

# The VALLEY VIEW



A Newsletter  
of the Hopewell Valley  
Regional School District

SUMMER 2009

## Explore the Campus

**J**nfinite Campus, the district's new online student information system, debuted in May, offering parents 24/7 access to much of their children's school information, including report cards and class schedules. The secure, user-friendly system will eventually link parents with more information, such as attendance records and real-time grades, and provide students with complete assignment lists for all classes.

Family accounts are password-protected and all households have been encouraged to sign in and verify that demographic information listed in the account is accurate. Currently, only email account information can be directly changed by a user; all other corrections, such as telephone numbers or emergency contact information, must be reported through the system's helpdesk or by contacting the registrar's office.

At the present time, users can see their student's schedule, progress reports and report cards. Hyperlinks to teacher email accounts are included for fast and easy communication.

As features are phased in over the coming year, the system is expected to significantly enhance home-school communications. Its introduction comes four months after the district launched *Virtual Backpack*. An online replacement for the Wednesday folders sent home with elementary students, *Virtual Backpack* carries the flyers, forms, and other notices that typically came home via backpack. ■



Chris Womack and Caroline Mills are among the 319 students in the Class of 2009. More than 90% of the class will continue their education, many of them at the most selective colleges and universities in the U.S. Among the institutions accepting CHS graduates for the fall term are Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Carnegie Mellon, University of Virginia, Duke, Lehigh, Tufts and William and Mary.



## Lessons Among the Treetops

**C**HS wellness teachers completed their training on the school's new high ropes course in

June. The 10-pole course, set in a stand of maple and oak trees behind the varsity baseball field, was installed last summer. Teachers have spent the past year working with certified trainers to write the course's 16 elements into the wellness curriculum. First up: next year's freshmen and sophomore students, who will spend a full marking period on the course. Besides its high fun factor, adventure education is valued for fostering important life skills, such as confidence, leadership and teamwork. ■

CHS teacher Daphne Shaub ambles her way between 50' telephone poles, part of the school's new high ropes course.

## Tapping into the Green

**E**ager to use state grants paying 40% of the bill, the district is planning a variety of facility improvements, including more Earth-friendly heat recovery systems at Toll Gate Grammar and high-efficiency lights in school gyms.

The cost of the projects, expected to top \$800,000, would be offset by more than \$330,000 in grants, said business administrator Bob Colavita.

Among them is the replacement of fluorescent lighting in the gyms at Central High School, Timberlane Middle School and Bear Tavern and Hopewell elementary schools. The halide bulbs will be replaced with high-efficiency, T-5 fluorescent bulbs which produce twice the light at 25% of the power.

(Cont. on page 5.)

## Superintendent's Perspective

by Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.



**W**e often compare major events in our lives to chapters in a book. In education, our chapters come to a close in June with students participating in one of our moving on ceremonies or graduating from

Central High School; a chapter closes and a new one is opened.

Many of our graduates will be attending some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country, but our students are so much more. In fact, Hopewell Valley boasts one of the few comprehensive high schools in the state that provides many of our students with skills to enter the workforce directly after high school. This provides access to an excellent education for all students. A testament to our ability to provide an excellent educational experience to all students is evidenced by their accomplishments this past spring alone. We had music students named to the ACDA's national honor choir, marketing students who competed internationally, environmental students who landed a \$30,000 national prize and student-athletes who won a number of county and state titles. These successes were possible through the support of parents, teachers, administrators as well as a caring community, each of them taking pride as our students begin new chapters in their lives.

Each summer educators also begin to write new chapters in their lives. As students leave for the summer, school administrators begin to prepare for the next school year. They will spend the summer developing schedules, arranging class lists, meeting with parents and working with teachers. Throughout the summer months, many teachers will be participating in professional development programs that will assist them in honing their skills or reviewing and revising our curricula to ensure our students are being exposed to the most current topics, so they are prepared to compete on a global platform.

Like our students who are opening a new chapter in their lives, I too am opening a new chapter in my educational career, and it excites me to begin this chapter in Hopewell Valley. Being part of a dynamic and involved community that is actively involved in the education of its children is the dream of every superintendent. In my short time here, I have seen outstanding students being taught by exceptional teachers, all being guided by the values of an outstanding board of education focused on providing an excellent educational program while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

I hope you are as proud of the accomplishments of our students as I am. Together we will be building on the successes of our district and making sure that all of our students' next chapter is part of a bestseller. ■

## Meet the HVRSD Staff



**David Schwartz**  
**Band Director**

**J**

t was the first day of camp for the first marching band to ever come out of Hopewell Valley and the skies opened up on new director

David Schwartz and his fledgling unit of 50 young musicians. The rain did not let up for three solid days, and Schwartz, determined to save the important training week, scrambled to find an indoor venue. He ended up on the high school basketball court.

The size was all wrong, the surface was all wrong, but somehow a fairly decent field show came together.

"I figured if these kids can learn this on a basketball court, with no yard lines and all these basketball court marks, then we're going to be fine," Schwartz recalled.

Fine indeed.

In its maiden year, the Marching Black and Gold took its field show production into three statewide competitions and finished a remarkable 7th out of 16 at the New Jersey State Championships. That was in 2007 and, with two full years under its belt, the band is building a name for itself.

It is a testament to the hard work and commitment of young musicians eager to broaden their musical experience. But it is also a testament to the ability of a young and unknown director to shape a group of teens whose idea of performance was limited to a stage, hot lights and the simple black and white dress of the stage musician.

"They truly love it," believes Schwartz. "It's a huge part of their lives and that speaks to their commitment and what music can do for kids."

Music has always been a big part of Schwartz's life. A trumpet player since the 4th grade, he ended up the drum major in his high school band at Washington Township High School, a 200-member unit with a strong band tradition and enough stature to land a spot in the 1998 Rose Bowl Parade.

He spent the summer after graduation performing with the prestigious Cadets of Bergen County and, in September, went off to West Chester University, where he and his trumpet took their position in the marching band, the jazz ensemble, the symphony orchestra and the school's top wind ensemble.

He was directing elementary school bands in New Providence when he learned of plans to launch a new marching unit at CHS. Here he found a compatible vision in the department leadership, support in retiring director Gary Suabadissen and, most importantly, enthusiasm in the students.

"It's been amazing to me how the kids have submerged themselves in the culture of marching band," Schwartz said. "We jumped in head-first and went right out to the competition circuit."

He intends to fuel that spirit by exposing them to increasingly challenging events, positioning them for selective competitions, like the prestigious Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

His eyes drifted over to the Rose Bowl photo that hangs on his office wall. "There's no reason our kids can't do that," he said. "It just takes time." ■



Bear Tavern 5th grader Patrick Kelly monitors his stock activity in the Stock Market Game.

## Playing the Market

The stockholder scanned the day's trading and groaned. ExxonMobil was down – again – and Dreamworks had fallen too.

His fingers flying across his keyboard, the investor quickly checked the other companies in his portfolio. The Gap: up. Netflix: up. Apple: way up.

Overall, it hadn't been a bad week. His \$38,817 investment made \$2,790.

He snapped his laptop shut. It was time for gym class.

The investor is 11 years old and his portfolio is virtual. It is part of the Stock Market Game, an online program designed for students in grades 4-12. Players learn the fundamentals of the economic system as well as financial analysis, how to buy and sell stocks and how to think critically while integrating current events with concepts learned in social studies, math and language arts classes.

Bear Tavern Elementary teachers Kim Niefer and Leigh Fesmire introduced the game to their advanced math students last year and while it was immediately popular, it carried extra meaning this past year when the economy began to dominate the news. "Sometimes it's hard for students to understand the factors affecting the market. This year, it was so real, so tangible," said Niefer.

In the game, students are organized into teams and, after a week of researching companies, they receive \$100,000 of virtual cash to invest as they wish.

They must purchase at least 100 shares a week but are not allowed to sell. "We thought it would honor their research to see growth or loss over a 10-week period of time," explained Niefer.

Fifth grader Patrick Kelly and his group invested in Dreamworks. "We bought it right before *Monsters versus Aliens* came out because we thought it would be a big hit, but we found out people are renting, not going to the movies," he explained. The group made nearly \$700 on their investment in Netflix, compared to a \$355 loss on Dreamworks.

Their eyes on the headlines, Patrick's group steered clear of car companies and banks, putting their money into fast food conglomerate Yum! Brands Inc. and The Gap.

The game comes with age-appropriate curriculum guides and lesson plans and allows students to track their gains against students statewide. Patrick and his team got as high as 4th one week and finished a respectable 717 out of 2,509 teams, all ages.

The game's educational benefits are obvious. But the proof lies in students like Patrick, a die-hard baseball fan known for hanging on every sports score that crawls across a television screen.

"Now I look to see if the Dow goes up or down," he admitted. ■

## Progress in Our Mission

**C**urriculum. The 6th grade arts curriculum has been restructured for the fall to give students full semesters of visual arts and general music, band or orchestra. The change expands the previous 45-day exploration in those subjects. Tony Suozzo, principal of Timberlane Middle School, says the change will permit program expansions and reduce the need for after-school band and orchestra rehearsals, eliminating conflicts with sports practices. A new **AP Physics** course at CHS was approved for the fall. The **elementary strings** program was revised to require a full year of violin instruction in 3rd grade. In the 2008-09 year, just one semester of instruction was required; a second semester was optional.

**Non-Tax Revenues.** Income from student activity and transportation fees generated \$176,371 in the 2008-09 school year. Rental fees for gyms, fields and other facilities brought in another \$89,327. Outside groups have been paying to use district facilities since 2007. Fees for most student extracurricular activities and some forms of transportation were introduced later that year.

**Athletic Fields at Timberlane.** Three new multi-purpose fields were opened over the Memorial Day weekend, bringing to five the number of available facilities at the site. The fields were developed with a \$212,799 grant from the **Recreation Foundation of Hopewell Valley**.

**Gifts.** Six new soccer goals, valued at \$12,500, were donated by the **Recreation Foundation and Hopewell Valley Soccer Association**. The Foundation also donated two scoreboards, worth \$14,900, for the new fields at AFT. The boards were installed in May.

**Shared Services.** The Board has joined two more purchasing cooperatives to find better rates for goods and services. The co-ops, operated by the **Mercer County Special Services School District** and the **Educational Services Commission of Morris County**, bring to seven the number of groups the district has joined to maximize its purchasing power.

**Partnerships.** The district renewed its agreement with **Hopewell Township** to provide facilities in the event of a public health emergency. Begun last year, the pact anticipates the need for large indoor spaces and ample on-site parking for mass vaccinations or the distribution of medicines. **Hopewell Township** supplied wood chips from an estimated 1,200 discarded Christmas trees for use as groundcover at the new CHS high ropes course.

**Infrastructure.** The district has approved a 5-year, \$1 million agreement with Verizon to lease **fiber-optic cable** for its telecommunications systems. The switch will increase the district's bandwidth by nearly 2,000 times its current size, which is roughly one-sixth the connection of the typical household with a broadband cable connection. Subsidized by federal rebates of 38%, the new cable is expected to be in place early next year. ■

## CLASS ACTS

Winners of the 2009 Governor's Recognition Award share an uncommon passion for teaching and a dedication to the academic growth of Hopewell Valley students.

**Adam Shrager**, CHS, math

**Maureen Kelly**, TMS, math

**Bryanna MacAdams**, Bear Tavern, music

**Susanne King**, Hopewell, multi-age

**Elizabeth McGuire**, Stony Brook, basic skills

**Melissa Caruso**, Toll Gate Grammar, 2nd grade

# HOPEWELL VALLEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009 AWARDS



VALEDICTORIAN.....CHRISTOPHER BABECKI  
SALUTATORIAN.....DAVID HILL\*  
GIRL WITH HIGHEST GPA.....ALEXANDRA MURR

## \* HONOR AWARDS

Hopewell Valley YMCA Bud Ruskie Memorial Award.....Andrew McQueary  
CHS Award to Girl Best Representing Ideals of School.....Julie Alexander  
VFW Gene T. Richard Memorial Award.....William Franz, Katelyn Pagano  
Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339 Award.....Evan Lang, Jessica Schoenholtz  
Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award.....Kevin Kley  
Outstanding School Citizenship.....Jane Rosenblatt  
Contributed the Most to Class (voted by class members).....Evan Lang, Kathryn Cassavell  
Michael Arcieri Award for Outstanding Service to the School.....Nicholas Maida, Megan Dunne

## \* ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Charles E. Farrington Memorial Award to Class Valedictorian.....Christopher Babecki  
Class Salutatorian.....David Hill  
Rhode Island School of Design Award.....Leif Baumbach  
Exceptional Dramatic Ability.....Sean Geraghty  
Highest Proficiency in English.....Laura Feibush  
Highest Proficiency in Art.....Leif Baumbach  
Most Improvement and Growth in Visual Arts.....Ryan Nash, Rachel Norris, Johnathan Womack  
Rosemary Hoch Memorial Award (Home Economics).....Rebecca Kahme  
DAR Award for Highest Proficiency in U.S. History.....Gabriel Lewin  
DAR Award for Highest Proficiency in European History.....Laura Feibush  
National School Choral Award.....Elizabeth Lee, Robinson Meyer  
Highest Proficiency in French.....Keven-Cem Gungor  
Highest Proficiency in Spanish.....Alexandra Murr  
Highest Proficiency in Latin.....Matthew Strumph  
Highest Proficiency in German.....Edward Wang  
Highest Proficiency in Business Education.....Michael O'Connor  
John Phillip Sousa Band Award for Highest Proficiency in Band.....Andrew McQueary  
National School Orchestra Award for Highest Proficiency in Orchestra.....Gabriel Lewin  
National School Marching Award for Contributions on Field.....Ian Grimley  
Highest Proficiency in Mathematics.....Christopher Babecki  
Dale W. Kintzel Award (Vo-tech).....Michael Robinson  
JoAnn Amison Award for Highest Average in Marketing.....Matthew Schwartz  
Highest Proficiency in Architecture/Engineering/Computer Graphics.....Paul Genovesi  
Outstanding Achievement in Woodworking.....Junaid Khan  
Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey Award.....Alexandra Murr  
Highest Proficiency in Science.....Christopher Babecki  
Wellness Students of the Year.....Katelyn Pagano, Peter Von Jaglinsky

\*As of press time

Highest Proficiency in Musical Theater.....Kristen Kolombatovich  
Outstanding Achievement in Technical Theatre.....David Hill  
Outstanding Achievement in Social Studies.....Gabriel Lewin  
Janet Maloney Award for Service to DECA.....Michael Roubo  
Louis Armstrong Award for Highest Proficiency in Jazz.....Thomas Healy  
David Bossart Memorial Award (Fine Arts).....David Leestma  
Exceptional Commitment to Study of German.....Nora Ames, Chelsea San Filippo  
DAR Postage Stamp Art Competition, First Place, U.S. ....Andrew Womack  
DAR Postage Stamp Art Competition, Second Place, State .....Brianna McCarthy  
DAR Postage Stamp Art Competition, Third Place, State.....Laura McGill

## \* COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Pennington Fire Company.....Chelsea Cappiello, Michael Roubo  
Pennington First Aid Squad.....Michael Roubo  
Hopewell Fire and Emergency Medical Unit.....Erin Leeper, Stacy Lorenzetti, Matthew Pagano  
Union Fire Co. and Rescue Squad.....Felippo DiMeglio  
Princeton Healthcare System Junior Volunteers' 5 & 3 Club Award.....Samik Shah  
Princeton Healthcare System Junior Volunteers' Edna Wilson Award.....Meghan Simmons  
Princeton Healthcare System Junior Volunteers' Service 200 Award.....Nicholas Tan  
Mayor's Award for Outstanding Civic Contribution.....Kelsey Bruno, Kevin Smith



## NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

David Hill  
Rachel Porcher  
Samik Shah  
Edward Wang

## NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLARS

Christina Boyce-Jacino	Robinson Meyer
Tyler Brennan	Gemma Milly
Sara Cifelli	Alexandra Murr
Laura Feibush	Rachel Norris
Ross Holley	Eric Teng
Gabriel Lewin	Sijia Zhao
Laura McGill	

## EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

(Top 10% graduating class at end of junior year and min. 1260 math/verbal SAT score OR top 1, 2, or 3 in graduating class and top 10% of class in junior year)  
Christopher Babecki, Ophelia Bernardino, Catherine Bhaskar, Christina Boyce-Jacino, Clare Buck, Laura Feibush, Darcy Glenn, Keven-Cem Gungor, David Hill, Evan Lang, Kristen Lawlor, Gabriel Lewin, Nicholas Maida, Laura McGill, Andrew McQueary, Kevin Murphy, Alexandra Murr, Frederick Neary, Colin Ogren, Samantha Rodney, Bianca Ryseck, Samik Shah, Matthew Strumph, Avanti Suresh, Emily Vite, Edward Wang, Sijia Zhao

## PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

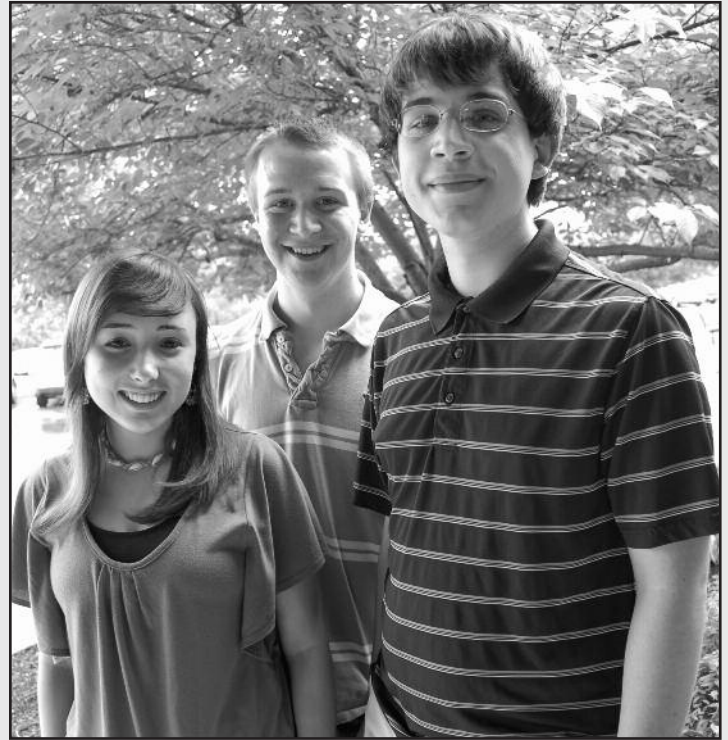
(GPA of at least 95%)  
Payal Antala, Christopher Babecki, Ophelia Bernardino, Catherine Bhaskar, Christina Boyce-Jacino, Clare Buck, Kathryn Cassavell, Megan Dunne, Laura Feibush, Keven-Cem Gungor, David Hill, Katie Kling, Evan Lang, Kristen Lawlor, Gabriel Lewin, Laura McGill, Andrew McQueary, Nicholas Maida, Kevin Murphy, Alexandra Murr, Frederick Neary, Colin Ogren, Katherine Richards, Samantha Rodney, Bianca Ryseck, Samik Shah, Matthew Strumph, Avanti Suresh, Emily Vite, Peter Von Jaglinsky, Edward Wang, Sijia Zhao

**\* AREA AWARDS**

Harry R. Davis Memorial Scholarship.....	<b>Ehsan Ahmed, Noah Simon, Elisha Dale</b>
National Merit Scholarship sponsored by National Merit Scholarship Corp.....	<b>Edward Wang</b>
National Merit Scholarship sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation.....	<b>Keven-Cem Gungor, Bianca Ryseck, Sijia Zhao</b>
National Merit Scholarship sponsored by Wyeth.....	<b>Kristen Lawlor</b>
National Merit Scholarship sponsored by Carleton College.....	<b>Rachel Porcher</b>
Hopewell Valley Historical Society Scholarship.....	<b>Megan Dunn, Gabriel Lewin</b>
TD Bank American Dream Scholarship.....	<b>Patricia Sherrard, Eric Teng</b>

**\* LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Lorna Young-Earle Memorial .....	<b>Jana Radice</b>
Raymond R. Wagner Memorial.....	<b>David Hill, Alexandra Murr</b>
Adam J. Kay Memorial.....	<b>Michael Ravison</b>
John Molinelli Everyday Hero.....	<b>Kathryn Cassavell</b>
Dana Leigh Memorial.....	<b>Laurie McDade</b>
James F. Byrnes Memorial.....	<b>Laura Feibush</b>
Raymond S. and Adele D. Schully Memorial.....	<b>Julie Alexander, Alexis Nagley, Meghan Spoth</b>
Mae K. Burd Memorial.....	<b>Katie Kling</b>
Henry Muentener, Sr. Memorial.....	<b>Paul Genovesi</b>
Cory Golis/Anchor House.....	<b>Jana Radice, Meghan Simmons</b>
Megan Cranstoun Memorial.....	<b>Danielle Piacente</b>
Richard Rodgers and Robert Rodgers III Memorial .....	<b>Ehsan Ahmed</b>
Jean Errickson Memorial .....	<b>Tyler Cignarella, Kelsey Pedersen</b>
Amy Kathryn Rankin Memorial.....	<b>Ross Holley</b>
American Chemical Society's Hubert Alyea Award.....	<b>Kristen Lawlor</b>
Bear Tavern PTO.....	<b>Julie Alexander, Meghan Brittingham</b>
Comcast Foundation's Leaders and Achievers.....	<b>Crystal Hixson</b>
Hopewell Fire Department.....	<b>Nicholas Cermele</b>
Hopewell Township PBA.....	<b>Katherine Richards, Tyler O'Shea</b>
Hopewell Elementary School PTO.....	<b>Patrick Haig, Meghan Spoth</b>
Hopewell Business Association.....	<b>Samantha Rodney</b>
Hopewell Harvest Fair Committee.....	<b>Evan Acuna, Jessica Schoenholtz</b>
Hopewell-Pennington-Ewing Kiwanis Club.....	<b>Bridgette Fossel</b>
Hopewell Valley Central High School Staff DDDSP.....	<b>William Franz</b>
Hopewell Valley Central High School PTO.....	<b>Alexis Amantia, Payal Antala, Andrew McQueary, Kerry Orlando, Stacey Petty, Matthew Strumph, Eric Teng, Edward Wang</b>
Hopewell Valley Chorus.....	<b>Robinson Meyer</b>
Hopewell Valley League of Women.....	<b>Kelsey Bruno</b>
Hopewell Valley Lions Club.....	<b>Alexis Nagle</b>
Janssen Pharmaceutica.....	<b>Michael O'Connor</b>
Mercer County Prof. Counselors Assoc. Award.....	<b>Eric Teng Rebecca Kahme</b>
Music and Theatre Parents Association.....	<b>Paul Genovesi, Robinson Meyer, Megan Dunne, Sean Geraghty</b>
Pennington Doctors Abey and Miller.....	<b>Samik Shah</b>
Pennington Police Association / FOP Lodge.....	<b>Laurie McDade</b>
Pennington Players' Jack and Mary Rees Memorial.....	<b>Kristen Kolombatovich</b>
Pennington Business and Professional Association.....	<b>Heather Scott</b>
Princeton Elks Lodge #2129.....	<b>Brooke Shaffer, Noah Wasserman</b>
Princeton Radiology.....	<b>Megan Simmons</b>
RE/MAX Premiere Properties.....	<b>William Franz</b>
Stony Brook Garden Club Environmental Award.....	<b>Stephen Brogle</b>
Timberlane PTO Book Awards.....	<b>Ehsan Ahmed, Katherine Wyckoff</b>
Toll Gate Grammar School PTO Book Award.....	<b>Robinson Meyer, Kelsey Pedersen</b>
G. Randle Ackerman Award.....	<b>Paul Genovesi</b>
Denise Lugar Award to Scholar-Athlete.....	<b>Kevin Kley</b>



Christopher Babecki, David Hill and Sasha Murr (right to left) ended their scholastic careers at the top of their class.

NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete Award.....	<b>Nicholas Maida</b>
Bulldog Booster Club Scholar-Athlete Award.....	<b>Kathryn Cassavell</b>
Bulldog Booster Club Outstanding Athlete Award...Clare Buck, Kevin Kley	
ETS New Jersey Scholar-Athlete Award...Megan Dunne, Paul Genovesi	
U.S. Marine Corps Award.....	<b>Patrick Haig, Courtney Higgins</b>
U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/ Athlete Award.....	<b>Tyler Cignarella, Kelsey Johnson</b>
CVC Sportsmanship Award.....	<b>Jaime Kianka, Carl Sorg</b>
Women in Sports Day Award.....	<b>Julie Alexander</b>

**Tapping into the Green** (Cont. from page 1)

Other projects include roof replacements on four modular classrooms at Bear Tavern, a new boiler at Toll Gate, new water meters at Toll Gate and CHS, security fencing at Bear Tavern, new equipment for the Hopewell Elementary playground and heat recovery units on six classrooms at Toll Gate.

Heat recovery systems win high marks from sustainability experts because they are essentially recyclers, capturing the energy in a heating system's exhausted air and re-conditioning it to either heat or cool a room, depending on its needs. The district installed units on 12 classrooms district-wide over the past year – to rave reviews from room occupants.

“To a room, the difference in environmental conditions and indoor air quality has been dramatic,” said facilities director Norman Torkelson, whose long advocacy for multiple Earth-friendly technologies helped Hopewell Valley win the 2008 Educator of the Year Award from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Office on Clean Energy.

For its heat recovery projects, the district might be eligible for a second grant, as much as 30% of the cost, from the BPU.

Other projects already winning grant approval are an expansion of the security camera and door control systems at CHS and Timberlane. A Board decision on those projects is pending. ■

# The Icing on Our Cake

Hopewell Valley students benefit in large ways from the continuing energy, creativity and generosity of numerous parent and community groups. In the 2008-09 school year, school PTOs and local foundations spent **nearly \$360,000** on a wide assortment of enriching programs and technologies, from opportunities to act alongside professional actors and playwrights to SMART Boards, iPods and Wiis for music and wellness classes.

A **partial listing**, reflecting the diversity of enhancements made possible this year by district benefactors, follows:



Astronomer Joshua Kuhl talked sun spots, moons, comets and other intergalactic topics with 2nd graders at Toll Gate Grammar this past year. Associated with the national Project ASTRO program and based at Raritan Valley Community College, Kuhl visited four times throughout the year to reinforce curricular lessons on the solar system. Here he shows students how to locate sun spots from the school playground. Kuhl's residency was funded by the PTO.

## HOPEWELL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

(Total spent: \$44,430)

Literacy expert Barry Lane, Gr. 3-8, all schools	10,000
New lighting system, Performing Arts Center	8,000
<i>Twelfth Night</i> , McCarter Theatre artist-in-residency, all schools	5,000
Author-in-residence Irene Kelly, K-5 schools	4,800
<i>From the Page to the Stage</i> , McCarter Theatre, CHS	3,500
Native American Workshop, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, all 2nd graders	2,575
<i>The Odyssey Experience</i> , McCarter Theatre, teacher prof dev	1,500
CHS Robotics team	1,300
CHS Wall of Fame	1,260
<i>Brother/Sister Plays</i> , McCarter Theatre, CHS	1,250
Recording for the blind project, CHS Model WHO Club	600
GPS equipment, Moose Bones summer expedition, CHS	600

## RECREATION FOUNDATION OF HOPEWELL VALLEY

(\$27,400)

Two digital scoreboards	14,900
Six soccer goals (Hopewell Valley Soccer Assoc., Hall of Fame)	12,500

## MUSIC/THEATRE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

(\$18,000)

Annual awards banquet	7,000
CHS plays	5,500
Band camps, uniform care, color guard flags, band banquet	2,000
Scholarships	2,000

## BULLDOG BOOSTER CLUB

(\$15,000)

Senior Athletic Awards banquet	8,000
Seasonal kick-off dinners	6,000
Plaques for title-winning teams, athletes	1,000

## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PTO

(\$40,000)

Post prom expenses	\$27,000
Scholarships	4,000
2 couches ( <i>new senior lounge</i> )	2,000
Monkeys on Mocktails, alcohol/drug program	1,000
Female self-defense program	800
Landscaping services, donated by parent Drewe Schoenholtz ( <i>to maintain last year's \$8,000 investment at front entrance</i> )	500
Writing workshop, Philadelphia blues musician Joe Becton	375

## TIMBERLANE MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO

(\$33,500)

2 SMART Boards, Wiis ( <i>wellness classes</i> )	6,700
Field trips	5,500
Dare2Dine awareness program	3,200
Landscaping donation by Pedersen family	3,000
Grounds beautification	2,500
Brain Show, game show with questions on curriculum	2,100
Speaker Michael Osit, psychologist and author	2,000
Library books	1,000

## HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY PTO

(\$37,500)

Teacher mini-grants ( <i>classroom supplies</i> )	10,242
Field trips	9,196
Laptop, camera, projector for computer lab	2,700
Large screen TV for media center	984
Library books	959
Outdoor table for playground	934
Farm Day petting zoo	600
Digital cameras for teacher use	377

## BEAR TAVERN ELEMENTARY PTO

(\$44,750)

Field trips	9,000
SMART Board	5,000
Whiteboards ( <i>replacement for chalkboards</i> )	5,000
Assemblies ( <i>chemistry, anti-bullying, action sports, black history</i> )	3,000
New carpets ( <i>2nd grade classrooms</i> )	1,600
Books on tape	1,500
Pull down maps, thermometers, scientific scales	1,500
Organic garden	1,500
Digital cameras ( <i>art classes</i> )	750
iPods ( <i>music classes</i> )	750
Handheld GPS units for geo-caching ( <i>wellness classes</i> )	750

## TOLL GATE GRAMMAR PTO

(\$41,500)

SMART Boards	16,000
Teacher mini-grants ( <i>classroom supplies</i> )	7,000
Field trips	6,000
Assemblies	4,500
School garden	3,000
Authors-in-residence	2,000
Outdoor education / nature club	1,000

## STONY BROOK ELEMENTARY PTO

(\$56,764)

Kindergarten playground	22,000
Assemblies	10,000
Field trips	9,500
Free-standing school sign	9,000
Teacher mini-grants	2,700
Science expo	800

\*CHS junior **Emily Kianka** set school and county records with her gold medal-winning high jump of 5'9½" at the NJSIAA Meet of Champions June 4. Emily, who stands 5'9", also captured multiple titles in the winter track season, including the district's first for high jump at the Meet of Champions and the state Group 2 and Eastern States Championships. A 2nd place winner at the Nike Indoor Nationals, Emily was named to the Star Ledger's first team in winter track.

\*An article on Molly Pitcher by Hopewell Elementary 4th grader **Kelly Hoehn** has been chosen from more than 1,200 entries to be included in an online student newspaper published by Celebrate NJ! Just 12 students from across the state will have their work included by the non-profit organization which works to build pride in the Garden State.

\*CHS Latin students **Gabrielle John, Brandy Gwin, Sarah Cuprzinski** and **Spoorthi Bhatta** took 1st place in the New Jersey Junior Classical State Convention in May. It is Hopewell Valley's third state title in the last six years. Students compete in the Certamen academic contest by answering questions on Latin grammar, vocabulary and Greco-Roman mythology. This year, the CHS team beat 40 schools at the regional competition to advance to the final.

\*Timberlane students **Nisha Pradhan, Lauren Maida, Megan Hill, Mandie Goldman, Erin Garrity, Katie Hayes, Courtney Macfarlane, Deborah Keen, Soon-Won Han** and **Callie Holtermann** took part in the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab's Young Women's Conference in March. The girls saw demonstrations in thermal imaging and lasers and did lab work, including dissecting a sheep's eye and extracting their own DNA. The conference aims to interest girls in science and technology careers.

\*CHS sophomore **Ellie Fishman** won a Rising Star Award from the Paper Mill Playhouse for her portrayal of Erma in the school musical *Anything Goes*. The award earns her a full scholarship, valued at \$2,000, to attend the playhouse's Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory at Montclair State University this summer. Also winning an Outstanding Performance award was the show's chorus. Across New Jersey, 100 schools competed.

\*CHS senior **Rebecca Timmins** is in training to compete in archery at the 2012 Summer Olympics. Currently ranked 7th on the Junior U.S. Archery Team, Rebecca is a member of the National Archery Association's Junior Dream Team, regarded as the 24 most promising young archers in the nation. Four times a year the dream team gathers at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. for an intensive week-long training camp.

\*Fifth grader **Megan Heimbach** has been named Toll Gate Grammar's 2009 Outstanding School Safety Patroller of the Year. Megan was honored by AAA Mid-Atlantic at an awards luncheon in April where she was presented with a \$150 savings bond.

\***Casey Quinto**, an 8th grader at Timberlane, was awarded a 2009 "I Have Made a Difference" Award by the Mercer County Youth Services Commission. Casey was nominated by school counselor Cecelia Cardano who wrote that she possesses the qualities promoted by the Six Pillars of Character and is an outstanding role model for other students.

\***Jessica Schoenholtz**, a senior at CHS, was named a Leadership Fellow at Elon University, which she will attend in the fall. Fellowships were awarded to just 25 incoming freshmen out of hundreds of applicants.

\*CHS senior **Eric Tengi** has been named winner of the Mercer County Professional Counselors Association's Caring Award. He was nominated for his reconstruction of an old cross-country trail behind the Athletic Fields at Timberlane complex. Eric took on the job as his Eagle Scout service project.

\*Stony Brook Elementary 5th graders **Carrie Bellscheidt, Aparna Naik**

and **Ethan Seftor** were selected for the 2009 New Jersey Elementary Honor Choir. Some 200 students statewide were chosen through audition and performed in concert in May.

\***Rui Yu**, a junior at CHS, will join 38 other rising seniors this summer for an intensive, interdisciplinary, five-week residential summer academic program at The Lawrenceville School. Selected as a 2009 New Jersey Scholar for his academic promise, Rui will participate in lectures and seminars, write essays and collaborate with a faculty member to produce a 10-15 page interdisciplinary research paper. This year's theme is *India, Pakistan and Bangladesh: One History, Three Countries, Shared Future*.

\***Steven Brogle**, a senior at CHS, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. His service project was the construction of a 3-mile hiking trail connecting Hopewell Borough Park with the D&R Greenway Sourlands Foothills Trail.

\*CHS 9th graders **Claire Batchelder** and **Morgan Gruenewald** and Timberlane 6th graders **Callie Holtermann** and **Maura Tuffy** were chosen for the American Choral Directors Association's prestigious National Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir. Recognized as the nation's finest adolescent voices, the choir performed under the direction of noted choral director Judy Bowers, of Florida State University, in Oklahoma City in March.

\***Austin Roskos**, a 5th grader at Hopewell Elementary, won highest honors in this year's WordMasters Challenge, a national language arts competition. In the vocabulary-building contest, students are given words well above their grade level and challenged to use them in analogies to solve logical puzzles. Nationally, just 167 youngsters in grade 5 earned perfect scores.

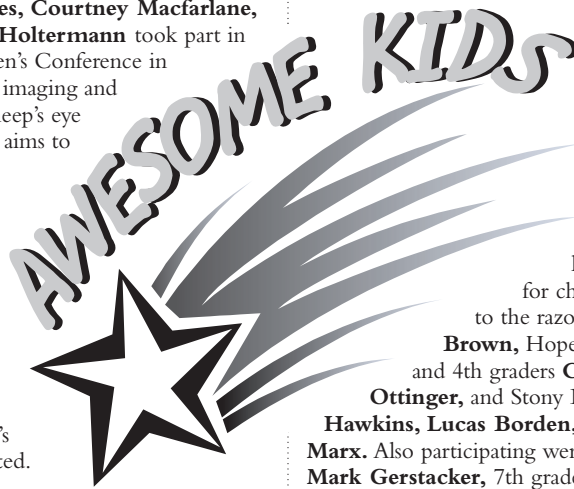
\*A total of 25 Hopewell Valley students shaved their heads in March as part of the local St. Baldrick's celebration to raise money for childhood cancer research. Youngsters submitting to the razor included Toll Gate Grammar 2nd grader **Toby Brown**, Hopewell Elementary 2nd grader **Patrick Mormile** and 4th graders **Chris Silva, Anthony Mormile** and **Jack Ottinger**, and Stony Brook 5th graders **Luke Sferra, Austin Hawkins, Lucas Borden, Tyler John, Garrett Wagner** and **Daniel Marx**. Also participating were Timberlane 6th graders **Ethan Cappelo** and **Mark Gerstacker**, 7th graders **Gabe Castagna, Jacob Cortelyou, Erik Martin, Ryan Mathews, Ben Matheny** and **Kenneth Smart** and 8th graders **Brian Sandford** and **Harry Waskow**. CHS participants included freshman **Claire Doemland**, sophomore **Chris Landis**, junior **Max Gargione** and senior **Kevin Kley**. The event raised \$20,502.

\*Three Timberlane musicians were accepted into the highly selective NJ Region II Intermediate Orchestra. The youngsters – 7th grade violinists **Alan Gao** and **Kevin Lee** and 8th grad cellist **Nigel Bates** – performed in concert with other exceptional musicians from Central Jersey in February and March.

\*CHS students **Erin Henry, Shelby Veazey, Brooke Shaffer, Julie Henry** and **Matt Martin** were 1st place winners in Lexus' national Eco Challenge contest for their plan to launch a composting program at CHS. Their finish earned them each \$5,400 in scholarships and another \$13,000 to be used to start composting programs at all district schools.

\*Six Hopewell Valley students took 1st place awards in the national Daughters of the American Revolution art and literary competition. All were for stamp design. Winning big were Timberlane 6th grader **Bridget Levandowski**, CHS freshman **Sarah McDade**, sophomores **Sarah Vite** and **Joan Wagner**, junior **Leah Giovannoli**, and senior **Andrew Womack**.

\***Darby Driscoll**, Class of 2005, has been named to USA Today's 2009 All-USA College Academic Team. The newspaper spotlights 20 exceptional undergraduates at U.S. four-year colleges. An aspiring pilot, Darby graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in May with a degree in international relations. She is a Rhodes, Marshall and Truman scholar finalist and is a two-year varsity letter winner in NCAA Division I swimming.



# Staff Achievements

## Teachers Land State Award

CHS teachers **Dave Wilson** and **George Needham** won the 2009 Fellowship Award in Inclusive Education from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. The pair, who have taught together for the past eight years, won after a state review team observed them teach Conceptual Physics to a class of general and special needs students. Wilson and Needham impressed reviewers with their classroom techniques to maximize learning among all students, regardless of aptitude in the difficult subject. They were feted at a luncheon May 28 in Trenton. ■

## Keeping Up with Biotechnology

CHS biology teachers **Karen Lucci** and **David Angwenyi** won grants from the Delaware Valley Innovation Network to participate in the 2009 National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program. Organized by the Biotechnology Institute of Arlington, Va. and held in May at Georgia Tech, the program trains teachers in strategies, skills and leading-edge curriculum to share in their home districts. Total value of their sponsorship is \$11,000. ■

## Magazine Publishes Autism Teacher's Classroom Successes

Timberlane teacher **Amanda Palmer's** essay on how she has integrated instruction for an autistic student appeared in the winter 2008 issue of *Outreach*, a publication of the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center. Palmer described

## Starting New Chapters

Six district employees retire at the end of this school year, including Robert Jann, whose 35-year career in Hopewell Valley as a school psychologist was distinguished by a boundless compassion and impeccable integrity. Also retiring is CHS graduate Patricia Coats, who returned to her alma mater as an English teacher and went on to serve the district in several capacities, from principal to staff developer to director of curriculum and instruction. School bells rang in June for the last time for:

**Robert Jann** (1974).....psychologist, CHS  
**Edith Branham** (1976).....secretary, CHS  
**Peggy Cranston** (1981).....teacher, TMS

**Barbara Kucinski-Gilbert** (1984).....teacher of French, CHS  
**Patricia Coats** (1985).....dir. curr. & instruction  
**Cynthia Carlisi** (1999).....bus driver

her student's classroom success alongside general education students and the power of mutual respect and understanding. ■

## Staff Watercolors on Display in Prestigious Art Show

Works by Hopewell Elementary art teacher Linda Bradshaw and Susan Ewart, pupil services secretary, were accepted into the 2009 Garden State Water Color Society's annual show. The highly selective and prestigious, juried exhibit ran March 29 through April 20 at the Prallsville Mills in Stockton. ■

## Shrager to Score AP Exams Again

For the second consecutive year, the College Board has selected CHS math teacher **Adam Shrager** to score AP Statistics exams. During his week in Louisville, Ky., Shrager will also present Hopewell Valley best practices to some 500 other readers and scorers of the exam, taken by an estimated 110,000 students. Scorers are chosen through a competitive process. ■

## On Bookshelves Now

Counseling supervisor Christine Abrahams published her first book, *Kia Kaha*, in February. The novel follows a therapist with a curiosity for the occult as she searches for her soul mate. ■

### COACHES OF THE YEAR

- Dave Caldwell* (football)
- Pam Edwards* (field hockey)
- Mario Harpel* (wrestling)
- Jeff Losch* (girls' basketball)
- Aaron Oldfield* (girls' spring track)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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- Pennington Borough**  
Daniel J. O'Connor
- Hopewell Township**  
Roy G. Dollard  
Judy Lindenberger  
Leigh Ann Peterson  
Aaron Tellier  
Lisa Wolff  
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*Vacancy*

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