Most of the time, we watch our children participate in school activities. I would like to invite you to spend time with your family, friends, and neighbors working on an exciting project that we are creating in the art department.

Many of you have already heard about our mosaic project, but for those of you who this is a new idea I will summarize what has happened so far. While visiting Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland, I admired a mosaic mural entitled, **Aurora Aura**, by the artist Heidi Lippman. Dr. Karlie liked the idea of a mural and gave us the curved wall space next to the ramp between the high school and middle school as a location for this project. Last year our students in all my elementary, middle and high school classes had the opportunity to measure the wall, and bring in landscape pictures from around Meyersdale. They voted on both the size of and the pictures to be used for our mural. The mural will stretch the entire length of the ramp from just above the hand rail to about eight inches from the ceiling! The five photos selected were put together and simplified so that our mural will depict an abstracted landscape from our area showing our meadows, fields and rolling mountains. Did I mention that our students have been busy? Last year they spent many class periods rolling flat pieces of clay with the slab roller, plus cutting and glazing mosaic tiles. We are now ready to launch into the fun of gluing all those tiles onto plywood to create our mural. And that is where I really need your help! You are invited to come to the art room American Education Week during our open house on November 21, 2013, and experience gluing tiles or creating slabs with your children. I know that your children are looking forward to showing you their skills and for you to also be a part of creating this artwork.

There will be future work dates for this project that I hope you will come to and invite others to join in this creative process. **Hope to see you on November, 21!**
We are off to another exciting school year and close to the end of the first nine weeks. If you have not been out to one of the schools yet this year, please consider stopping out and taking in a sporting event or one of the other activities on campus. Don’t forget to visit www.masd.net to get information on upcoming events, important features and photos of school activities.

This year’s district-wide theme “Keys to Character Unlock Your Future” is one that families can help faculty, staff and administration instill in our students. As you may know, we have spent the past three years focusing on character traits with students. This year, we plan to continue this effort while also focusing on how these traits can affect our students’ future. Your involvement in this effort can also improve the impact it has with students.

As many of you may have heard earlier this summer, the PA Department of Education had waivers to the federal No Child Left Behind Act approved. Pennsylvania was the 41st state to have waivers approved. Two changes you may notice include the removal of Adequate Yearly Progress for the new PA Performance Profile that shares district data from across the Commonwealth and a new teacher and administrator effectiveness model. Meyersdale Area was one of the first districts in the state to implement this model after receiving special grant funding two years ago. For additional information on the waivers, visit www.masd.net/waivers

As we draw closer to our annual Parent-Community Open House on Thursday, November 21st, I welcome each and every one of you to take time during the day and stop out at the school for a variety of activities including the opening night of our high school musical Guys & Dolls. This is a great opportunity to stop in and say hello, view student projects, talk to faculty and administration, or simply see what is going on around the school. Please take a moment and save the date, your involvement in the district shows support for students, faculty and staff.
On Tuesday, September 17, 2013 Meyersdale Elementary School was filled with the smell of popcorn and the sound of circus music as students and their families enjoyed the annual Title I dinner and meeting coordinated by Title I faculty members Sheri Trulick, Lana Vena, and Gala Wassilchalk. The Title I Program is a federally funded program that helps to improve academic achievement and assist all students in becoming successful lifelong learners. This year’s event, with a carnival theme, hosted approximately 80 guests. The evening was kicked off with a sit down dinner and remarks from Dr. Tracey Karlie regarding the Title I program here at MASD. Additional information about the Title I Program can be found on the district website or by contacting the school. Following dinner, parents attended the Educational Boosters’ Meeting while the students and their siblings enjoyed a carnival complete with games led by faculty members and students from the High School Leo Club. We would like to send a special thank you to all faculty members and high school students who volunteered their time to assist with the event, and to all of the families who were in attendance. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!
Elementary School Activities

Elementary Students Begin to Unlock Their Future

The 2013-2014 elementary school year is off to a great start. The year began with a Kindergarten Orientation night and a Meet the Teacher night prior to the start of school. There was an impressive turnout with 84% of families attending. The school is supporting fundraisers to raise money for the Educational Boosters. All proceeds benefit student services and programming. This organization is open to the entire community and meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

A Box Tops for Education summer challenge was held where the homeroom that brought in the most box tops won a prize. Mrs. Amanda Bennett’s homeroom won with an impressive 1,643 box tops. The total amount of box tops collected was 11,352. This will provide over $1,100 for activities and equipment for our students. Please remember to continue to send box tops to school throughout the year.

This year we are continuing our Red Raider Pride character education program with a school-wide theme of Keys to Character...Unlock Your Future. Recently, an assembly was held for students in grades K – 5, which engaged students as it reinforced character traits and focused on our school’s theme. Please visit the school website to follow elementary school activities. Your support and continued involvement to make this year a success is greatly appreciated!
MASD Welcomes New Teachers

Ms. Amanda Shaheen earned a Master of Arts in Teaching English and Communications from the University of Pittsburgh, and she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Teaching 6th and 8th grade English and a 6th and 7th grade reading class has been a fun and rewarding experience for Ms. Shaheen, and she truly enjoys seeing all of the students each day.

Ms. Shaheen has been impressed with the creativity and knowledge of each student in her classroom, and she has especially enjoyed seeing students helping one another. Attending the sporting events her students participate in has been one of the many highlights of her first few weeks in Meyersdale. Ms. Shaheen loves seeing students involved in extracurricular activities, and she would love to see you join the Middle School Pep Club, for which she is the advisor. Making learning English fun and exciting is Ms. Shaheen’s largest goal for the year, and she is working hard to make sure students are excited about learning everyday!

Mr. Eric Tedjeske is delighted to be the K-12 Music Teacher/Choral Director for the Meyersdale Area School District. He is instructing K-3 General Music, 7th Grade General Music, and all three choirs in the district.

Upon graduation from Forest Hills High School in Sidman, Pennsylvania, Mr. Tedjeske attended Lebanon Valley College in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education. In 2013, he graduated with two degrees: B.S. Music Education and B.A. Music (Concentration in French Horn Studies). Besides listening to music and performing music, he enjoys traveling to new places and learning about their unique history. Mr. Tedjeske looks forward to working with the students in the Meyersdale School District.

Mr. Tresnicky grew up in Johnstown and graduated from Conemaugh Township. He then went on to study Civil Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh for three years, before deciding to pursue a career in Education. Mr. Tresnicky graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in May of 2013.

In his free time he likes to do anything involving sports. During his high school years he participated in football, wrestling, and baseball. While attending college, he was a volunteer wrestling coach at Conemaugh Township and played rugby at Pitt and UPJ. Now his athletics are mostly limited to playing golf with his father during the summer.

A native of Meyersdale who is excited to return to her alma mater as a faculty member, Ms. Miller is the 3rd grade teacher of Math, Science, and Language Arts. She earned dual Bachelor’s degrees, one in Elementary/Early Childhood Education and a second in Science from Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania. As a collegiate athlete on the Mounties Volleyball team, she earned All-Conference and All-Academic honors. In 2012, Ms. Miller graduated from Frostburg University with a Master’s degree in Special Education.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Ms. Miller is also the varsity volleyball and track and field coach at Meyersdale. For several years, she has coached Laurel Highlands Junior Olympic Volleyball as well.

Ms. Miller anticipates a very productive year in her third grade classroom and on the athletic courts and fields of MAHS.
Musical/Drama Boosters Present...

Guys & Dolls

It's back! There is going to be another musical this year at Meyersdale Area High School! This year's production will be "Guys and Dolls" written by Frank Loesser. It will be presented Nov. 21st - 23rd.

Mr. Cory Buterbaugh, the musical director for the past two years, has moved to Huntingdon, PA to teach Social Studies in the Middle School. The Boosters are very thankful for his support and guidance through all the trials and tribulations of starting a boosters organization and continuing the expertise of the Stoner/McClure era of musical productions. Mr. Buterbaugh will definitely be missed but the boosters are looking forward to working with the new director to continue the tradition of excellence here at MASD.

The Meyersdale Drama/Musical Boosters are pleased to announce that this year's musical director will be Ms. Katie Strong, MAHS Band Director. She is a graduate of IUP & had 6 years of teaching experience before coming to Meyersdale. She has directed several musicals at other schools. Titles that have been performed under her direction include: "Cinderella", Seussical the Musical", "Anything Goes", and "Thoroughly Modern Millie". She has experience in all aspects of the production of a high school musical. Ms. Strong stated, "I am very excited to be working with this year's production. The students are working hard, learning lines, songs and dance to create a spectacular show. We are very lucky to have such talent here in Meyersdale and I believe that combined with hard work, we will produce a great performance!"

Cast members are currently selling $1.00 caramel and crispy candy bars. They are also looking for people to take ads for the programs ranging from $5.00 or more. Anyone interested in buying an ad or purchasing candy, can contact any cast member.

The Boosters want to thank our dedicated community, School Board, and students for their support. We feel that the musical experience is very important to the development of our students. Besides nurturing talent, we believe drama develops concentration, imagination, cooperation, self-confidence, collaboration, listening skills, and empathy.

Tickets will go on sale in November. Be sure to mark your calendars and come support our very talented students.

KEEP THE MUSICAL ALIVE!

Cast Members

Eli Beal
Beth Bolden
Kate Bolden
Kelsey Bittinger
Maddy Bungard
Landon Burkholder
Alexis Day
Kaeli Day
Kyle Deakins
Layne Deakins
Tristan Deal
Chase Direnzo
Bailey Edwards
Amber Haer
Ben Helinski
Addison Holyfield
Brianna Hoyman
Hannah Klink
Sami Korns
Kendra Long
Hattie Luster
Jackie McKenzie
Josie McKenzie
Kendra Murray
Emily Sayler
Eric Shankle
Evan Shankle
Leah Sines
Julia Stephens
Kendall Swick
Samantha Tipton
Kellisa Woolslayer
**NEW UNIFORMS**

This year, the Pride of the Tribe is marching in a new style. The band purchased new uniforms from Demoulin. The uniforms feature a modern cap sleeve and a sleek red and black design. This year the marching band is performing music by the Queen in their show entitled, Anywhere the Wind Blows. The show opens with Bohemian Rhapsody, transitions to Don't Stop Me Now, and closes with, Somebody To Love. The band will also be traveling to Atlanta Georgia to perform and compete in the Dixie classic.

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**CALLING ALL BAND ALUMNI**

This year the band would like to invite Meyersdale band alumni back to play. All you need is an instrument. If you don't have an instrument and would like to play, there are a few instruments to borrow. First come, first serve. If interested, please contact Katie Strong by email.

kstrong@masd.net
Bittner, Darnell and Lear Support Music Education

Last year, the seventh grade students in Mrs. Hetz’s English class embarked on a motivating examination. As part of a project-based learning experience, students were challenged to select a worthy cause they would like to support. Through a series of collaborative assignments focused on honing non-fiction reading and writing skills, the student groups identified this cause and also chose a related organization that would benefit from fundraising efforts. As the culminating activity, students presented their findings to a panel of community members who selected one group who would be permitted to move forward with their fundraising efforts during the 2013-2014 school year. Maddie Bittner, Eliza Darnell, and Maddy Lear, who championed the cause of under-funded music education programs, persuaded the panel to choose their group. Their intention is to raise funds to support the Meyersdale Area Education Foundation (maefeducationfoundation.weebly.com) and earmark funds to support the conversion of a currently unused room into a recording studio, which could be used by vocalists and instrumentalists, as well as individuals who would like to record a speech. The girls’ efforts will begin this school year with a t-shirt design contest, which will be announced in the near future. These t-shirts will be marketed to students and community members to be worn during future fundraising events designed to highlight the musical talents of current MASD students and alumni. Please listen for upcoming announcements or visit (www.masd.net/studio2018) to learn how you can support these enterprising students and this exceptionally noteworthy cause.

School Board Members

Jeffrey Moser
President

Laura Scharadt
Secretary/Business Manager

Dr. Grant Atwell, II
Vice-President

Tina Gnagey
Treasurer

Brad Troutman
Steven Schrader, Sr.
Thomas Deetz
Tammy Witherite
Tim Miller
David Blaney

People You Need to Know

Elementary Office
Ginger Ackerman - ext. 312
Jeanne Klink - ext. 314

Middle School Office
Tammy Hetrick - ext. 338

High School Office
Patti Shaulis - ext. 323

High School Guidance Office
Ginger Geiger - ext. 346

Administration Office
Shannon Brant - ext. 306

Business Office
Tracy Wedge - ext. 327

School Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 in the central office conference room unless otherwise advertised.
It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that all children with disabilities residing in the Commonwealth, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act Amendments of 2004 (IDEA ’04).

MASD abides by this law and provides services for all students with disabilities. For a complete overview of this notice please visit www.masd.net and click on the “Services” tab.

**IMPORTANT BUS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Bus assignments have been established to provide the most cost effective transportation possible for our families and taxpayers. Most buses will be filled to capacity. For that reason, there will be very limited flexibility to accommodate special requests for occasional changes (e.g., going home with a friend, going home to a relative, etc.) Any such requests MUST BE PREAPPROVED to assure the requested change is not exceeding bus capacity.

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**Early Dismissals**
On regularly scheduled early dismissals, students will be dismissed 2 hours early at:

**12:50 p.m.**

Buses will depart at approximately 12:58 p.m.

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**On September 3, 2008, the MASD Board of Directors adopted Policy 103 - Nondiscrimination in school and classroom practices.**

This policy declares that the district provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability.

To view this policy in its entirety, go to www.masd.net and click on Meyersdale Area Policy Manual.

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Policy Notification Statement
Meyersdale Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, nationality, religion, marital status, age, or handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For more information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Tracey Karlie, Superintendent, Meyersdale Area School District, Meyersdale, PA 15552 (Phone: 814-634-5123), or the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C.
The ability to communicate clearly is something many of us likely take for granted. Communication disorders affect millions of Americans at various points across the lifespan. In infants and toddlers, speech language pathologists are utilized to support feeding and swallowing problems or delayed speech or language development. In the school-age population, 5-7% of children demonstrate a need for speech/language services due to difficulties with articulation of speech sounds, expressive language, auditory processing, stuttering, or cognitive-linguistic impairments. Adults can also experience new onset of communication disorders secondary to disease processes like Alzheimer’s, stroke, brain injury, or conditions affecting movement like ALS or Parkinson’s. Causes of communication disorders can often be attributed to hereditary, but this is not always the case. Regardless of age of onset, the best intervention is early intervention… as soon as you suspect there may be a problem.

In our local area, services are limited, but are indeed available for free or at low cost.

**Birth to 3 years**
- Somerset County MHMR (443-4891) – provides FREE services in your home.

**Ages 3-5 years**
- Appalachia IU8 (445-9734) – provides FREE services in your home.

**Easter Seals**
- Somerset / Johnstown locations (445-4834) * Offers speech/language/hearing services for children and adults

**Conemaugh Health System**
- Johnstown / Meyersdale locations (634-5911) * Requires a physician’s order and medical necessity.

If you have concerns that a family member or loved one of any age may be experiencing difficulty communicating, please feel free to contact me (634-8311 *401) so I can help get you in touch with a service provider.

Mrs. Rene’ Hay,
Students Motivated by “Sumdog”

Students in Mrs. Diane Caton’s fifth grade math class have started the year highly motivated. They have participated in two national math competitions already this year and they are planning to participate in many more competitions. They compete on an internet site called Sumdog. Sumdog has many different games which allow students to practice math skills while having fun. Students can play games against their classmates or other students from around the world. As they play, they earn coins which can be spent to buy clothing and accessories for their avatar (an online figure which represents them when playing games).

The first competition began on September 6 and ended on September 12. During this time, 64 of the 71 fifth graders participated and correctly answered a whopping 22,365 math problems! What an awesome feat! Overall, the students placed 43rd in the nation. 1,191 schools participated. Our top competitors were Lauren Kretchman, Tara Knopsnyder, Samuel Hughes, Alix Tipton, Luke Coleman, Marshall Werner, Casey Gray, Brennan Campbell, Olivia Miller, Cassidy Albright, and Emily Holler.

The second competition began on September 13 and ended on September 19. During this competition, 63 of the 71 fifth graders participated. Our goal was to top our number of correctly answered questions as well as our place in the nation. We ended up in 53rd place out of 1,247 schools competing nationwide. We correctly answered 20,223 questions during this competition. Top students for this competition were KeriAnn Beard, Samuel Hughes, Bryant Most, Tara Knopsnyder, Daniel McClure, Joshua Kretchman, Brooke Miller and Casey Gray.

Another amazing fact about all of this is that the students do the majority of these questions on their own time. We only spend a small amount of time at this site while at school. The fifth graders are quite dedicated to becoming better math students. We answered over 50,000 questions correctly during the first month of school. Imagine how many questions we will answer before the end of the school year!