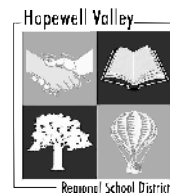


# The VALLEYVIEW



Hopewell Valley Regional School District  
425 South Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
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A NEWSLETTER OF THE HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER 2007

## Getting SMART in the Classroom

**S**MART Boards, part of the interactive classroom technology generation, won over students and teachers at Hopewell Elementary School this past year and plans are underway to add them to the district's other elementary schools this September.

The interactive whiteboards, which operate by both touch and digital markers, connect to classroom computers, giving users access to software programs and Internet resources. What this means is teachers can transfer digital information directly to a platform where they are very comfortable – the whiteboard – where they can underline for emphasis, make notes in the margin and use other visual, instructional techniques honed on years and years of blackboard and whiteboard use.

Computer-savvy students are drawn naturally to the interactive design, and visual learners, in particular, are reaping big benefits, say teachers. Several large studies, in fact, have linked interactive whiteboards to higher student achievement, particularly in problem-solving subjects such as math and science.

Amy Orlando, Ph.D., the technology teacher at Hopewell Elementary who first sought the boards, says they are not merely exciting new classroom gadgets for students, but are valuable assessment tools for teachers who can quickly gauge student progress. "We are just touching the surface on all the capabilities of the Boards," she said.

"All the students want to be at the SMART Board," Orlando continued. "They love presenting projects on them and think the ease of writing with digital markers and having a touch screen is fascinating. So do the teachers."

Hopewell's two SMART Boards, acquired with a grant at half the retail price of \$1,500, were purchased by the school PTO. ■

## Sounding Lessons in Math, Writing

**A** handsome Spanish cedar tower in which to hang, the shadow of a lovely historic schoolhouse in which to live and the hands of children to make you sing. What could be a better fate for a rescued old cast iron bell?

How about providing a year's worth of lessons in math, writing, art and computer education for those same schoolchildren? That's what the 3rd grade class of Michelle Hamilton got when students decided to build a bell tower on their Hopewell Elementary School grounds. They used geometry to calculate the angles their tower would need for strength and learned how to read a ruler and tape measure so their lumber would be the correct size. They wrote persuasive letters to local lumberyards, requesting donations or discounted materials, and prepared a PowerPoint presentation to their school's PTO, soliciting a grant. They counted out change for customers supporting their bake sale fundraisers and displayed artistic flair in their posters promoting them. They even polished their public speaking skills, addressing a group of parents interested in the project.

With donated muscle and materials from Baxter Construction of Princeton, as

(Cont. on page 6.)



*Maggie Saramak strikes a wistful pose at graduation. 93 percent of this year's graduating class will fan out across the U.S. this fall, pursuing degrees at some of the finest colleges and universities in the country.*

## State Grant to Fuel Walking School Bus

**H**opewell Valley has won a \$14,000 grant to launch a Walking School Bus at Stony Brook Elementary School.

A walking school bus is not a vehicle at all, but organized groups of children who follow a schedule, usually accompanied by an adult, to walk on a charted route to school. They have operated successfully elsewhere in New Jersey and around the country and are lauded for promoting healthy lifestyles, as well as reducing traffic congestion and pollution near schools.

The grant, awarded through the federally funded Safe Routes to School Program, will pay for a program coordinator, marketing expenses, maps and incentives. It also will buy new bicycle racks and pedometers for the 519-student school.

The Greater Mercer TMA, which submitted a letter in support of the grant application, has pledged to help analyze surrounding neighborhoods, map routes and develop schedules. Officials will also share pointers learned from their work with other schools

(Cont. on page 5.)

## President's Perspective

by Linda Mitchell, Board of Education



As seen by the near-empty school parking lots and the absence of students clad with backpacks, summer is a quieter time for the HVRSD – or so it appears! In reality, there is a multitude of tasks specifically planned for the “off-season” which must be completed by the start of school. A few key examples this summer are:

### Teaching Staff

- Curriculum writing/development projects on nearly 60 topics, involving some 90 staffers
- Meeting or exceeding state teacher standards through college-level Continuing Education coursework

### Technology

- Creating wireless accessibility in all school libraries and cafeterias
- Centralizing computer storage at TMS and CHS to increase speed, efficiency
- Updating network infrastructure to improve overall speed
- Replacing roughly 300 computers more than 7 years old
- Creating remote accessibility to district software library for students
- Improving communication stream by connecting voice mail and e-mail

### Personnel

- Recruiting/interviewing/orienting new staff (21 to date, including new Toll Gate principal, district comptroller, nurse, psychologist)
- Continuing candidate searches, as needed (CHS vice principal position)
- Reviewing all job descriptions and revising, as necessary

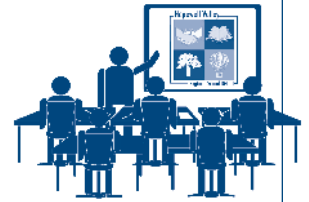
### Facilities and Maintenance

- Resurfacing track, refurbishing tennis courts with stone dust overlay
- Installing remote control front door locks in all schools except CHS
- Installing new clock/ bell system, upgrading CHS fire alarm system
- Designing new serving plans at CHS & TMS to relieve lunch lines
- Installing solar-powered electrical system at TMS

Other sizable summer projects run the gamut, from detail cleaning in every building to the paperwork-heavy, number-crunching preparation for the annual financial audit near summer's end. If that weren't enough, the state has just instituted a new monitoring system (NJQSAC), with this district being one of the first to be evaluated. Needless to say, the district administration is pushing hard in many directions to be fully prepared for the mid-fall deadline.

So as you drive by what appear to be quiet school buildings, know that much of the district staff is on-duty. They are focused on the tasks at hand and working through the current challenges, regardless of how warm, sunny and inviting it looks out the window! After all, 10 weeks of summer go by much too quickly! ■

## Meet the HVRSD Staff



**Dan Umstead  
Principal  
Toll Gate Grammar School**

If Dan Umstead was going for “memorable” in his first contact with Toll Gate students, he probably aced it. How does a

youngster forget a person who tries to steal his library's newest Harry Potter book?

Umstead, of course, is not a thief, but he gamely played along when organizers of a summer reading program, looking to spice up an activity in the days following the blockbuster's release, asked Toll Gate's freshly appointed principal if he'd pose as the book snatcher.

Umstead's playful spirit bodes well for his future at Toll Gate, where the culture prizes enthusiasm, creativity, energy and vision. Most students will get their first look at him when school reopens in September.

It will be an easy transition for the affable Umstead, who comes to Hopewell Valley from West Windsor-Plainsboro's highly regarded Dutch Neck Elementary School where he has been serving as assistant principal. He is an enthusiastic champion of the Responsive Classroom model, which has been in practice in Hopewell Valley elementary schools for more than a decade, and has overseen curriculum writing developed in a leading-edge way, known as Backward Design, also used by writers here. Strengthening professional development of teachers, a hallmark of Hopewell Valley, has also been a focus for him.

“So much of what I know is important to Hopewell Valley is important to me and important in my experiences prior to being in West Windsor,” he said.

Umstead, who in college flirted with the idea of entering the business field, began his career in education in North Philadelphia's George Clymer School, a K-5 school. It was a formative experience for the young teacher and one which he credits as grounding him in one of the essential truths about effective education: that much contributes to a child's readiness to learn and that optimal learning is only possible when children's needs on several levels – social, emotional and intellectual – are being met.

He taught for five years at George Clymer, also helping to develop a new pre-1st program, before following his wife, Erica, also a teacher, to West Windsor in 1996. He taught 4th grade for five years before accepting an elementary science supervisor position and in 2003 moved to the second chair at Dutch Neck.

At Toll Gate, he knows he is entering a community with high expectations, a devout sense of tradition and uncommon home-school partnerships.

“That's what I truly love,” says Umstead. “I know that in educating a child – fostering a love of learning, recognizing the traditions and celebrations of a school's culture – it's all important. And that's a big part of who I am. Everything I am learning about Toll Gate makes me very comfortable about making this change.” ■



Kat D'Ambra, flanked by Vice Principal Dennis Vinson and Principal Mike Daher

## Godspeed, Mrs. D'Ambra

**N**ot a lot of people knew about the Harleys. The motorcycle-owning side of Kat D'Ambra was one of the dimensions of the popular Central High School vice principal that she kept rather quiet. She slipped away from CHS rather the same way, quietly, after making her 5th and final graduation walk on June 20.

The legacy she leaves behind, however, is enviable. The former English teacher (she started at CHS as a student teacher in 1996) was widely regarded as the heart and soul of the CHS main office, admired for her deep intellectual curiosity, keen mind, thoughtfulness and attention to detail. Colleagues will remember her devoted interest in staff harmony; students will recall a skillful and fair arbitrator in times of conflict and an enthusiastic champion of students at all times.

On July 16 she joined the administrative team at Moorestown High School. The suburban Philadelphia school is new to D'Ambra, but not everything is unfamiliar. She joins former colleague and CHS physics teacher Drew Seibel, who is Moorestown's principal, and former boss, John W. Bach, who just took the reins as superintendent of schools. Bach, principal of CHS from 1998 until 2004, was assistant superintendent of Hopewell Valley when he was hired to lead his hometown school district. Like D'Ambra, he started at Moorestown July 16. ■

## Progress in Our Mission



number of initiatives, advancing the goals of the district's strategic plan, move forward. Among them:

**Shared Services.** Superintendent Judy Ferguson and **Hopewell Township** Administrator Paul Pogorzelski, meeting regularly to explore areas of potential savings through joint purchasing, have identified two significant cost-cutters. The township will join the cooperative through which the district has long purchased its paper supply, saving as much as 30% of current expenses. In addition, the township will broker road paving services, at costs lower than commercially available, to the district.

**Partnerships.** The Board accepted \$15,000 from the **Hopewell Basketball Association**, the first installment payment for long-term rental use of school facilities. The money will be used to help fund upgrades to district gymnasiums. **The Hopewell Valley YMCA** will launch this fall a year-long, after-school enrichment program of 7-week classes for students at district schools. As part of an agreement with the district, the classes are being offered as a guest program, which waives the standard YMCA membership fee for participating students. Class offerings were expanded after a pilot program in the spring proved popular. In addition, the Y will be offering before-school violin classes.

**Athletic Fields at Timberlane.** Plans are on track for an expected fall 2008 opening of three new athletic fields. When on line, the multipurpose fields will bring to five the number of active fields at the site. Two new baseball fields and a pair of softball fields will complete the project. Work to upgrade the existing stone access road and the interior parking lot is targeted to begin by summer's end in partnership with Hopewell Township. **The Recreation Foundation of Hopewell Valley** announced the receipt of two \$50,000 gifts to the fields project. In exchange, the Ryan family of Titusville, headed by bank chairman and foundation trustee Patrick Ryan, and Bristol-Myers Squibb will each have a field named after them.

**Gifts.** CHS officials have earmarked a \$10,000 cash donation from the **Class of 2007** for major campus signage. The design under consideration includes a 12-foot by 13.5-foot school seal and the school name in attractive, gold-colored aluminum lettering. The donation, combined with leftover funds from the Class of 2006, would also pay for a handsome, 6-foot-high directional sign near the main vehicle entrance to point visitors to the main office, PAC and gym. Faculty advisors to the musical account, which holds gate receipts from various student performances, have endorsed a compatible design for signage over the PAC's main doors. Local businessmen and parents **Tony Genovesi** and **Drewe Schoenholtz** donated materials and discounted labor costs for a major expansion of the Bulldog Walk at CHS. The project, valued at between \$20,000 and \$25,000, was supported with a \$5,000 contribution from the Booster Club. The commemorative project, open to all members of the high school community, involves the sale of inscribable bricks at \$65 each. **Merrill Lynch** has pledged a \$7,000 donation for the publishing of the 2007-08 calendar/handbook, the district's signature publication and indispensable parent resource. ■

## West Windsor-Plainsboro Administrator to Lead Toll Gate

**D**an Umstead, assistant principal of the Dutch Neck Elementary School in Princeton Junction, has been hired as the next principal of Toll Gate Grammar. He replaces Myra Bugbee who retired Aug. 1.

Umstead, 41, has served in the administrative team at Dutch Neck, a K-3 school of more than 700 students, since 2003. For the past year he has also served as the test coordinator for the district's six elementary schools and is a former district supervisor of the elementary science curriculum.

A Philadelphia native, Umstead began his career there, as an elementary teacher in the city's public schools, and transferred in 1996 to the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, where he taught 4th grade for five years before becoming an administrator.

He has a master's degree in educational administration from Rider University and a bachelor's degree in elementary and kindergarten education from Penn State University.

Umstead lives in Yardley with his wife, Erica, an adjunct professor in the education department at Rider, and daughters Madeleine, 6, and Elena, 2. ■

# HOPEWELL VALLEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2007 AWARDS



VALEDICTORIAN.....**SARAH SICKELS**  
 SALUTATORIAN.....**BEN SHENG**

**\* HONOR AWARDS**

Hopewell Valley YMCA Bud Ruskie Memorial Award.....**Andrew John Cassavell**  
 VFW Gene T. Richard Memorial Award.....**Brian DeAngelis**  
 Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339 Award.....**Michael Hobson, Eileen M. Carroll**  
 Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award.....**Jamie Bartolino**  
 Outstanding in School Citizenship.....**Douglas R. Deutsch**  
 Contributed the Most to Class (voted by class members).....**John Pagano, Kaitlyn Gregory**  
 Michael Arcieri Award for Outstanding Service to the School.....**Marguerite Emhof, John Pagano**

**\* ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Charles E. Farrington Memorial Award.....**Sarah Sickels**  
 Class Salutatorian.....**Ben Sheng**  
 Rhode Island School of Design Award.....**Lisa Liu**  
 Exceptional Dramatic Ability.....**Sandy Ziolkowski**  
 Highest Proficiency in English.....**Elizabeth Goldgar**  
 Highest Proficiency in Art.....**Jared Shaffer**  
 Most Improvement and Growth in Visual Arts.....**Noah Hamdan**  
 Rosemary Hoch Memorial Award (Home Economics).....**Alicia Hill**  
 DAR Award for Highest Proficiency in U.S. History.....**Alicia Hill**  
 DAR Award for Highest Proficiency in European History...**Alex Melman**  
 National School Choral Award.....**Charlotte Bhaskar**  
 Catherine Hoch Award for Highest Proficiency in French.....**Grace Tuschak**  
 Paul W. Cadwallader Award for Highest Proficiency in Spanish.....**Meredith Briggs**  
 Highest Proficiency in Latin.....**Elizabeth Goldgar**  
 Highest Proficiency in German.....**Rebecca Wood**  
 Highest Proficiency in Business Education.....**Arjun Sirrah**  
 John Phillip Sousa Band Award for Highest Proficiency in Band.....**Lisa Lafferty**  
 National School Orchestra Award for Highest Proficiency in Orchestra.....**Kenneth Han-wei Kantzer**  
 Highest Proficiency in Mathematics.....**Ben Sheng**  
 Dale W. Kintzel Award (Vo-tech).....**Michael Hobson**  
 JoAnn Amison Award for Highest Scholastic Average in Marketing.....**Arjun Sirrah**  
 Highest Proficiency in Architecture/Engineering/Computer Graphics.....**Steven Hall**  
 Outstanding Achievement in Woodworking.....**Jay Amato**  
 Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey Award.....**Eileen Guo**  
 Highest Proficiency in Science.....**Ben Sheng**  
 Wellness Students of the Year.....**Megan Fitzpatrick, Nabil Hamdan Jr.**  
 Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry Award.....**Sarah Sickels**  
 Highest Proficiency in Musical Theater.....**Zachary Andrews**  
 Outstanding Achievement and Excellence in Social Studies.....**Nicholas Jourjine**  
 Janet Maloney Award for Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship.....**Arjun Sirrah**

Louis Armstrong Award for Highest Proficiency in Jazz.....**Nicholas Gabinet**  
 David Bossart Memorial Award (Fine Arts).....**Katherine Kolombatovich**  
 Exceptional Commitment to Study of German.....**Rebecca Wood**  
 DAR Postage Stamp Art Competition, First Place, U.S.....**Lisa Liu**  
 DAR Postage Stamp Art Competition, Second Place, State.....**Noah Hamdan**  
 DAR Postage Stamp Art Competition, Third Place, State.....**Omkar Shivaprasad**

**\* COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

Pennington Fire Company.....**Matthew Arena, Michael Hobson, John Muccioli, Matthew Se'Mon**  
 Pennington First Aid Squad.....**Kelsey Cahill, Elizabeth Mamer, John Muccioli, Omkar Shivaprasad**  
 Hopewell Fire and Emergency Medical Unit.....**Jane Bennett, Sean Devlin, Ryan Lake, Jason Machusak, Elizabeth Sidler**  
 Union Fire Co. and Rescue Squad.....**Louis Giallella, Daniel Grundfest, Max Konig, Kurtis Strange**  
 Leadership, Service, Unselfish Concern for Others.....**Nathaniel Chase**  
 Pennington Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary.....**Renee Lenarski, Kelly Wittkop**

**\* AREA AWARDS**

Harry R. Davis Memorial Scholarship.....**Sandy Ziolkowski, Gina Pagano, John Pagano, Laina Rivera, Laura Stapperfenne**  
 National Merit Scholarship sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation.....**Matthew Cook, Tim Haberin, Lisa Liu**  
 National Merit Scholarship sponsored by NJ Manufacturers Insurance Group.....**Jamie Bartolino**  
 Hopewell Valley Historical Society Scholarship.....**Alicia Hill**  
 Yardville National Bank Scholarship.....**John Pagano, Sandy Ziolkowski**  
 Marine Trades Association Scholarship.....**Matthew Arena**  
 New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Scholarship.....**Eileen Carroll**  
 James P. O'Mara Memorial Scholarship.....**William Dunne**

**\* LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Lorna Young-Earle Memorial.....**Jamie Bartolino**  
 Raymond R. Wagner Memorial.....**Andrew Cassavell, Alicia Hill**  
 Rachel Fink Memorial.....**Jacqueline Orlando, Kaitlyn Zsenak**  
 John Molinelli Everyday Hero.....**Kristin Hageman**  
 H.G. Glaubitz Memorial.....**Kenneth Han-wei Kantzer**  
 Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339.....**Michael Matlack**  
 Hopewell Fire Department.....**Max Konig**  
 Hopewell Township PBA.....**Suzanne Noyes, Jay Amato**  
 Hopewell Elementary School PTO.....**Lori Epstein, Dashiell Farewell**  
 Henry Muentener, Sr. Memorial.....**Max Konig**  
 Pennington Doctors Abey and Miller.....**Emma Cantor**  
 Bear Tavern PTO.....**Kaitlyn Gregory, Kaitlyn Zsenak**  
 RE/MAX Premiere Properties.....**Sarah Sickels**  
 Pennington Players' Jack and Mary Rees Memorial.....**Sandy Ziolkowski**  
 Hopewell Valley Central High School PTO.....**Kristin Cuprzinski, Brian DeAngelis, Jamie Dubuque, Lori Epstein, Brian Nowicki, John Pagano, Lisa Petty, Sarah Sickels, Zachary Walton, Sandy Ziolkowski**  
 Eileen Kehr Vansant Memorial.....**Denise Holley**  
 Pennington Business and Professional Association.....**Timothy Deasy, Caitlin Koether**  
 Hopewell Business Association.....**Megan Fitzpatrick**  
 Timberlane PTO Book Awards.....**Camille Deering, David Siuta**  
 Hopewell Women's Club.....**Matthew Arena**  
 Megan Cranstoun Memorial.....**Jacqueline Orlando**  
 Princeton Radiology.....**Meredith Briggs**  
 Richard Rodgers and Robert Rodgers III Memorial.....**Tim Deasy**

**Scholarships & Awards** (Cont. from page 4)

Amy Kathryn Rankin Memorial.....**Richard Gainsborg**  
 Hopewell-Pennington Kiwanis Club.....**Hannah Tocco, Erica Wnek**  
 Hopewell Valley Central High School Staff DDDSP.....**John Pagano**  
 Princeton Elks Lodge #2129...**Richard Gainsborg, Maryann Muscente**  
 Jean Errickson Memorial.....**Graham Besselieu, Rebecca Wood**  
 Hopewell Valley Chorus.....**William Emhof, Aubrey Holmes**  
 Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.....**Laura Stapperfenne**  
 Mildred Hibbs Memorial.....**Blake Cignarella**  
 Raymond S. and Adele D. Schulley Memorial.....**Alicia Hill**  
 Mae K. Burd Memorial.....**Abby Stern**  
 Albert M. Reed Memorial.....**Matthew Hilderbrandt**  
 Janssen Pharmaceutica.....**Ben Sheng**  
 G. Randle Ackerman.....**Eric Doran**  
 Denise Lugar.....**Suzanne Noyes**  
 NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete Award.....**Eileen Carroll**  
 Bulldog Booster Club Scholar-Athlete Award.....**Nicholas Jourjine**  
 Bulldog Booster Club Outstanding Athlete Award.....**Megan Fitzpatrick, Eric Doran**  
 ETS New Jersey Scholar-Athlete Award.....**Meredith Briggs, Ben Sheng**  
 Gilbert P. Rossi Memorial.....**Gina Colati, Andrew Cassavell**  
 U.S. Marine Corps Award.....**David Anderson**  
 U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award...**Marguerite Emhof, Brian DeAngelis**  
 Colonial Valley Conference Sportsmanship Award.....**Gina Pagano, Andrew Cassavell**  
 Women in Sports Day Award.....**Gina Colati**  
 The Times All-Star Academic Team Award for Technology.....**Katherine Kolombatovich**  
 Lowe's.....**Kristin Hageman**  
 Miss St. Patrick's Day 2007.....**Megan DiBiase**  
 Trenton Polish Arts Club.....**Magdalena Saramak**  
 Comcast Foundation's Leaders and Achievers.....**Douglas Deutsch**  
 Toll Gate Grammar School PTO Book Award.....**Marguerite Emhof, Emily Rodriguez**  
 Hopewell Valley Lions Club.....**Marguerite Emhof**  
 Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance Youth Leadership.....**Sophia D'Angelo, Jarrett Husid**  
 Marge Loudon Community Service Award.....**Eileen Carroll, John Muccioli**  
 Sons and Daughters of Erin.....**Megan DiBiase**  
 Music and Theatre Parents Association.....**Kristin Cuprzinski, Richard Gainsborg, Kenneth Han-wei Kantzer, Daniel Nichols**

**Timberlane Middle School**

Fifty members of the 8th grade class were recognized at the school's Stepping Up Ceremony on June 21. Among those students saluted for outstanding scholastic, artistic and athletic achievement were:

Math.....**Griffin Winton-LaVieri, Tania Ryseck, Ellie Fishman**  
 Science.....**Alice Kroutikova, Danielle Stout, Kelly MacDonald**  
 Language Arts....**Ian McQueary, Madeline Cornelli, John Castonguay**  
 Social Studies.....**Amanda Mraz, Ryan Rew, John Castonguay**  
 World Languages.....**Alice Kroutikova, Abigail Berkowitz, Kyle Shan**  
 Art.....**Lauren Meyer**  
 Drama.....**Nick Muoio, Ellie Fishman**  
 Band.....**Mark DeAngelis, Jessica Novobilsky**  
 Chorus.....**Abigail Berkowitz, John Castonguay**  
 Orchestra.....**Alice Kroutikova, Jeremy Thong**  
 Industrial Education.....**Ryan Rew, Chad Rew**  
 Family and Consumer Science.....**Casey Schoenholtz**  
 Computer Science.....**Gavin Nelson**  
 Health and Physical Education.....**Alex Katz, Lori Genovesi**  
 Region Band.....**Nicole Giermasinski, Colin Beals-Reid**  
 Region Jazz Band.....**Andrew Smith**

All-State Honor Choir.....**Abigail Berkowitz, Alex Bhaskar Ellie Fishman, John Castonguay**  
 Outstanding Male Athlete.....**Tyler Bell**  
 Outstanding Female Athlete.....**Sarah Gronet**  
 Sportsmanship Award.....**David Shaffer, Elise Fengler**  
 Six Pillars of Character Award.....**Alex Bhaskar, Heather Hoffman, Gavin Nelson, Ali Bernstein, Tyler Bell, Julia Rockey**  
 Principal's Academic Award.....**Ryan Rew**  
 Highest Academic Achievement.....**Tania Ryseck**



**\* NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS**

Brian DeAngelis	Amalie McKee
Elizabeth Goldgar	Alex Melman
Kenneth Han-wei Kantzer	Ben Sheng
Lisa Liu	Abby Stern

**NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLARS**

Zachary Andrews	Simon Healey
Charlotte Bhaskar	Christina Jaworsky
Meredith Briggs	Nicholas Jourjine
Matthew Cook	Robert LaPosta
Nicholas Gabinet	Ellen Sherwood
Timothy Haberin	

**EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS**

Jamie Bartolino, Meredith Briggs, Emma Cantor, Matthew Cook, Brian DeAngelis, Douglas Deutsch, Marguerite Emhof, S. Nicole Fearnbach, Nicholas P. Gabinet, Elizabeth Goldgar, Timothy Haberin, Kristin Hageman, Simon Healey, Christina Jaworsky, Nicholas Jourjine, Kenneth Han-wei Kantzer, Colleen Kent, Lisa Liu, Sarah Marion, Daniel McGruther, Alex Melman, Ben Sheng, Sarah Sickels, David Siuta, Mark Squicciarino, Abby Stern



Newly-minted graduates mug for the cameras.

**State Grant to Fuel Walking School Bus** (Cont. from page 1)

and from their counterparts at Ridewise TMA in Somerset County.

Hopewell Valley was the only Mercer County grant winner. Just 29 projects out of 274 applications were funded. ■

## Take a Seat!

Pay lasting tribute to an outstanding teacher, your best friend, mom or another special someone in your life by “buying” in his or her honor one of the seats in the Hopewell Valley Performing Arts Center. Choice seats cost the most, at \$750, but four pricing levels are available, beginning at \$100. The *Take a Seat* campaign is an initiative of the Hopewell Valley Education Foundation and officially kicks off this fall. For more information, or to reserve your seat early, contact the foundation at [info@hvef.org](mailto:info@hvef.org). Proceeds will support PAC upgrades. Topping the wishlist: a \$100,000 suspension lighting system for the stage. ■



3rd grader John Otters helps a crew from Baxter Construction working on Hopewell's new bell tower.

### Sounding Lessons in Math, Writing (Cont. from page 1)

well as cedar shake roofing shingles from 84 Lumber and Theriault Roofing and sandblasting and repair work from Johnson Welding of Hopewell, the 11-foot tower was completed and the bell installed in time to herald the last day of school on June 21. As for the bell itself, it was donated by the Otters/Hobson families of student John Otters, who retrieved it from a quiet existence on a local barn floor.

“What’s really nice is the whole school community is excited about it,” said Hamilton, who was inspired to do the project after seeing a similar belfry in Maine. ■

## Middle School Gets New Schedule

Timberlane students returning in September will notice a number of changes in their daily schedule: fewer periods, shorter homeroom periods, lunches with more friends their age. Parents are likely to welcome the redesign: longer classes (more time spent in instruction every day), more time for physical activity and an improved model for reading comprehension and writing.

Principal Pat Coats, who sought the changes, predicts big payoffs, particularly in problem-solving subjects like laboratory science and math, where the work is hard to cram in the former 42-minute periods.

2006-07	2007-08
9 periods	8 periods
42-minute periods	52-minute periods
42-minute lunch	28-minute lunch
Multi-grade level lunches	Grade-level lunches
1 period for electives	1 period for electives (no change)
Core Enrichment period in grade 8	No Core Enrichment period in grade 8
Separate periods for reading/language arts in grades 6 and 7	Combined period for reading/language arts in grades 6 and 7
15-minute homeroom	7-minute homeroom
Limited common planning time for teachers with special education and departmental colleagues	Common planning time for teachers with departmental colleagues and special education teachers

## Enlivening the Classics through Drama

It is a pivotal moment in Homer’s great epic, *The Odyssey*, when the messenger god Hermes convinces the beautiful nymph Calypso to grant immortality to the wayward Odysseus, on the high seas for a decade, so he may return to the hearth of his beloved Penelope.

The fact that Calypso wore flip-flops and Hermes an Aeropostale T-shirt was not important to those who watched this particular re-enactment. They were caught up in the classic story of love and betrayal, as every teacher of Greek mythology hopes her class will be.

But this was hardly a typical class and the teachers were unfamiliar at Timberlane Middle School, where this performance took place. Members of McCarter Theatre’s education department, they brought Homer’s epic story to life with imagination and simple props. It is part of *The Odyssey Experience*, McCarter’s new experiential theatre developed to help teach classic literature to students through drama. McCarter officials are launching their new program with *The Odyssey* because of its themes of separation and familial love.

“I think every kid at some point has had the experience of a parent who’s away,” said Chris Parks, McCarter’s director of education. “Who can’t appreciate that feeling of wanting to go home?”

Using props as simple as dowel rods and scarves, the students, joined by their teachers and Principal Pat Coats, improvised various roles in Homer’s epic, including Odysseus’s weather-beaten sailors, the cannibalizing Cyclopes and the dangerously tempting Sirens.

Aside from punching up the fun factor in what is notoriously dry subject matter for many students, the drama approach also holds great promise for some students with special needs.

“This will transform how we deliver instruction to students with reading difficulties by using a viable alternative to printed text,” said Isabelle Richards, supervisor of secondary special education.

The positive reception at Timberlane has led officials to plan a similar program in the fall with the district’s 3rd graders, said Donna DeAngelis-White, supervisor of language arts and one of the architects of the partnership with McCarter. The project will be funded through a grant from the Hopewell Valley Education Foundation. ■

## Class Acts

The 2007 winners of the Governor’s Recognition Award share an uncommon commitment and dedication to the academic and personal growth of Hopewell Valley students. Saluted at the annual dinner of the Hopewell Valley Education Foundation and at a luncheon honoring all area winners at Educational Testing Service were:

- Marilyn Lilly**, CHS, teacher of German
- Janet Watson**, TMS, school nurse
- Lynne Hulme**, Bear Tavern, 3rd grade
- Eileen Sweeney**, Hopewell Elementary, 4th grade
- Patricia Fengler**, Stony Brook Elementary, technology
- Susan Tobias**, Toll Gate Grammar, music

★ Brothers **Kyle** and **Nick Brower**, underclassmen at CHS, spent 10 days in June in the Dominican Republic, helping to build a medical facility for the poor and underserved. The trip was organized by the Morris County-based, non-profit Foundation for Peace.

★ The poems and short stories of five CHS students were selected for the 2007 issue of *Aspirations*, a magazine of outstanding high school literature published by Mercer County Community College. Included was prose from juniors **Elizabeth Mamer**, **Michael Guggenheim** and **Sarah Sickels** and sophomores **Laura Feibush** and **Sijia Zhao**.

★ Teams representing Timberlane's 7th and 8th grade reading classes finished in 1st place in the 2007 Battle of the Books regional competition in Manalapan in May. Demonstrating their knowledge of 15 books in timed responses were 8th graders **John Castonguay**, **Sara Walsh**, **Laura Valenza**, **Briege Geraghty**, **Stacey Perris** and **Anu Sadhu**. The 7th grade champions were **Laura Cook**, **Kayla Gursahaney**, **Claire Monaghan**, **Rohit Purandare**, **John Brence** and **Adam Ames**.

★ CHS sophomore **Laura Feibush** was named a national semifinalist in the Letters About Literature competition sponsored by the Library of Congress. Her winning entry, a letter to Willa Cather about the author's *The Song of the Lark*, took top honors among high school students in New Jersey. The contest is run by the Library's Center for the Book and its state-level affiliates, which were created to stimulate public interest in reading, books and libraries.

★ Bear Tavern 5th graders **Erin Amantia**, **Kaitlynn Richter**, **Angela Scott** and **Zoey Storck** earned their Bronze Award in Girl Scout Troop 910. The four used their earnings from the annual cookie sale to buy toiletry items for Womanspace and collected five large boxes' worth of gently used children's books which they donated to Katzenbach School for the Deaf.

★ CHS freshman **Maureen Grady** finished in 11th place all-around at the USA Gymnastics Eastern National Competition in May in Kissimmee, Fla. In qualifying meets, she took 2nd place all-around in the state competition and 5th all-around in the Regional event. Maureen competes at Level 9, one away from the top amateur level.

★ Timberlane 7th grader **Camaran Henson** spent 10 days in July and August studying law and trial advocacy with law professors and practicing lawyers at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. The experience was arranged through LeadAmerica, a youth leadership organization.

★ Toll Gate 5th grader **Emmet Hassett** was named 2007 Outstanding School Safety Patroller of the Year by the AAA Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education. He and two other regional winners were honored at a May dinner and presented with \$150 savings bonds.

★ CHS seniors **A.J. Cassavell** and **Gina Pagano** were presented with the Colonial Valley Conference Sportsmanship Award at a dinner in May at the Cream Ridge Golf Course.

★ Eight CHS upperclassmen were honored by the English faculty for exhibiting intellectual commitment to the study of literature and initiative toward community service. Receiving gifts of hardcover classics, essay collections and dictionaries from several prestigious colleges were juniors **Caity Limato**, **Tiffany Olszuk**, **Lauren Apgar**, **Bridgette Carrier**, **Monica Shapiro**, **Thomas Seabrook**, **Manishika Agaskar** and **Vivian Gillmett**.

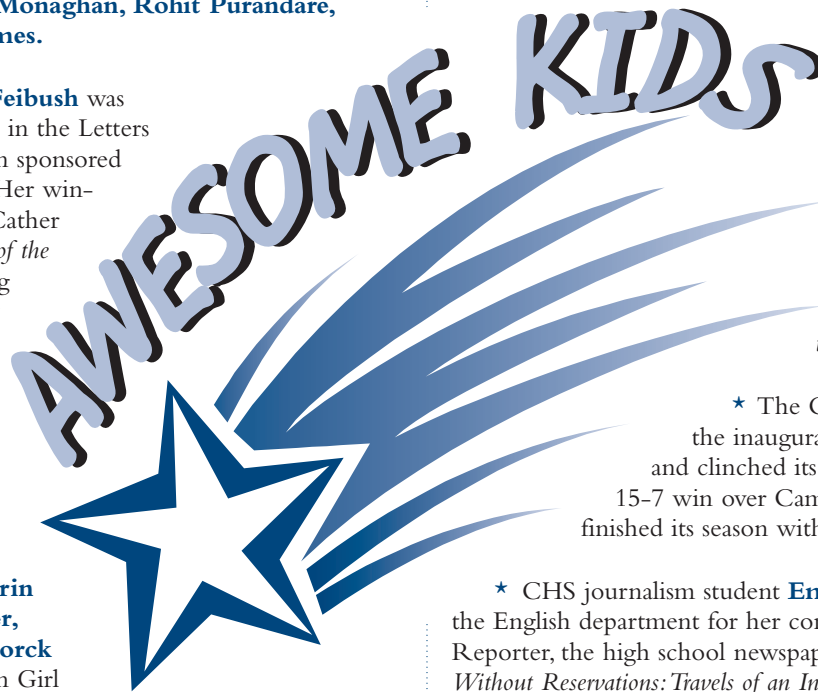
★ CHS freshman **Neil Edwards** captured a 2nd place win in the statewide essay contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Neil, who has dominated in this highly competitive contest for the last four years, won for his essay on Christopher Columbus, *At Sea or At Home: Different Perspectives on the Voyage to the New World*.

★ The CHS **girls' lacrosse team** won the inaugural Mercer County tournament and clinched its first-ever sectional title with a 15-7 win over Camden Catholic in May. The team finished its season with a 21-4 record.

★ CHS journalism student **Emily Burnham** was honored by the English department for her commitment to the Bulldog Reporter, the high school newspaper. She received a copy of *Without Reservations: Travels of an Independent Woman* by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Alice Steinbach.

★ CHS junior **Alex Gurak** was accepted into Rutgers University's distinguished Astrophysics Institute. The highly selective summer program is designed for high school physics teachers and students interested in learning authentic independent research techniques in X-ray astrophysics. Student participants, who may win college credit for their work, attend intensive classes for four weeks and continue their research into the following year, using a variety of resources, including NASA archives.

★ **Manishika Agaskar**, a junior at CHS, spent a month this summer at Rutgers University as a student in the Governor's School of Engineering and Technology. Among the topics she studied were modern physics theories and quantum computing. The highly selective Governor's School admits well-rounded, high-achieving students at the top of their classes who demonstrate an interest in pursuing careers in engineering and technology.



# Staff Achievements

## Moose Bones, Anyone?

CHS biology teacher **Eric Guise** has won a fellowship from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to spend nine days in a Michigan island wilderness investigating predatory behaviors with noted wolf researcher Rolf Peterson. As part of the research team, Guise will help collect moose bones and other indicators of wolf kills on Isle Royale National Park. Peterson, a professor at Michigan Technological University, has been studying predator-prey dynamics on the undeveloped island for more than 30 years. The August trip was arranged through the Earthwatch Institute, which pairs teachers and scientists on research missions around the globe. ■

## Teachers to Work with Scientists, Engineers

Timberlane science teachers **Grace Rarich** and **Ellen Thomas-Covell** and CHS biology teacher **David Angwenyi** spent a week in July learning effective, cutting-edge models for teaching science and technology. The workshop, held on the western Maryland campus of Garrett College, involved teachers from 12 states and featured trainers from the National Institute of Aerospace and telecommunications giant Nortel. Funding for the training, which included classroom kits valued at \$2,000 for each teacher, came from the U.S. Department of Defense. Garrett is the home of the Center for the Advancement of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education. ■



## Bon Voyage!

Sixteen district employees retired at the end of the school year, including career Central High School teachers Richard Estelow and Ervin "Skip" Johnson whose combined time in the classroom topped 80 years. School bells rang for the last time in June for:

- Estelow** (1966).....auto shop, CHS
- Johnson** (1967).....wood shop, CHS
- W. Michael Brindle** (1969).....elementary music
- Paul Clayton** (1973).....drafting, CHS
- Michelle Hunt** (1973).....confid. secretary
- June Baker** (1974).....secretary, CHS
- Michael Riley** (1975).....teacher, Timberlane
- Everett Henderson** (1977).....custodian, CHS

## From Test Tube to Medicine Cabinet

CHS science teachers **Karen Lucci**, **David Angwenyi** and **Eric Guise** will join government and pharmaceutical industry scientists for a week in August to learn effective techniques for teaching about the development of medicines. Among those participating in the 2007 RxESEARCH Summer Institute at Bristol-Myers Squibb and Montgomery High School are leaders from the National Science Resources Center affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academy of Sciences. The program is designed to help teachers take a multidisciplinary approach to the five phases of research and development. ■

## Keeping It Fresh

New ideas to inspire student excitement in math and science were the focus of week-long workshops at Princeton University for four district science teachers. Joining university professors in July for hands-on experiments they can tailor to their students this fall were CHS teacher **John Delaney** (earth science), Toll Gate Grammar teacher **Lee White** (exploring patterns and weather/climate) and Hopewell Elementary teachers **Michelle Hamilton** (earth science and rocks/minerals) and **Eileen Sweeney** (weather/climate and integrating math, science and language arts). The workshops were offered through QUEST and CONNECT-ED, an education-industry partnership that works to strengthen instruction of math and science. It is made up of 15 districts and private schools, Princeton and Rider universities and local industries. ■

# Hopewell Valley Regional School District

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- Timberlane  
Middle School.....737-4004
- Bear Tavern Elem. School.....737-4005
- Stony Brook Elem. School.....737-4006
- Hopewell Elem. School.....737-4007
- Toll Gate Grammar School....737-4008
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