and fifth-grader Jesse Gault won the essay contest and read their compositions during the celebration ceremony on Tuesday. Each then received a trophy and a $50 savings bond presented by Bob Richmond from the Hummelstown American Legion.

“Your family members and friends gathered in this room made a commitment to our country to defend the freedom you have as an American so that you may grow up and enjoy the many opportunities life has in store for you,” Principal Pat Rhine told her students. “We have much to be thankful for and much to be proud of. And here at South Hanover, we are honored to enjoy the presence and support of the brave men and women here today who have served their country.”

Mrs. Rhine also read a poem composed by classroom aide Luanne Bell and personally thanked the veterans attending the program.

“Today South Hanover and our nation honor those who served and those who have served in the armed forces of the United States,” she added. “It is a day that we can say thank you in a very special way to these men and women who give up their time and family to make our nation a better place.”

Veterans attending the celebration included: Roy Baldwin, Navy; Col. Michael Becker, Marine Corps; David Brian, Coast Guard; James Brian, Navy; Carl Clemens, Air Force; Ted Clemens, Navy; Linda Crawford, Army; Paul Darrenkamp Jr., Marine Corps; Joseph Deeny, Air Force; Robert Dewey, Army; Charles R. Dillon, Army; Richard Dohner, Army; Harry Farmer Jr., Army; Rusty Spotts, Virginia Kern, Sloan Hammer, Tate Lau, Allison Linton, Taylor Plouse, Dalton Graham, Amber Albert, and Dana Shaffer.

Fourth-grader Marni Granzow and fifth-grader Allison Linton won trophies for their essays.

The celebration closed with the entire audience singing ‘God Bless America’ accompanied by Mrs. Judson on the piano followed by Boy Scouts retiring the colors.
Fifth-graders place fourth in state in KMO competition

Students from practically every state and several countries competed January 21 in the 39th Annual Fifth-Grade Knowledge Master Open academic competition.

A team of 20 fifth-grade students from the Lower Dauphin School District answered 92 of these questions correctly to earn the rank of fourth in the state and 29th in the nation.

Students on the Lower Dauphin team included: Ian Berry, Avichai Brautigan, Ella Breidenstine, Haley Buggy, Rebekah Forshey, Sarah Gibbs, Zoe Irving, Peter Lehman, Davin Malinen, Samantha Markley, Madison McCann, Candace Means, David Means, Alex Messner, Ally Michalowski, Rachel Orth, Taylor Plouse, Katy Rish, Jacob Ruch, and Taylor Zewe.

Academic Coach Jennifer Kinsey described the event as “a contest designed to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic excellence.”

The teams, consisting of fifth grade students, used computers to answer 100 challenging questions.

The contest is hosted by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado publishing firm, and runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. The questions require higher-level thinking skills and cover 13 curriculum areas.

East Hanover third-graders vote for the best ‘candy-date’

With election fever running high in the weeks leading up to the presidential election, third-grade teachers at East Hanover Elementary School came up with a sweet idea to explain the electoral process.

The third-grade held a candy election to determine the best “candy-date” from the three parties – chewey, crunchy and creamy.

The process started with primaries in which students voted for candidates to represent each party. After the primaries, the slate of candidates for the general election was set with Hershey’s Bar representing the creamy party; Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup representing the chewy party; and Butterfinger representing the crunchy party.

Leading up to the November 4 election, the student created campaign literature, posters and even buttons to extol the virtues of their favorite candidate.

“You should vote for my candy-date because you can taste peanut butter and some chocolate at the same time,” said chewy party backer Emily Dowhower. “It is so delicious that if you eat one you can’t stop. You could want it falling from the sky – it is so good! Just seeing the pack will make you hungry for some.”

Not to be outdone, crunchy supporter Brent Spencer said, “You should vote for my candidate because when you bite it, you won’t want to stop eating it. So you might want to get another. So vote for my candidate because when you’re done with your second one you will feel much better. So vote for my candidate.”

Each third-grade classroom voted in a specially made voting booth, after going through the sign-in process just like at the real polls. The third grade also set up an online vote so parents and students in other grades could get in on the fun.

In the end, the overwhelming winner was Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup.

The third-graders also had a visit from state Rep. Ron Marsico who spoke to the students about voting, elections and government. His visit tied into Lower Dauphin’s third-grade curriculum – specifically units on how government works and rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

“The students enjoyed the voting experience and our poll simulation,” said teacher Cassandra Berry. “Thank you to all of the families who participated in our election by voting on-line. It was fun for the kids to see this aspect of voting.”

Teachers Casandra Berry, left, and Tammy Hahn register student voters.

State Rep. Ron Marsico talks about the importance of voting.
Close to 500 Lower Dauphin School District residents turned out on the afternoon of October 28 to show their support for drug-free lifestyles during High on Kids’ 17th Annual Run for the Ribbon through the streets of Hummelstown.

“Just like our shirts say,” High on Kids President Patti Krow said. “We’re here today to walk as a family, to support our schools and our community.

“We are very pleased that so many people joined us today to make a statement in favor of drug-free living.”

All 497 participants received a free T-shirt for attending. Conewago Elementary School was the winner of the traveling trophy which goes to the school with the highest percentage of participants as compared to student enrollment. This year Conewago registered 64 walkers for a 31 percent participation rate.

Lower Dauphin High School received the “Spirit Award” for having the greatest number of participants with 88. East Hanover Elementary School received the award for the most improved participation, with 52 registered walkers attending the Run for the Ribbon.

The schools and their number of walkers are as follows: Lower Dauphin High School – 88; Nye Elementary School – 75; Lower Dauphin Middle School – 74; Conewago Elementary School – 64; Londonderry Elementary School – 63; South Hanover Elementary School – 60; and East Hanover Elementary School – 52.

Sponsors for this year’s event included Dauphin County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services; Fulton Bank; The Hershey Company; Trefz & Bowser Funeral Home; Hummelstown Flower Shop; John T. Pantalone, D.C.; Mr. Bob’s Subway; Rotary Club of Hummelstown; Lower Dauphin Communities That Care; Hoss’s Steak & Sea; Gottwald Screen Printing; Fuzzy Few Organization; Lions Club; Dr. Edward Mimnaugh Veterinarians; The Bridge Church; Three Mile Island; JRC Painting; Foremost Towing; Wal-Mart; J&H Exxon; Rohrer; Lower Dauphin School District; Lower Dauphin Middle School staff; Londonderry Elementary PTO; Students Against Destructive Decisions; Tri-M Music Honor Society; Volunteer Club; Ecology Club; National Art Honor Society; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and Hummelstown Borough Police Department.

Run for the Ribbon is one of many activities sponsored by High on Kids each year. High on Kids is the Lower Dauphin School District’s community advisory committee which is made up of parents, educators, business people, clergy, medical professionals and law enforcement officers who are concerned about drug and alcohol use in the community.

High on Kids meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the District Administration Center, 291 E. Main St., Hummelstown. All meetings are open to the public and newcomers are encouraged to attend.

**High on Kids Forum**

**May 6, 6:30 pm**

**Tweens Before Their Time?**

Dr. Cheryl DellaSeega will speak to mothers and daughters about the pressures facing young women today, and how to cope.
The high school’s fall play, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” featured a cast of 23. The principal cast included Chris Pearson, Jon Tirado, Veronica Callahan, Ella Smith, Alec Brashear, Josh Simpson, Katie Roksandic, Amoreena Laney, Brett Caffier, and Samantha Sierra.
Know Your Schools is published four times a year for the residents of Lower Dauphin School District.

District Office 566-5300
High School 566-5330
Middle School 566-5310
Conewago Elementary School 533-5361
East Hanover Elementary School 469-2686
Londonderry Elementary School 944-9462
Nye Elementary School 566-0300
South Hanover Elementary 566-2564
Informaline: 566-5320 or 944-1668

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Upcoming Events

March
21 LDMS Band in Harrisburg St Patrick’s Day Parade
22 S. Hanover PTO Beach Party
23 LDMS Math & Reading Assessment PSSA Testing; TerraNova Testing
24 LDMS Math & Reading Assessment PSSA Testing; TerraNova Testing
7 pm East Hanover PTO Meeting
25 LDMS Math & Reading Assessment PSSA Testing; TerraNova Testing
26 LDMS Math & Reading Assessment PSSA Testing; TerraNova Testing
South Hanover PTO Academic Fair
27 LDMS Math & Reading Assessment PSSA Testing; TerraNova Testing
East Hanover PTO World Cultures Night
28 Conewago PTO Spaghetti Dinner
30 End of 3rd Marking Period
31 TRI-M Benefit Recital

April
4 Londonderry PTO Egg Hunt
6 Band Booster Meeting
Wrestling Boosters Meeting
School Board Work Session
7 South Hanover PTO Meeting

May
1 Londonderry PTO May Fair
2 East Hanover PTO May Day
4 Nye & E. Hanover Outdoor Education Week
Band Booster Meeting
Wrestling Boosters Meeting
School Board Work Session
5 Conewago Book Fair Begins
Mid Marking Period
South Hanover PTO Meeting
Football Boosters Meeting
6th Grade Spring Concert
6 CASA End of the Year Performance
High on Kids Parent Forum
LDHS Spring Concert
7 S. Hanover PTO Flower/Sub Sale
LDMS PTO Meeting
Conewago Spring Concert
8 Londonderry PTO Muffins w/Moms
11 Londonderry PTO Book Fair Begins
Nye PTO Muffins with Mom
S. Hanover Outdoor Education Week
12 Londonderry PTO Meeting
Conewago PTO Meeting
LDMS 7th & 8th Grade Concert
14 Nye Spring Concert & Art Show
Londonderry Spring Concert
East Hanover Spring Concert