Holly LaBenne is WCS Common Core Ambassador

By Dean Giopulos, Elementary School Principal

The Wellsville Central School District is proud to announce that one of our very own teachers, Mrs. Holly LaBenne, was selected to join representatives from Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES and Ambassador Jen Austin, Fillmore Central School, as a Common Core Ambassador. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) held the New York State Common Core Ambassador Program in Albany on August 13-17, 2012. This program seeks to inform and support the implementation of Common Core State Standards through a network of effective and carefully selected teachers and principals from across New York State.

Educator engagement is critical to the success of the Regents Reform Agenda, and is particularly essential to effective implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The New York State Common Core Ambassadors, were selected based on their commitment to and reflection on their practice, will play a critical role in a two-way street of communication, training, coaching and modeling of educator behaviors that are at the core of the Common Core instructional shifts.

On Thursday, August 30, Mrs. LaBenne presented to faculty and staff at the Elementary School and shared information regarding the twelve shifts New York State has implemented in both English Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as the new English Language Arts modules the State will soon be making available to all school districts free of charge. We feel fortunate to have an “insider” in Albany who can help communicate our needs and report back to us on ongoing NYSED initiatives. Holly and this local team of educators will return to Albany in November and February to continue their training.
Eleven New Faculty Still Settling In

The Wellsville Central School District has hired a number of new staff members. Here is a little background information about the new faces in our district . . .

Andrea Burgwin (above) has been hired as a new eighth grade English teacher at the middle school. She is from the Central New York area and earned her bachelor’s degree in adolescent education from SUNY Oswego. She completed her master’s degree in literacy at SUNY Cortland. Prior teaching experience includes a year at Camden Middle School and two years with the Utica City School District teaching middle and high school English. Miss Burgwin lives in Olean and enjoys spending time outdoors, camping, fitness, writing and cooking.

Sarah Germain-Tardieu (see group photo at bottom of page 3) is the new Spanish teacher at the high school. She earned degrees at both Houghton College (2004) and St. Bonaventure University (2012).

She stated, “During my years at Houghton, I spent my junior year studying abroad in the Dominican Republic, where I studied the language and literature. I (then) decided in 2009 to go back to school to be a Spanish teacher at SBU. I’m so excited to be here!”

Ms. Germain-Tardieu has three children: Anita Chantal (8), Nicolas (4), and Benjamin (2). She enjoys music, Latin American cultures and dance, travel, and learning new languages.

Carrie Dunn (above) is our new seventh grade science teacher. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Binghamton University. She went on to earn her MST in adolescent education, biology and students with disabilities (grades 7-12) at LeMoyne College. Carrie is single and lives in Wellsville. She likes reading, dancing, swimming, and spending time with family and friends.

Thanks to Rotary & Community Donors

Wellsville Central Schools would like to thank the Rotary Club of Wellsville for their generous gift of supplies for our students with limited financial means. We would also like to thank those in the community who contributed to the Wellsville Rotary Club Back-to-School supplies drive. We have been distributing needed backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, markers and many other items you provided to us for students in our district. The families of our student recipients and the district are deeply appreciative of your generosity and the support you have provided to their children and our students. Pictured ABOVE left to right are: Wellsville Elementary School Assistant Principal Karen Cunico, Stephanie Viglietta (Representing The Rotary Club), Elementary Counselor Jasmine Heaney, and Elementary School Principal Dean Giopulos.
Tiffany Grimes (above) is the newest pre-kindergarten teacher at the elementary school. She has a bachelor’s degree in education and is certified to teach children from birth through grade six. In addition, she has a master’s degree in differentiated instruction with a gifted and talented extension.

She offered, “I’ve had the opportunity to work with many different grade levels during my time at Buffalo State College. When my family moved to Allegany County, I became employed at Wellsville Head Start as a pre-K teacher and now I am here!”

Tiffany is married and lives in Friendship with her husband and their two-year-old son Cayden. Her hobbies include: photography, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Kristy Hall (in group photo below) is the new art teacher at the high school. She said, “The past two years I have been in Andover teaching as their part-time middle/high school art teacher. I have also been their girls’ modified basketball coach and boys’ varsity assistant soccer coach.”

Cody Hampton (at upper right) is the new vocal music teacher at the middle/high school. He possesses a bachelor’s degree in music education. The Eagle Scout (2008) is a cum laude graduate of the Crane School of Music (2012). He was also the music director and a member of the SUNY Potsdam Pointer Counts, an all-male a cappella performance group within the music department. While with the group, Mr. Hampton was also named best vocal percussionist at the International Championship of Collegiate a cappella.

Cody lives in Wellsville and he is single. His interests include music, running, fishing, camping, and hiking.

Robyn Hand (above) is the new middle school technology teacher. She is a graduate from Addison Central School. Robyn earned her undergraduate and graduate degree at SUNY Oswego with a minor in coaching. She has held a variety of teaching positions ranging from grades 3-12. This past year, she was an eighth grade technology teacher at Broadway Middle School in Elmira. Miss Hand lives in Corning and likes to spend

More New Faculty on Page 6

NEW HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS are shown left to right: Matt Johengen, Sarah Germain-Tardieu, Kristy Hall, and Alana White.
Students Show Flashes of Brilliance!

By Diane Willard, Play Director

The auditorium is buzzing. Student performers are rehearsing every afternoon, honing their acting skills. Other students are busy constructing set pieces and props. All are working in anticipation of October 19th, opening night of Wellsville High School’s fall theatre production of Flashes of Brilliance: An Evening of One Act Plays.

The evening will present six one-act plays for audiences. The first is David Ives’ Sure Thing, where we watch a man (played by Drew Burt) and woman (Leah Christman) trying to get to know each other in a coffee shop. Unlike in real relationships, every time one of them misspeaks or misbehaves, they get to try again. Next is another David Ives play titled Words, Words, Words. This play attempts to answer the age-old question of whether monkeys -- if given enough time -- would spontaneously write Hamlet. The audience looks on as Azure Decker, Kailee Lumphier, and Brandon Masterson are hard at work at their typewriters. This will be followed by an act called Graceland by Ellen Byron. Two women -- Bev (Linden Miles) and Rootie (Kirsten Brady) -- meet in 1982 at the entrance to Graceland, where they are waiting for the gates to open to the public for the first time. Each shares compelling reasons and a relentless drive to be the first to get inside.

Following a brief intermission, audiences will watch Asleep on the Wind, another Ellen Byron play, in which they will encounter Rootie again (played by Sarah Hennessy) . . . this time 10 years earlier at the age of 13 in her native Louisiana, where Rootie talks with her brother Beau (Sam Case). As a change of pace, the next performance is Jonathan Rand’s farce Drugs Are Bad. Parents (Bailey Morse and Jacob Crutenden) of a teenaged son (Dillon Smith) have discovered something disturbing in his bedroom and must have a talk with him about his choices. The evening will end with a final David Ives contribution: Variations on the Death of Trotsky. How can a play be anything but entertaining when it features a man (Sam Koch) with a mountain-climber’s ax in his head? His wife (Azure Decker) and gardener (Jesse Beaton) will help tell the tale.

This evening of theatre will certainly leave audiences laughing and crying throughout. Anyone who likes to see well-written theatre brilliantly performed will not want to miss the show.
The cast of *Flashes of Brilliance: An Evening of One Act Plays* is pictured. Shown from left to right are: front - Sam Case, Linden Miles, Leah Christman, and Drew Burt; middle row - Jacob Cruttenden, Bailey Morse, Dillon Smith, Kailee Lamphier, Jesse Beaton, Azure Decker, and Sam Koch; top row - Sarah Hennessy and Kirsten Brady. Missing: Brandon Masterson.
New Staff -- From Page 3

Marie Johnson (above) is now employed as our new seventh grade math teacher at the middle school. She offered, "I have been living in Cuba (NY) with my husband for three years. I am originally from Barker (NY) and completed my undergraduate degree at Canisius College. For the last three years, I was teaching high school mathematics at Allegany-Limestone Central School. In my free time, I enjoy volleyball, kayaking, snowboarding, and reading."

Marie also taught math for a year at Dolgeville Central School.

Matt Johengen (see group photo at bottom of page 3) is our new high school chemistry teacher. The Silver Creek Central School graduate attended Canisius College, where he earned his bachelor’s degree. He served as a substitute teacher at Silver Creek C. S. for two years and at the Tapestry Charter School for one year. He also did independent chemistry tutoring for the past year. In addition, Matt was a lifeguard and taught swimming lessons for six years and he has painted houses over the past nine summers.

Matt is single and loves watching and playing sports especially basketball, baseball, soccer and football. Go Bills! He also enjoys working out, and watching comedy movies and TV shows.

Lisa Stastyshyn (above) has been hired to teach sixth grade at the middle school. She said, "I grew up in Niagara County and attended Buffalo State College to earn a B.S. in Elementary Education. Then I moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where I taught sixth grade English for eight years (at Becker Middle School) and earned an MEd. in School Leadership from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. I love outdoor activities with my husband, Matt, and my son, Jack. We especially love hiking."

Alana White (see group photo on page 3) is the new high school Spanish teacher. She graduated from Oneida High School in 2008.

According to Ms. White, she spent two life-changing years abroad while attending Saint Luis University in Madrid, Spain, from 2008-2010. She then returned to the United States and attended Canisius College in Buffalo from 2010-2012, where she earned her bachelor’s degree and graduated summa cum laude.

Alana did her student teaching at Tapestry Charter High School in Buffalo and Clarence Middle School in Clarence, NY.
Focus on Fitness!

HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS are focusing on fitness this year. Students are creating a fitness profile to track their fitness goals throughout the year.

IN PHOTO AT RIGHT - Nick Anderson and Nick Schrlau find their height and weight.

IN PHOTO BELOW - Chris Harris and Alyssa Staba check out their blood pressure figures.

The individuals listed act as reporters for their respective buildings or departments.

- Elementary School
  Dean Giopulos, Ann White

- Middle School
  Mary Ellen O’Connell, Kasey Riley

- High School
  Mary VanEtten, Cindy Chapman

- Additional Staff
  Lenore Braunscheidel, H. S. Guidance Office
  Dennis Miles, Athletic Schedules
  Kasi Washburn, Special Services

To submit information or offer constructive suggestions for improvement, please contact the reporter for your building or department. Remember, these "reporters" can't report what they don't know -- so please keep them informed!
**Guidance News**

**Important Calendar Dates**

- **September 20** - Picture Day – Wellsville High School
- **September 21** - Registration deadline for 10/27 ACT College Entrance Exam
- **October 4** - Registration deadline for the 11/3 SAT Exam
- **October 5** - Late registration deadline for the 10/27 ACT Exam
- **October 8** - NO SCHOOL
- **October 9** - High School MP 1 Progress Reports mailed home
- **October 11** - Armed Services Vocational Battery Exam (ASVAB) for juniors
- **October 12** - Senior Portrait Retakes
- **October 19** - Late registration deadline for the 11/3 SAT Exam
- **October 20** - PSAT Exam begins at 7:45 a.m. for juniors and sophomores
- **October 22** - Superintendent Conference Day – NO STUDENTS
- **October 27** - ACT College Entrance Exam begins at 7:45 a.m.
- **November 3** - SAT College Entrance Exam begins at 7:45 a.m.

*A NOTE ABOUT TESTS:* All PSAT, ACT, and SAT test takers are asked to please be at the High School front entrance no later than 7:45 a.m. with your registration ticket, #2 pencils, a calculator, and identification.

**Attention Juniors and Seniors**

Many colleges and universities are holding “OPEN HOUSE” this fall. The guidance office has dates and telephone numbers. If you have not already done so, this is the time to visit colleges in which you are interested. These colleges will have representatives at WHS on the dates listed below:

- **October 10** - University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, 1 p.m.
- **October 11** - St. John Fisher College, 11 a.m.
- **October 16** - SUNY Brockport, 9:45 a.m.
- **October 19** - Alfred University, 12 p.m.
- **October 30** - Hilbert College, 12:15 p.m.
- **November 2** - SUNY Cortland and Genesee Community College, 12:30 p.m.
- **November 5** - Alfred State College, 11:45 a.m.
- **November 8** - St. Bonaventure University, 9:30 a.m.
- **November 13** - SUNY Potsdam, 10:45 a.m.

**Attention Seniors and Parents of Seniors**

High School Counselors, Mrs. McNinch (seniors with last name beginning with A-J) and Ms. Alvord (last name beginning with K-Z) will be meeting with seniors individually to help with future plans, successful completion of high school requirements and college applications. Parents, if you wish to meet with your child’s counselor, please feel free to call 596-2160 to make an appointment. We welcome your active involvement!

Your college application should be ready for your counselor as soon as possible. Many college programs fill up early, (especially technical college programs, i.e. SUNY Alfred at Wellsville.) December 21, 2012 is the deadline for college applications that need to be mailed out by January 1, 2013. Bring your application, transcript request, and application fee to the Guidance Office as soon as it is ready.
The seniors on the 2012 Wellsville Varsity Football team are shown left to right: front row - Nick Anderson, Tom Truax and Zach Cunningham; back row - Trevor Jackson, Brady Lewis, Chris Harris and Schyler Kling.

**Boning Up on Scientific Notation . . .**

Students in Mrs. Brownell’s and Mrs. Fuller's eighth grade math class have started the year reviewing scientific notation. Here two students are shown working as partners to match scientific notation measurements with the correct standard form measurements, matching to pictures of different items to be measured, and then making comparisons! WOW, we are impressed!
The Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce extends an invitation to you! Join us for the 20th Annual RidgeWalk-Run-Race-Ride

**October 21, 2012**

**Wellsville, New York**

The RidgeWalk-Run-Race-Ride is a pre-registration event with an **event cap of 1,100** that:

*Features* spectacular trail walks (2, 6, 9, 15 miles); competitive trail runs (5K, 10K, 15 Mile); competitive mountain bike race (8 mile); and bike rides (10, 23, 40 miles) showcasing the stunning fall beauty along the highest ridge in Western New York. This unique event accesses remote trails on private land with a variety of educational signage.

*Offers* one of the largest regional events in Western New York. Each year, registration is closed-out with registrants who range in age from 2 to 82 with participants coming from across the nation and throughout New York State.

*Promotes* good health for people of all ages and levels of physical ability. All events finish on a horse farm with festivities including refreshments, music, kids’ activities, and health screenings at the Jones Memorial Hospital Finish Line Arena

Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce
114 North Main Street
Wellsville, NY 14895
585-593-5080
s.havey@wellsvilleareachamber.com

For more information or to register, go to [www.ridgewalk.com](http://www.ridgewalk.com)
Congratulations to our Wellsville Middle School students on successfully completing opening day! WMS staff and students started the day with an all school assembly. Principal O’Connell’s message for the session: be an active and involved learner every day in every class, take risks in the classroom, be brave and show us what you know, watch out for your classmates’ well-being, report problems as they arise, and be kind and thoughtful as that will always come back to you in positive ways.

Sixth and seventh grade students shown heading to the buses at dismissal are: (from left to right) Bryce Beckwith (grade 6), Olivia Cavagna (grade 7), Elizabeth Cole (grade 6), Mackenzie Johnson (grade 7), Emily Anderson (grade 7), Connor Abbey (grade 7), George McDowell (grade 7), and Connor McCullough (grade 6).