



EVERETT AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Vol.12 No.3

ALUMNI NEWS

To Promote, Recognize and Reward Present and Future Alumni of EAHS FALL 2010

C • E • L • E • B • R • A • T • I • O • N !



Administration, faculty and staff greeting students as they enter the building.

Faculty and staff chorus performs at school assembly



The Everett Area High School faculty and staff welcomed the students back to the new school year in August with a “Disney-style” welcome to celebrate their successes on the 2009-2010 PSSA tests. The district made AYP, or annual yearly progress, on the state-mandated tests. The superintendent and assistant superintendent greeted the students as they got off of the buses, teachers and staff greeted them on the high school steps and in the lobbies, and everyone was given a “high five.” Inside the lobby more staff members gave out “Don’t Stop Achieving” pencils. Celebration music was playing for the 30-minute welcome back session, fashioned after the seniors entrance into Disney World on grad night during their senior trip. The welcoming committee wanted to send a message to celebrate the success on the tests as well as the new school year. Students were surprised at the

different approach to the first day, with many positive comments.

On the 10th day of school, all students attended an assembly called the “Happy New Year” assembly in which students were again recognized for their achievement. Math teacher Lindy Dodson introduced Willie Nelson, (AKA science teacher Paul Shotts) who sang “On the Road Again.” That song was chosen because the 2009-2010 theme was Road to Excellence.

The staff wanted the students to understand that they have more tests and benchmarks to reach this year as the academic requirements increase for both reading and math.

Other features of the assembly included a shirt give away as shirts were hurled into the auditorium from the stage with giant slingshot; a faculty chorus under the direction of choral director Joni Whetstone (1973) that sang “Don’t Stop Thinking about



Willie Nelson Shotts performs at school assembly

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Faculty and Staff launch t-shirts into the audience

Tomorrow”; and a faculty band that played various songs. There was also a serious side when teachers introduced the requirements and incentives that students will need to achieve for the 2010-11 school term. Highlights of the 2009-2010 academic year, culminating with a carnival of excellence activity, played throughout the assembly.

Overall, the assembly was quite successful, and students have already been asking if there would be one next year. Hopefully, if the scores continue to improve, there will be.

submitted by **Fred Baca**

STUDENT COMMENTS

FIRST DAY AND HAPPY NEW SCHOOL-YEAR ASSEMBLY

(EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM WRITING PROMPTS)

I am a proud student of EAHS. As you look throughout our school, you will notice that Everett is one of a kind. We hold very many fun student-teacher activities that will be remembered forever

My favorite part of the assembly was Mr. Shotts dressed up like Willie Nelson

The assembly we had made me feel so much better about the school year...it made me want to work a lot harder... I could tell at the assembly how much the teachers cared for us... they want us to learn and be at school often

The first day of school was very exciting and full of life for me. I wasn't expecting all of the teachers to cheer and welcome us back the way they did. I hope our first day of school welcome is just as exciting next year

The chorus was my favorite. They were much better than I thought they would be. The assembly was better than any pep rally we have ever had and I hope there are more in the future

The first day of school was awesome. I would have never thought the teachers would do something like that....all the encouragement really got me pumped for the upcoming school year.

(assembly) ... it made me realize how much our teachers want us to succeed

I thought the assembly was a really awesome way to begin my 9th grade year

It was the best assembly ever. I also like how much the teachers care for us. Thanks for the celebration

(assembly)... it made me happy to know our teachers care about us.... I know this is going to be an awesome school year.

Going into the assembly last Friday, I did not know what to expect. Whenever I saw Mr. Shotts coming out as Willie Nelson, I knew it would be good. I think all of us felt good knowing that the teachers were proud of us for doing so well last year.

... I was glad the teachers really care about us. The teachers put on an amazing show. I'm so glad I go to this school. I'm going to miss it when I graduate

...we are really lucky to have a group of teachers who want to encourage us to work harder in some fascinating ways. I'm not sure what type of teachers other schools have, but I think we have some pretty good ones.

(assembly) ...I was impressed how good they did, but was disappointed that some other teachers didn't participate...I would like to thank the teachers.

The assembly was probably as fun if not more fun than the ones I've had before. I liked how "Willie Nelson" sang, and also how the faculty put a chorus together. I was happy to see our superintendent getting involved with our school activities

While sitting there listening to the faculty band, I knew my cousin from Northern Bedford wasn't having as much fun as I was having, unless she finds listening to her teachers lecture all day fun, which I am positive she doesn't

(first day) I was thinking "Wow! No other school is doing this for their students." ... It gave me one of those "I'm going to have a good day" feelings... it was all about the students...I enjoyed the keep going forward concept. This assembly is something I will look forward to in years to come.

The first day of school this year was more than words could describe. Almost every single teacher was standing on the outside steps in front of the school. Each time a student or group of students walked up they applauded for us. At first it was really creepy, but then it was also "kind of" nice. It showed us that they were beyond thrilled at seeing us again. This would make anyone's day. There was even a banner in the lobby that read "Don't Stop Achieving." Who wouldn't want that to be their first day of school? The assembly was awesome because it was all about us

Friday was a really good way to show that all the teachers want every student in this school to do their best and nothing less. Also, this assembly shows the students that their hard work and determination has not gone unnoticed by anyone

Thank you (teachers). You are awesome!

I am new at this school ... everybody told me this school was strict. I really liked the assembly. It made me feel comfortable and I love that I like this school a lot more than I thought

(first day) It brought a smile to my face knowing that the people I'm going to be around the next four years care. I'd like to congratulate them, too for teaching us so well

I love my school and all of the unique activities that come with it. This year was one of the coolest (openings) because of what the teachers did

It was very exciting to walk into the school and have somebody congratulating me on all of my hard work. I know that a lot of students really appreciated what the teachers did for us

2010 REUNION Everett Class of 1952

submitted by **Max Frye** (1952 Class President)



Max and Sid Frye

The class of 1952 has been holding a reunion every year since our 45th. This year was our 58th. We try to provide a variety of activities over a three-day weekend, urging

participation in as many as possible. This year's reunion was held over the weekend of September 24, 25, 26.

The traditional Friday night football game was omitted this year because it was played at Tussey Mountain High School in Saxton. So, our busy weekend began with Saturday's lunch at the Everett Union Hotel which was enjoyed by 25 classmates and guests.

Following lunch, nine enthusiastic grape-lovers toured the Briar Valley Winery in Bedford. In the winery basement we learned about the process of turning grapes-on-the-vine into wine-in-the-bottle -- a fascinating story -- after which we had the pleasure of sampling the fruits of the labors of Tod and Jean Manspeaker, owners of the winery.

Following the wine tasting, as is customary for people our age, we headed back to our homes or the Quality Inn in Bedford for our afternoon naps.

Our Saturday evening event was dinner in the Library Room at the Arena Restaurant in Bedford. Twenty-eight class members and guests were in attendance. We wrapped up the weekend with a buffet breakfast at the Arena Restaurant with a sleepy-eyed group of sixteen before saying our farewells until next year.

Dr. Graffious Rinard, a 1929 graduate of Everett High School, celebrated his 100th birthday on November 8, 2010. Dr. Rinard graduated from Georgetown University Medical school in 1937 and began working in the area when the Bedford County Memorial Hospital opened in 1951. Dr. Rinard and his wife reside in Bedford.

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR
ALUMNI NEWS SUBSCRIPTION**

ZACHARY CRAIG RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP



Judith Price Drenning (1960) and Linda Shaffer Szanca (1959) present Alumni Scholarship to **Zachary Craig** (2010).

On October 19, 2010, the Alumni Association held it's annual anniversary banquet at Kelly's Scenic View Restaurant. During the evening, 2010 Everett High School Graduate, Zachary Craig, was presented the Association's Scholarship for the 2010-11 school year.



NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION POLICY REMINDER

In order to better keep track of newsletter subscription beginning and ending dates, we have made a few procedural changes. All subscriptions will begin on the first day of the year and end the last day of the year. If your subscription payment is received during the year, you will receive the current newsletter as well as any issue(s) you have missed and all forthcoming issue(s) for the year.

The mailing label on your newsletter lists your subscription expiration date.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT EVERETT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT Dixie Paruch



Coming to Everett Area School District has been the best professional move I have made in my career! During the past four months, I have spent time getting to know faculty and staff, community leaders and business leaders. I have found this community to be extremely positive, supportive and excited about children learning.

My teaching experience began in Ohio following graduation from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I spent 5 years teaching special education there before moving back to Pennsylvania. I taught at Tuscarora School District before moving into administration at Central Fulton School District. At Central Fulton, I was the elementary principal, Federal Programs Coordinator and District Curriculum Director. In 2005, I left the area and worked as an Assistant Superintendent in Chester County at Owen J. Roberts School District. In 2008, I needed to come back home and was the Superintendent at Fannett-Metal School District in Franklin County for two years before joining the Everett Area Family.

My graduate work in Educational Leadership was completed at Shippensburg University while I was working at Central Fulton School District. My passion in education has been curriculum development and student achievement. I feel strongly that we need to work together as a team in the best interest of all of our children.

On a personal level, family is very important to me and they are what keep me motivated. My husband and I have been married for nearly 30 years and have three grown daughters. Two of them are in education; elementary and deaf education, while the youngest has a degree in Social Work. She is currently serving in the Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa and will be there for the next two years. My husband also teaches and coaches boys' basketball. As you can see, education is and always been a priority in my life and family. We also have three beautiful grandchildren who are the sunshine of my life!

I have taken the information gathered from all of the people interviewed since July and our strategic plan to develop my goals for the year. Those topics include curriculum development, technology upgrade, facilities upgrade, policy updates, and community/district partnerships. I am looking for a long tenure at Everett Area School District and will work hard for our students, as they are the future.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT Tonya DeVecchis-Kerr



Mrs. Tonya DeVecchis-Kerr was selected as Assistant Superintendent of the Everett Area School District at the July 15, 2010 School Board meeting. Having graduated from the

Pennsylvania State University in the Spring of 1979, Mrs. DeVecchis-Kerr began her career in education in the Fall of 1979 as a fourth grade teacher at the Mount Union Area School District. In 1992, Mrs. DeVecchis-Kerr received her M.Ed. in Counselor Education from Penn State and began counseling duties at the Juniata Valley School District. During her tenure at Juniata Valley School District, Mrs. DeVecchis-Kerr completed her principal's certification and Letter of Eligibility requirements. Since that time, she has held numerous positions in administration. Those positions included Assistant Principal at Huntingdon Area Middle School, Elementary Principal/Director of Special Education at Juniata Valley School District, and Elementary Principal/Director of Special Education and Student Services at Mount Union Area School District.

Mrs. DeVecchis-Kerr's main duties at Everett Area School District include coordinator of Federal Programs, grant writing, teacher induction, and curriculum and instruction. Mrs. DeVecchis-Kerr states, "The staff, students, parents of the Everett Area School District and the Everett community have been so welcoming. It gives me great pleasure and much pride to be a part of such an outstanding district and community. I am looking forward to moving ahead with the many initiatives that have been implemented within the district and to venture into new initiatives that will continue to provide our children with the best education possible. I pride myself in being a communicator and having an open door policy. I welcome alumni, parents, students, and any individuals or groups to stop in and chat and to visit our great schools!"

Everett Elementary School Students **ENJOY HEALTHY SNACK GRANT**



Everett Elementary School received a 1-year grant from the Department of Education that provides a healthy snack to students. Students are provided with fruits and vegetables to eat during a scheduled snack time throughout the school year. Through this grant students have opportunities to try new healthy foods and eat a healthy alternative to the typical snack of crackers, potato chips, or dessert items. Students have commented that they have enjoyed the opportunities to try new foods and they now ask their families to buy these healthy snacks when they go grocery shopping.

SCHOOL HISTORY AVAILABLE **at RR Museum**

Contributed by **Patricia Brown Morgart** (1958)



The Everett Railroad Museum houses a wide collection of topics marking the passing history of our town. Among those items are newspaper clippings of alumni and sporting events and other memorabilia including photographs of class reunions, etc. A piece of the stair railing from the original grade school is on display.

This is fitting since the Everett Train Station was moved from its original site to rest on the foundation of the former old Everett High School. The basement stairs to the museum once led to the high school cafeteria where many a before prom dinner was held in addition to events of lesser importance.

Senior residences were built on the site of the former grade school and on the playground area behind the

former high school site. In between is located the Everett Railroad Museum complex including the train station, the freight office building, and the old locomotive and caboose.

The stairs that connected the lower terrain grade school to the high school remain as does the stone wall built by the C.C.C. workers during the great depression.

Visitors are invited to look through the school history and to add anything they wish to the collection. There is an Open House at the Museum the third Sunday monthly from April through October or contact Barbara Miller to visit another time. The Museum is also available for school field trips.



NEWSLETTER PRICE INCREASE

For the past sixteen years, the Alumni Association has held the line on the \$5.00 per year subscription price for the Alumni Newsletter. Newsletter subscriptions are the Association's main source of income and not only pays for newsletters, it funds our scholarship and other projects. Therefore, starting in 2011, your \$10.00 donation to the Association will support our scholarship fund and get you three all-color issues of the Alumni News.

Look for updates at our website
everettareaalumni.org

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY

Class of 1955 Reunion

Submitted by **Mamie Duvall** (1955 Class President)

Friday Sept. 10, 2010 the EHS class of 1955 gathered at the Bullshead Tavern, Union Hotel in Everett. A great time of storytelling and remembering of bygone days was enjoyed by all of the approximately 25 to 30 persons gathered there.

Then on Saturday Sept. 11 the class met at the Breezewood Fire Hall for a delicious meal of hamloaf and roast turkey with all the trimmings. A group picture was taken outside with 44 class members participating. A total of 80 persons shared an evening of fun and fellowship.

A memorial service was held for the 21 deceased classmates.

NEXT REUNION WILL BE the SECOND SATURDAY of SEPTEMBER 2012. Hope all remaining classmates can be there !!

EHS Class of '65 Reunion

submitted by **Kermit M. Norris** (1965, Class President)



This 45th year Class Reunion of the class of '65 met at the Breezewood Fire Hall on October 16 was the penultimate of reunions. Class reunions are supposed to get better each five years and this occasion fit the bill. The gathering was all it was supposed to be, an eclectic mixture of time for socializing, a class photograph, efficient registration, a most appetizing family style dinner, nostalgic entertainment, short business meeting and a very special guest to wow our fifty-something classmates and jog them into singing and dancing.

This all was arranged by a dedicated standing committee of classmates who, for decades, have strived to make each reunion more special. That group includes: Fred Sponsler, Delores (Marshall) Myers, Mick Gordon, Kathy (Dibert) and Dennis Robinson, Kay (Merritt) Thomas, Karen (Sponsler) Smith, Patty (Edwards) Trueax and Duane Hess. They have always provided something very special and interesting and this occasion was no different.

Highlights of the evening (besides the great food: kudos to the Breezewood firehall) included the introduction of special guests Mr. and Mrs. James Gibboney (retired, music/band) and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Engle (Beth, 51 years teaching at Everett). Dwane and Beverly Gochnour were unable to attend. Also, a moment of silence was conducted in honor of the deceased members of the class (Charles Rose, David Martin, Roger Mills, Bernard Calhoun, Laina Sleighter Coughenour, Jim Veach, Bill McCormick, Donald VanPelt, Susan Cooper Uscier, Harold Turner and Dores Marshall Pelayo).

Delores Marshall Myers read a funny poem, "Class Reunion," specially adapted for the Class of '65. She donned her pink-imprinted Pittsburgh Steelers shirt, which recognized the awareness of breast cancer and research adopted by the NFL for October. The Steelers beat Cleveland the next day. Delores then introduced the "ole barbershop quartet."

Fred Sponsler, Bob Harclerode, Don Boor and Gary Henderson (the fab four) rose and did a funny rendition of some barbershop quartet tunes which, they said, were ill-rehearsed... but were well received and appreciated by the audience. They debated on stage regarding sharps and flats and harmony, but were great entertainment! What fun!

Ricky Howsare, Bedford HS, and aged 16, was introduced by Mick Gordon. Ricky sang a repertoire of songs from Broadway, Elvis, Sinatra, Motown and country for two hours and wowed the audience. His range and stage presence left us dumbfounded as we danced and sang the night away; such extraordinary talent. His encore was a song from Phantom of the Opera; he departed with a standing ovation.

Suddenly it was 11:30 pm, some three hours past our bedtimes.

It was a grand evening of reunion. We gathered to cherish the old times and appreciate the present. We will meet again in five years, a most special class of wonderful people.

Class of 1960 50TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

Submitted by **Judith Price Drenning** (1960)

Everett High School Class of 1960 celebrated its 50th year class reunion at the Union Hotel on Saturday, August 14, 2010. One hundred five classmates and guests enjoyed getting reacquainted. Teachers attending were Dwane and Beverly (Shacikoski) Gochnour. 21 members of the class are deceased.

Everett Elementary Schools RECEIVE EXXON MOBIL GRANT

Thanks to the efforts of Bedford County Oil, Everett Elementary has been awarded a \$750 Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance grant for the science and math program. The money will be used to enhance the technology in these classrooms. Funded by the Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon retailers like Bedford County Oil with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TOD MANSPEAKER

One way to look at life is to see it as a straight line. One event leads to another and then another. More often, it's sort of a wavy line. Life, never being clear cut, takes us one direction, and then swings another but hopefully we head in one general direction. I guess if that line is long enough, it will eventually meet itself, or come full circle.

I was born on the family farm outside Everett across from "River's Bend" Golf Course. I feel blessed have been able to attend the "old" Everett Elementary School on North Spring Street below Horton's Sunoco station. How I would love to walk through those two buildings one more time.

The next six years were in Everett Area High School. I can truly say they were some of the best years of my life. My classmates, the teachers, marching and stage band, the weight room, etc. really helped form who I am today.

After graduating, I went to Juniata College in Huntingdon and lived off campus with my maternal grandmother. I treasure that time because I became quite close to her and learned who she was through the eyes of an adult (well, 19-20 is kind of an adult). In addition, she really liked to cook and I really liked to eat. I was well fed.

I studied accounting but really regret not majoring in something else. I disliked every accounting class but didn't know what else to study. The classes that I enjoyed the most were medieval architecture, art history, and computer programming. Go figure!

In the fall of 1984, fate introduced me to Sam Kaufman a.k.a. "Sam the Pool Man". Off I went to Hagerstown, Md. to learn and eventually manage Sam's swimming pool business. After Sam's untimely death, I managed a furniture store in Frederick until I was offered a position at WBFD/WRAX radio stations in Bedford. I was thrilled to return home and haven't left the area since. I Worked at Blackburn Russell until my beautiful bride and I bought M&M Janitorial. We still operate M&M Janitorial and get to meet and work with many wonderful people but we feel like there is something missing. This feeling has led us to "come full circle".

The current chapter of my life just happens to be the most exciting one so far. Jean and I planted a vineyard in 2005. We planted 2000 vines including Riesling, Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Lemberger, and Cabernet Franc. We made several mistakes with this vineyard, but learned what not to do the next time.

What we did "right" was to simply plant the vines. Yes, it's very hard work and its agriculture which means there's risk. But, we both love it. There's something very soothing about pruning, weeding, thinning, spraying, and living with the vines. You start the day in the vineyard, the sun is on your back, you smell fresh air, listen to the birds, and watch the occasional hawk

fly protectively above your head. Before you realize it eight or ten hours have passed and you're exhausted. But this is a "good" exhausted. Not at all like being tired from computer work, or solving problems all day. You're tired but not stressed.

We started making wine and opened Briar Valley Winery in 2007. Our mission statement was to make the best quality wine that we could. It wasn't about having the fanciest tasting room, or selling our wines half way around the globe. We earn around 25 medals a year from national and international competitions, including the Pa's Governor's cup last year. We are proud that many fine restaurants serve our wines locally and in the

Pittsburgh area. However, our facilities aren't the fanciest and our wines are not selling in France. I guess the French will have to suffer not being able to drink Briar Valley wine and settle for what they make....

As I've maneuvered through life, I tried to be practical and hang my hat on sure bets. Somewhere along the way I realized that I forgot about satisfaction, or the passion for life. Getting back to the land and cultivating a grape, picking and fermenting that grape, babying that wine for a year and bottling it, then having it enjoyed and appreciated by others gives me what was missing, a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.

My brother and I now have the family farm. He and his wife Janet are planning on retiring to the farmhouse and Jean and I would like to build a house in the back woods. There is a perfect slope behind the barn for an additional 12,000 vines. Life is extremely short. I may die a pauper, but if I die with a smile on my face, I'll know that I've succeeded.

Anyway, I moved away from the farm in 1979 and thirty-two years later plan on moving back. No, there probably won't be any horses there, but there will be lots of fulfilling work. So there's the full circle, getting back to where I started, on a little farm just outside of Everett, Pennsylvania.



Check us out online

everettareaalumni.org



**Everett Area High School
Alumni Association**

427 East South Street
Everett, Pennsylvania 15537
everettalumni@embarqmail.com

Contact us RENEW YOUR ALUMNI NEWS SUBSCRIPTION TODAY

Website: <http://everettareaalumni.org> | E-mail address: everettalumni@embarqmail.com

REPLICAS AVAILABLE

The Association has colorful, wooden replicas of the two former North Spring Street school buildings available for you to purchase. The history of each building is printed on the backside. You can obtain each building for \$20.00 or the set for \$35.00. We can mail a single replica to you for \$4.00 or the set for \$7.00.



9" x 3.25" x .75"



6" x 5.25" x .75"

To order your replicas, please use the enclosed form and mail along with your payment to:
Everett Area Alumni Association 427 East South Street, Everett, PA 15537

You may obtain an order form online: everettareaalumni.org

The Alumni Association meets the third Tuesday of the month at Kelly's Scenic View Restaurant at 7:00 PM.*

2011 CALENDAR

January 18
February 15
March 15
April 19

May 17
June 21
July 19
August 16

September 20
*October 18 - 6:30 PM
November 15
No December meeting