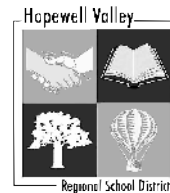


# The VALLEYVIEW



Hopewell Valley Regional School District  
425 South Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
(609) 737-4000

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2007

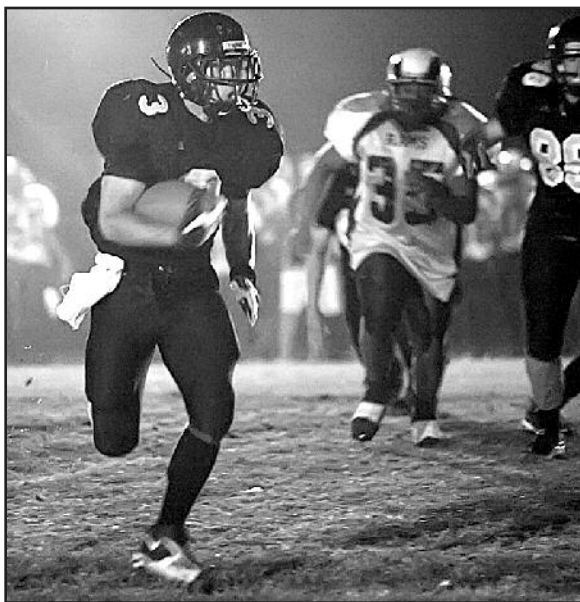


Photo courtesy of tvannissphoto.com

2,500 fans cheer on running back Chris Womack as he picks up yards in the Bulldogs' 14-7 win over Hightstown.

## Friday Night Lights

Traditional high school pageantry was on full display Sept. 29 when Hopewell Valley's first-ever night football game kicked off under lights in a Homecoming event energized by the high school's first competitive marching band and a crowd of 2,500 enthusiastic fans.

The historic game was preceded by the traditional pep rally and Homecoming parade, led by the Marching Black and Gold. A lively pre-game carnival, featuring food and novelties, lasted long past its advertised closing, helping to raise well over \$2,000 for 15 student groups and charities, including the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the National Down's Syndrome Foundation. Gate receipts brought in another \$4,400.

It was a crowd-pleaser from start to finish, as the Bulldogs, who trailed at half-time, rallied in the second half to beat the Hightstown Rams, 14-7. ■

## Divining Wisdom and Tolerance

A representative committee of parents, clergy, teachers and administrators has completed its study of classroom practices during the holidays and has forwarded to the Board of Education a proposed policy on religion in the schools.

The 21-person committee, appointed by the Board earlier this year to study the topic, also submitted three other recommendations, dealing with teacher/staff training and curriculum review.

To help teachers preparing for this year's upcoming December holidays, the committee included in its report a series of questions and answers dealing with specific issues such as acceptable classroom decorations, parties and gift-giving.

A full presentation of the committee's findings is expected at the Board's Nov. 12 meeting. In the course of its deliberations, the committee consulted leading experts on the topic, including Dr. Charles C. Haynes of the First Amendment Center and the Anti-Defamation League. ■

## Schools Go Wireless

Technology continues to help us deliver new opportunities for our students and staff as well as more access and conveniences for parents.

**Wireless Accessibility.** Students in all six schools returned this fall to campuses offering wireless accessibility. Available in media centers and cafeterias, the feature is expected to be especially popular with high school students, many of whom already spend their study hall periods in the cafeteria, doing homework.

**VPN Connection.** The Virtual Private Network is actually a portal through which students and staff can access, via the Internet, files and software stored on servers physically located in district schools. The biggest benefit for students:

no need to lug home heavy textbooks and other reference materials. In addition to working within their computer files started and kept at school, students will be able to remotely access school library software. Complex security is simplified through the use of existing user names and passwords.



Freshman Gavin Nelson works on his laptop in the CHS cafeteria, now wireless.

(Cont. on page 6.)

## Superintendent's Perspective

by Judith A. Ferguson, Ed.D.



**"F**red, an inquisitive penguin, notices that the iceberg that houses his fellow penguins is becoming fragile...He tells a leader, Alice. She sees the problem, and involves others, including the chief executive penguin...They form a team, consider the problem, and decide that penguins must

change and become nomadic, a culture shift. There is opposition, inertia, fear and nay-saying. Through teamwork, communication, and building on successes, the penguins move to a new iceberg, survive and, of course, thrive" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 29, 2007 p. D2).

This plot summary describes *Our Iceberg Is Melting*, a current bestseller by Harvard Professor John Kotter and Holger Rathgeber, global manager of Becton Dickinson. I discovered it last year at a workshop and used it with my administrative team to discuss the process of change. I also shared it with staff on opening day. For me, this is a powerful metaphor that relates to where we are as a New Jersey school district in the year 2007.

Our iceberg is melting, yet some deny it. Those who deny it want to hold on to dearly loved customs and traditions. Some, like the character *No No* in this book protest vehemently against any proposed change in colony behaviors or operation. But, fortunately, most Valley penguins understand the problem and embrace new solutions.

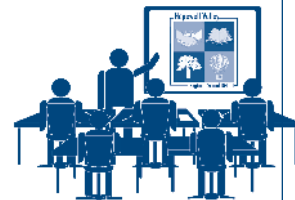
In what way is our iceberg melting? First, our economy is melting. New Jersey taxpayers are fed up with the over reliance on property taxes and Trenton has only just begun to tackle this thorny issue. In the meantime, school districts are required to limit their tax levy increase to 4%.

Second, our local control of curriculum is melting. National and state standards and testing under *No Child Left Behind* exert more and more control over what we teach and when we teach it. Commissioner Davy recently announced her intention to require three years of specified science and math courses for all high school students and more rigor in middle school programs.

Third, our local control of how we use our limited financial resources is melting. Legislation passed last year has replaced the county superintendent of schools with an executive county superintendent, approved by the Governor and Legislature, and increased in powers. This person is charged with overseeing (and overturning) local decisions about how money is spent and with finding ways to consolidate school districts.

So, Hopewell Valley, like all New Jersey school districts, faces limited resources from local taxes and limited control over local decision-making. Our iceberg is melting. We can, as some wish, do nothing and eventually risk death, or we can, as the penguin colony in this fable did, listen to the warning signals and find a new home with a stronger foundation and richer food supply. The latter requires giving up some traditions and customs that we love. The customs that the penguins gave up were permanency and self-centeredness (feeding only ones' own). What are the customs that we need to give up? Pretty much the same. ■

## Meet the HVRSD Staff



### Bob Colavita Business Administrator



It's not hard to see why Bob Colavita, buried in numbers and tedious state regulations all day, would look forward to postcards

like the one of a moose he keeps tacked near his desk. Or why he is cheered by the annual sight of his first students, now graduated, traipsing up the hill at his family's Christmas tree farm to pick out trees.

They are, after all, among the priceless dividends of the teaching profession – ex-students who stay in touch years after the last bell rings.

"That's when you say, 'wow, I really did have an impact on those kids,'" says the former elementary teacher.

Colavita's teaching days are more than five years behind him and the challenges facing him today are vastly different. He now occupies the business administrator's chair for the district, making him the chief financial officer in charge of a \$69 million budget and responsible for the "hard" operations – buildings and grounds, equipment and supplies, transportation, insurance, payroll and contracts.

It's a long way from 2nd grade at Copper Hill Elementary School in Flemington, where Colavita started his teaching career in 1996. As it was, the classroom was a big change from corporate accounting, where he started as a college graduate, working the books at oil giant Amerada Hess and premium ice cream maker Haagen-Daz.

But even at Copper Hill, Colavita was soon diversifying his responsibilities, developing teacher workshops on classroom technology, serving as school webmaster, keeping the books for the teachers' union and creating computer models for budgeting, instruction and student assessment.

When he decided to pursue a master's degree, school business administration seemed a perfect melding of his twin interests in education and numbers. In 2002 he signed on as assistant business administrator for Hopewell Valley and five years later moved into the top job.

Colavita, however, comes to it with a distinct advantage over many other school business administrators: he knows teaching.

"When they're talking about scheduling, I know what they're talking about. When they're talking about report cards and curriculum reviews, I've sat on a curriculum review committee. When they're talking acronyms – Responsive Classroom, Reading Recovery, whatever – I know what all that stuff is. When a principal talks about a building issue, I get it."

For Colavita the teacher, the biggest reward was seeing 25 youngsters of varying abilities come together by year's end, working as a unit to learn. Accomplishment is measured differently today, his challenges provided by increasingly restrictive state laws and the complexities inherent in regional districts – multiple sending towns, multiple taxing authorities, multiple sets of government officials.

And while Colavita misses the personal contact with students, he knows that, in a larger way, he is still having an impact because his work affects their environment: safe school buses, working roofs, well-equipped classrooms, dynamic staff. "I miss the kids, but these things are important too. They affect learning."

Colavita lives in Lower Makefield with his wife, Kathy, also a teacher, and their children, John, 6, and Caroline, 4. ■



Stony Brook students Kylie Pezzillo, Audrey DeRusha and Anna Benvignati put enthusiastic feet forward on International Walk to School Day Oct. 3.

## 100 Lace Up for Walk to School Day at Stony Brook

Some rode bikes and one youngster roller-bladed, but most of the 100 students and family members who met Stony Brook Elementary School Principal Steve Wilfing early on Oct. 3 laced up their sneakers and walked to school in celebration of International Walk to School Day.

Gathering  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from Stony Brook's front doors, the students, many of them accompanied by parents and younger siblings, joined Wilfing and wellness teacher Grace Merlino for the walk along Stephenson Road.

Wilfing was cheered by the enthusiastic turnout and is optimistic that the excitement will carry over to the school's new Walking School Bus, planned to hit the neighborhood sidewalks surrounding Stony Brook later this year. The bus, which is actually organized groups of walkers who follow the same path at the same time to school, is being developed by Wilfing with transportation experts at the Greater Mercer TMA and local police. The safety experts are in the midst of designing safe walking and biking routes for maximum student participation and practicality. Wilfing has also begun meeting with interested parents and is compiling a list of potential neighborhood "bus drivers" who will accompany children along their walk. He also is considering supplying "drivers" with two-way radios for communication.

To encourage more biking, Wilfing has ordered three new bike racks for the school's south side, adjacent to the playground. Together with the racks currently on the north side, they will bring to 80 the number of bikes that can be safely stored at the school. Start-up expenses for the Walking School Bus, which are largely promotional, and the new bike racks are being paid for with a \$14,000 grant from the Safe Routes to Schools program. ■

## Progress in Our Mission



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

**Athletic Fields at Timberlane/Shared Services.** The district and **Hopewell Township** continue to collaborate on traffic-related work at the Athletic Fields at Timberlane. The township has recycled millings from the summer repaving of the Timberlane bus loop for use in an environment-friendly access road connecting the fields with Pennington-Titusville Road. Currently a stone roadway, it will be replaced with a porous, chip-and-seal pavement. **Hopewell Borough** will provide striping; engineering work has been donated by the Township. The **Hopewell Valley Soccer Association**, through the Recreation Foundation of Hopewell Valley, contributed \$15,000 to this project.

**Partnerships.** The **Hopewell Valley YMCA** announced it is offering after-school violin lessons at Stony Brook Elementary and Toll Gate Grammar. The small-group lessons will be taught twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Fridays. The **Hopewell Valley Education Foundation** launched its *Take-A-Seat* fundraising campaign to benefit district performing arts programs. Donation levels range from \$100 to \$750; donors are recognized with engraved armrest plaques in the Hopewell Valley Performing Arts Center. Using Trenton water, the **Pennington Fire Co.** conducted firefighting drills on district athletic fields, bringing relief to parched facilities while providing routine training for its volunteers. Working with **Hopewell Township**, the Board committed to providing education and counseling to court-identified minors in violation of the township's new underage drinking ordinance.

**Gifts.** The CHS Robotics Club has collected a total of \$14,500 in two major grants for the 2007-08 year. **Bristol-Myers Squibb** awarded \$7,500 to support the club's involvement in the FIRST competition program. The club also received \$7,000 from the **George G. and Elizabeth G. Smith Foundation** to make facility improvements at the high school where it meets, designs and builds its robot for FIRST competition. The gift was given in the name of long-time club mentor Edward Petrillo, a retired Bristol-Myers Squibb executive. Local engineer Schuyler Morehouse, a foundation director, presented the award. The **Hopewell Township Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 342** underwrote the printing costs of wallet-sized instruction cards for parents on school emergency procedures for 2007-08. The donation is valued at \$756. It is the 5th consecutive year the PBA has provided the cards, which are distributed for parent convenience. Retired language arts teacher **Mike Riley** commissioned a larger-than-life-sized chainsaw carving of a timber wolf, the mascot of Timberlane Middle School, as a parting gift to the Timberlane community. The wolf, which stands sentry in the school lobby, was crafted from poplar by a local, family-owned custom furniture company, co-operated by former Riley student Eric Saperstein. Its value is \$750. ■

## Shutting Down Cyber-Bullies



generation ago, schoolyard bullies were easier to spot. But in the age of ubiquitous cell phones, text messaging, email and on-line blogs, harassment and intimidation rises – or, more accurately, falls – to a more sophisticated level.

Recognizing these new communication tools and their potential role in facilitating emotionally aggressive behavior, the Board of Education in September added cyber-bullying to its official student policy addressing harassment, intimidation and bullying.

"We need to be clear about this," explained Superintendent Judy Ferguson who proposed the policy. "Bullying is bullying, whether it happens between two students in the same room or in cyberspace while they sit at keyboards. Regardless, we will not tolerate it."

The amended policy bans offending behavior conducted through "electronic communication," specifying telephone, cell phone, computer and pager. Sanctions vary, depending on situation. ■

# An Abundance of Diverse Learning

Foreign exchange programs, online classes in DNA technology and environmental field research at the nearby nature reserve of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association are just a few of the new learning opportunities available to Hopewell Valley students this year. Among the offerings are:

## Environmental Study at the Watershed

**D**eep within the brush of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association's 860-acre nature reserve Timberlane students are hunting. They are wading in gurgling streams, looking for specific organisms, to help them assess water quality. They are applying math skills to calculate the velocity of stream flows and estimate the circumference and board feet of standing trees. In quiet moments on a forest floor, they are composing water-inspired poetry before heading off to gather leaves and twigs to create purely natural art in the tradition of famed environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy.

Interdisciplinary learning is a key feature of this year's traditional 6th grade team-building experience, conducted this fall, for the first time in many years, at the nearby nature reserve. There's a lot of discovery to be made among the eight learning stations students visit in their two days there, including important lessons about teamwork. One of the final exercises: building a forest shelter using only natural materials. ■

## What Moose Bones Tell Us

**E**lementary gifted and talented students played the role of research scientists charting moose kills in the Michigan wilderness this fall, learning about the dynamics of predator-prey relationships and how individual bones reveal gender, age and health conditions.

The unusual lessons came by way of CHS biology teacher Eric Guise, who spent part of his summer with noted wolf researcher Rolf Peterson charting kills in remote Isle Royale National Park. Tailoring his lessons to the younger students, the high school teacher shared information and stories about his wilderness experience and involved them in hands-on activities, including a challenge to "find" an authentic, recordable moose kill using photos of various moose bones.

"Eric's experience was fascinating and I'm very pleased that he was able to share it in such a meaningful way with our gifted and talented elementary students," said Kate Napolitano, director of curriculum and instruction, who helped arrange the class with science supervisor Mary Yeomans.

Future classes, focusing on math and language arts, are planned for later this year. ■

## Making Connections

Sixteen CHS students joined employees at Merrill Lynch for a day of job shadowing in October. The experience was part of National Mentoring Day, celebrated by members of the Disability Awareness Professional Network. The effort pairs high school students with disabilities with working professionals in their communities for a day of career exploration.

Participating CHS students spent time with mentors working in marketing, tax reporting, corporate auditing, cashiering, call service center, legal advisory, mail room and retirement planning. ■

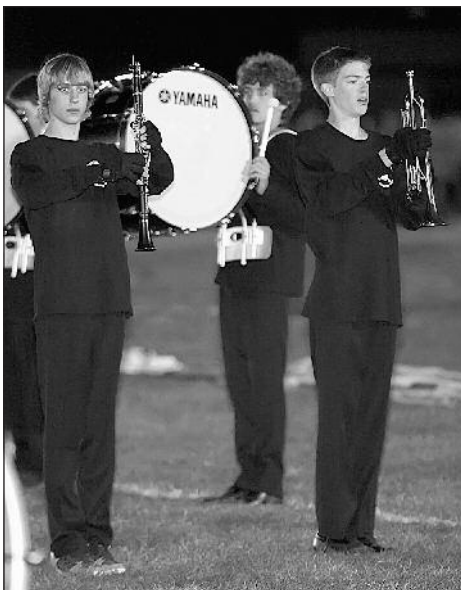


Photo courtesy of univisphoto.com

Members of the new CHS Marching Band perform for the fans at the Homecoming football game against Hightstown. Uniforms are on order.

## Cramming in Cyberspace

CHS students have signed up for 20 different online courses for the 2007-08 year. Among the classes being taken through Virtual High School are:

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| AP Govt & Politics            | Epidemics              |
| Animal Behavior & Zoology     | History of Photography |
| DNA Technology                | Spanish Culture &      |
| Investing in the Stock Market | Hispanic Literature    |
| Introduction to Psychology    | American Popular Music |
| Marketing and the Internet    | History of Pop Music   |
| Intro to Computer Science     | Meteorology            |
| Music Composition             | Animation & Effects    |
| Bioethics Symposium           | Screenwriting          |
| Psychology I                  | AP Psychology          |
|                               | AP Computer Science    |

## Strike Up the Band

**J**ust weeks old, but the Marching Black and Gold, CHS's new marching band, is already turning heads. It was spotlighted as "Band of the Day" by the U.S. Scholastic Band Association in October and, with just a handful of competitions under its belt, has logged impressive finishes.

The 52-student ensemble placed 1st out of four Group I and II bands in competition at Hillsborough High School Oct. 13 and tied for 7th place in the New Jersey State Band Championships Oct. 28.

A total of 16 bands competed.

Hopewell Valley's first competitive field show marching band, it provided a festive air at Homecoming and all home football games and has a full schedule of parade appearances for the year.

The extracurricular ensemble, open to all 9th through 12th graders, consists of brass, woodwind and percussion instruments, as well as a color guard. David Schwartzer directs. ■

# Opportunities for Students in 2007-08



CHS biology teacher Eric Guise talks moose with gifted and talented elementary students.

## Embracing the Global Village

Central High School students will travel to France and Spain this year, as well as spend several days immersed in German language and culture in a culturally authentic German village on scenic Turtle River Lake in Minnesota.

Students traveling to Waldsee, the lakefront village built by Concordia Language Villages, will participate in an "immersion weekend," speaking only German and experiencing ethnic meals, games, activities, song and dance with other high school students and instructors fluent in the language.

Waldsee is one of six year-round, language-specific camp sites operated in the northern Minnesota forests by Concordia College. Among its former campers is former first daughter Chelsea Clinton, who spent six summers there.

The May adventure will be the second immersion weekend organized by CHS German teacher Marilyn Lilly and the first to Waldsee.

### Bon Voyage, Mes Amis!

Student exchanges with high schools in France and Spain overlap this year, with Hopewell Valley playing host to both visiting groups in October and traveling abroad next March.

This year's exchange with the Lycée Edouard Herriot of Lyon, France, brought 22 French students to Hopewell Valley; it is the school's 3rd time here in the last four years. Bunking with host CHS families, the students visited historic and cultural sites in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, in addition to attending classes unfamiliar to them in Lyon: television production, woodworking and cooking. The Lycee Edouard Herriot is a college preparatory school of 1,100 students with a concentration of classes in economics and language study. More than 20 Hopewell Valley students travel to Lyon in March for two weeks.

### Hasta Marzo!

Eighteen students from Murcia, Spain visited CHS as part of this year's exchange with the Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria Floridablanca and the Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria Saavedra. Chaperones reported the students awed by the size of CHS and the host homes they stayed in and excited to be interviewed for television by CHS film students. CHS students traveling to Murcia, a university city located near Spain's southern Mediterranean coast, will spend two weeks there in March. ■

## New Theatre Class Offered

The theatre arts program at CHS was expanded this fall to include a 4th level of study.

*Advanced Scene Study and Directing* examines the evolution of theatre and its influence on the stage, television and film industries around the world. High student interest prompted officials to offer the full-year class. More than 100 students are enrolled this year in the theatre arts program, which starts in 8th grade. Most of the students in the new class, all upperclassmen, intend to study theatre after graduation, said instructor Barbara Hatch. ■

## Can You Spell "IMPROVED"?

A different approach to teaching vocabulary is underway in the elementary schools this fall. The new system, in place for 4th and 5th graders, will beef up the vocabulary of strong spellers while providing more support for those with weaker skills, explained Donna DeAngelis, district supervisor of language arts.

Previously, youngsters were expected to master 1,200 "high frequency" words by the time they moved on to middle school. They were identified as the words students encountered the most in elementary school literature. Strong spellers who hit that mark before the end of 5th grade, however, were left to independent reading to stretch their vocabulary.

The new system retains the 1,200-word list, but, in much the same way the district's reading program groups students with similar ability, teachers will now organize students of similar ability so they can challenge strong spellers with more difficult words and give more help to those who need it.

Teachers will periodically assess student progress to ensure they are grouped appropriately, DeAngelis said. ■



Hadrian Nighoghossian of Lyon, France tries his hand at an orbital sander in the CHS woodshop. Also shown is CHS sophomore Mike Nichols.

## Modeling Life-Long Learning

**H**opewell Valley teachers hit the books this year at Princeton University and The College of New Jersey for seminars on topics ranging from Bosnian history to Einstein. The workshops are funded in part by membership fees in the Professional Development School Network as well as federal and host grants. The teachers and the seminars they will attend are:

### Princeton University

Kristen Kincaid, TMS	<i>U.S. and International Human Rights</i>
Teri Solomon, CHS	<i>Ancient Egypt and its Hieroglyphs</i>
Kathleen Belton, SB	<i>Nature and Use of Human Language</i>
Amy Parker, BT	<i>Little Rock School Integration Crisis</i>
Teresa Strauser, CHS	<i>Engineering in the Modern World</i>
Jessica Barzilai, CHS	<i>Big Bang and the Expanding Universe</i>
Barbara Brandt, BT	<i>Origins of Modern Science, 1500-1700</i>
Linda Bradshaw, HE	<i>Einstein</i>
Debbie Liwosz, TMS	<i>Paris in Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Painting</i>
Nicole Cerqua, CHS	<i>Contemporary Fiction</i>
Susan Tobias-Passerella, TGG	<i>Looking at Jazz through Multiple Lenses</i>

### The College of New Jersey

Sue Hartmann, HE	<i>Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice</i>
Ana Benavides, CHS	<i>Bosnia: When Neighbors Became Enemies</i>
Ann Marie Anthony, SB	<i>Women and the Holocaust</i>
Johanna Claps, CHS	<i>Three Probes into Mass Communication Analysis</i>
Dave Bello, CHS	<i>From Suffrage to Liberation</i>
Chris Roebuck, CHS	<i>French Existentialism: The Golden Years</i>
Lynn Butkus, HE	<i>Rosie the Riveter</i>
Alan Seltzer, CHS	<i>Not Just Hell: The Bigger Picture of Dante</i>
Bill O'Brien, CHS	<i>Beowulf: More than Just the Monsters</i>
Pat Arbitell, CHS	<i>The New Hemingway Studies</i>
Jana Leigh Olszyk, CHS	<i>Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era</i>
Jamie Drucker, TMS	<i>The Beatles and Their World</i>

## Crowd-Pleasers at the PAC

**B**etter acoustics, a crisper sound system and a major stage enhancement greet audiences at the Hopewell Valley Performing Arts Center this fall.

Sixty-three acoustical panels, installed on the PAC's side and rear walls, are helping absorb unwanted sound during productions. As for performance sounds, they will be enhanced with the aid of a new wireless microphone system. The portable system, which adds 12 mikes to the PAC's inventory, offers a clearer sound and a noticeably shorter delay in amplification. Outside users of the PAC will pay more to rent the system, which will be offered as an upgrade.

Also new this fall: two backdrop tracks for the stage, permitting directors to use more than one backdrop in a production. Currently, backdrop scenery is immovable during a performance, forcing directors to change scenes with the creative use of lights and curtains, or by awkwardly staging subsequent scenes in front of drawn curtains.

Tracks will allow stage crews to pull a backdrop out of view when a scene ends.

The addition is expected to significantly boost the PAC's marketability.

"Any improvement we make makes it more attractive to potential renters," says facility manager Cathy Sing. The enhancements were funded with rental revenues. ■



Lesla Aldridge (far left) and Ned Fletcher were honored with the Board's You Make the Difference Award in September for their many years of volunteerism at Bear Tavern Elementary and Toll Gate Grammar. The two are shown above with Board President Linda Mitchell.

### Schools go Wireless *Cont. from page 1)*

**MealPay.** Beginning in early 2008, parents will be able to make online deposits to student cafeteria accounts. Electronic transfers from credit cards, bank debit cards and savings and checking accounts will be accepted. The service will also permit parents to view their child's purchase history and monitor account balances at any time. Another feature: low-balance reminders by email. Parents may arrange for automatic transfers when accounts run low.

**Infinite Campus.** This new student information database will allow parents to securely monitor online their child's grades, attendance and possibly even details of class assignments. Paper report cards will still be issued, but district officials believe parents will like the user-friendly features that will enable them to track their child's classroom progress. The system's signature feature – class scheduling – is one of the main attractions for staff, but teachers and others are looking forward to its speed, efficiency and extra features, such as on-line course registration and an emergency phone calling system, functions now handled with additional software. A major selling point for district officials was the software's capacity for data warehousing and analysis, a growing – and typically expensive – need for school districts trying to meet student testing benchmarks under the No Child Left Behind Act. Implementation of Infinite Campus is set to begin April 2008. ■

\*Members of the **CHS Marching Black and Gold**, the high school's new marching band, tied for an impressive 7th place in the New Jersey State Band Championships Oct. 28. Competing against 16 bands, the first-year ensemble logged its highest score to date. It was the band's 4th outing in competition.

\*Timberlane students **John Croak, Jason Patnick, Evan Miller, Drew Crivelli, Nick Gies, Mike Hartel, Keith Devlin, Dylan Yuska, Don Giordano, Alex Rhoads** and **Tim Andrews**, members of the Hopewell Valley 13-year-old Babe Ruth baseball team, made it to the semifinals of the Babe Ruth World Series in August. The first Hopewell Valley team to ever reach the World Series, it tied for 5th place out of the 10 best teams in the country. They beat the top-seeded and host team, Loudoun County, Va., 3-2. **Evan Miller** made it to the semifinals in the event's home run derby, smacking three homers in the opening round.

\*CHS senior **Max Orland** studied music composition privately with a professional composer this summer as one of 400 gifted high school and college students selected for North Carolina's prestigious Brevard Music Center. In addition to a rigorous schedule of instruction, students collaborate with faculty and guest artists in more than 80 public performances over 7 weeks. His orchestration class culminated in an orchestral reading of one of his full orchestra compositions by Brevard's advanced, highly selective full orchestra. Max was admitted to the program on the strength of his portfolio of original compositions.

\***Manishika Agaskar**, senior at CHS, was named a finalist in the Ayn Rand Institute's 23rd Annual Essay Contest on Rand's novel *The Fountainhead*. For her finish as one of 45 finalists out of 6,500 entries, she received \$100. The institute distributes more than \$81,000 in prize money to high school and college students submitting original essays on Rand's acclaimed novels.

\*Bear Tavern 4th grader **Alexis Peart** and Timberlane 6th grader **Imogen Mills** spent June and July on the stage at Princeton's McCarter Theatre, performing with professional singers and musicians in the Opera Festival of New Jersey's production of *Carmen*. The girls were members of the children's chorus in the classic opera.

\*CHS senior **Alexis Devaney**, co-captain of the girls' varsity tennis team, took 2nd place at third singles at the Mercer County Tournament in September.

\***Sarah Krauss**, a senior at CHS, completed a six-week run this fall as Luisa in *The Fantasticks* at Hopewell's Off-Broadstreet Theatre. The leading role came on the heels of her experience over the summer at the Stagedoor Manor, the famed performing arts camp for children and young adults in New York's Catskill

Mountains. Former campers include Natalie Portman, Robert Downey Jr. and Mary Stuart Masterson.

\*Timberlane 8th graders **Claire Batchelder, Morgan Gruenewald** and **Gayathri Tummala** were accepted into the American Choral Directors Association 2008 Eastern Division Junior High Honor Choir. The girls competed against students from 16 states and will perform in concert in February at the ACDA 2008 Eastern Division Conference in Hartford, CT. The highly selective choir is the 2nd highest honor a Timberlane chorister can receive, second only to acceptance into an ACDA national honor choir.

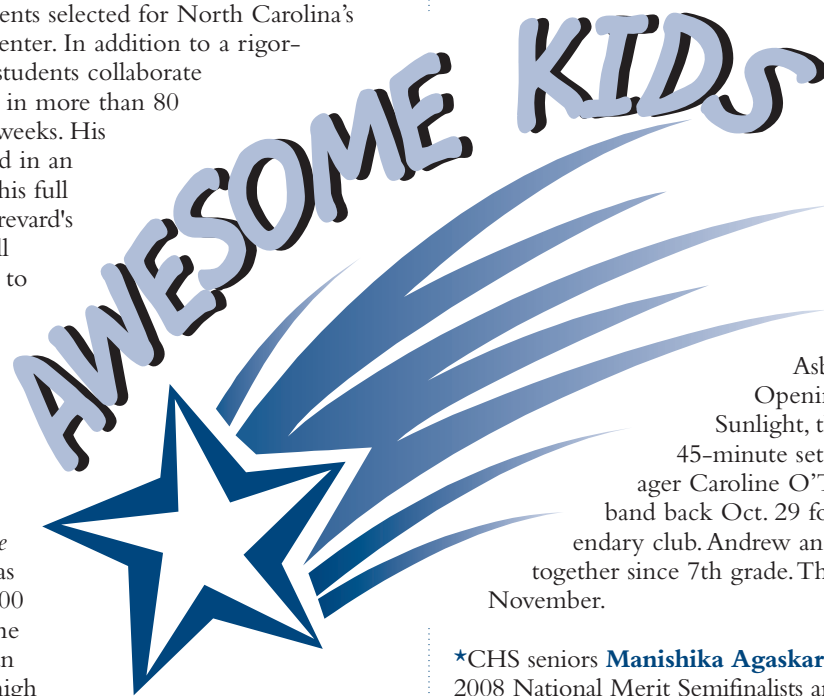
\*CHS junior **Peter Von Jaglinsky** worked with a team of chemistry students at Rider University this summer, researching ways to develop a more efficient catalyst for the process of polymerization, a reaction used in the production of Styrofoam. The research was part of Project SEED, which pairs gifted high school students with college or university researchers for PhD-level research on ongoing projects. Slots are typically awarded to rising high school seniors. Project SEED is a program sponsored by the American Chemical Society and local industry.

\*CHS seniors **Andrew Kosek** and **John DeAngelo**, members of the Pennington-based band Bigfoot, performed at the landmark Stone Pony in Asbury Park twice in October.

Opening for the headlining Splintered Sunlight, their debut performance was a 45-minute set of original music. Club manager Caroline O'Toole invited the three-piece band back Oct. 29 for a showcase event at the legendary club. Andrew and John have been playing together since 7th grade. Their first CD will be released in November.

\*CHS seniors **Manishika Agaskar** and **Alex Gurak** were selected 2008 National Merit Semifinalists and 15 others were named Commended Scholars for their exceptional performance on the PSAT. Those winning Commended status were **David Cooper, Jeffrey DeLucca, Owen Healy, Jennifer Jin, Patrick Liao, Emily Ottinger, Katelyn Painter, Craig Pesta, David Primer, Archana Rachakonda, Trevor Saunders, Thomas Seabrook, Andrew Seems, Lauren Sheidler** and **Anna Weingart**.

\*Fifteen CHS students traveled to Kenya on a humanitarian mission in July, delivering 200 insecticide-treated bed nets, along with soccer balls, toys and personal hygiene products, to residents in the Nyanchori region. The bed nets, regarded as highly effective protection against malaria-carrying mosquitos, were purchased with money raised by the students, all members of the school's Model WHO Club. Traveling to Kenya were **Laissa Alvarado, Stephen Brogle, Megan Devlin, Ian Garber, Komi Khan, Caitlyn Limato, Anthony Mariani, Anthony Miragliotta, Kyle Pagano, Nathan Papperman, Rosie Rarich, Kathleen Reside, Alex Robertson, Trevor Saunders** and **Heather Scott**.



# Staff Achievements

## District Music Teachers Tapped for State Conference

In a nod to the strength of the district's choral music program, three Hopewell Valley choral teachers were invited to present workshops at the Summer Professional Development Conference hosted by the New Jersey chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

Central High School's **Ken Elpus**, Timberlane Middle School's **Rebecca Elpus** and Hopewell Elementary's **Michele Alford** each presented their own repertoire session on their area of expertise. Alford presented music and pedagogical strategies appropriate for elementary school and treble choirs; Rebecca Elpus presented music and pedagogy appropriate for all levels of middle school choir, and Ken Elpus presented music and pedagogical strategies specifically aimed at the beginning and intermediate high school choir. Musical selections were chosen for their pedagogical and artistic value.

It was the first time that representatives of a single school district presented all three repertoire sessions, running the gamut of K-12 choral music education, at the respected association's summer conference. This year, 70 music educators from throughout New Jersey attended the meeting, held in Summit.

"ACDA is seen as the paragon of quality choral music so to present repertoire at an ACDA conference is quite an honor for us as teachers as well as our kids and the choirs," said Ken Elpus. ■

## Toll Gate Teacher Invited to Join State Technology Panel

**Carol Olson**, computer teacher at Toll Gate Grammar, is one of two teachers statewide invited to serve on an advisory panel considering the needs of technology education in new school construction. The panel, part of a joint project of the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, will review existing facility standards to ensure schools are optimally designed to permit effective technology instruction. The group includes representatives from higher education, public schools, museums and industry.

Olson serves as secretary and executive board member of the New Jersey Association for Educational Technology, which advocates for the use of technology in education. ■

## Social Skills Expert Invited to Speak at National Conference

**Lindsay Hilsen**, intervention specialist at Timberlane and CHS, has been invited to share her teaching techniques at the Association for Behavior Analysis International's annual conference in Chicago next May. Hilsen was invited by noted psychologist Steven Gordon after he observed one of her social skills classes at Timberlane.

The class, piloted last year at Timberlane and expanded to all schools this fall, targets students in need of guidance in handling typical social situations, such as how to initiate a phone conversation.

Together with Somerset-based psychologist Michael Selbst, Hilsen will discuss her techniques in a seminar on innovative social skills programs. She will focus on what public schools can do. Selbst directs the Stepping Stone Summer Program, a social skills class for youngsters and offered at Stony Brook for the last two years. ■

# Hopewell Valley Regional School District

## Board of Education

Linda Mitchell, *President*

Kevin W. Doran,

*Vice President, Toll Gate Liaison*

Jeffrey Bartolino, *Bear Tavern Liaison*

Edward R. Gainsborg, Jr.

Judy Karp, *CHS Liaison*

Mel H. Myers, *Hopewell Liaison*

Carl Swanson, Ph.D., *Stony Brook Liaison*

Aaron Tellier, *Timberlane Liaison*

James J. Wulf

Kelsey Smith, *Student Representative*

Judith A. Ferguson, EdD

*Superintendent of Schools*

Richard Lang

*Assistant Superintendent of Schools*

Robert Colavita

*Business Administrator*

## District Wide Number.....737-4000

Central High School.....737-4003

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

JoAnn M. Meyer.....737-4002

*Director of Communications Ext. 2104 and Development*



To support performing arts programs in Hopewell Valley

Funding levels start at \$100

For more information, contact the Hopewell Valley Education Foundation at [info@hvef.org](mailto:info@hvef.org)

# The VALLEYVIEW



Hopewell Valley Regional School District

425 South Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
(609) 737-4000

[www.hvrstd.k12.nj.us](http://www.hvrstd.k12.nj.us)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Pennington, N.J.  
Permit No. 3

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
PENNINGTON, NJ 08534

We want to hear from you!  
Call us with your questions, concerns and comments.  
Superintendent's Office . . .737-4002, Ext. 2101  
Stay informed about your schools.  
Log on to [www.hvrstd.k12.nj.us](http://www.hvrstd.k12.nj.us) and tune into HV-TV 19.