

Community Newsletter of The New Brighton Area School District  
3225-43rd Street • New Brighton, PA 15066 • www.nbasd.org

## Upcoming Events

**Month of February**  
Jump Rope for Heart

**February 9, 2014**  
Second Cup of Coffee  
Middle School

**February 14, 2014**  
Snow Make Up Day

**February 17, 2014**  
Act 80 Day-No School

**February 21, 2014**  
PTA Family Fitness Night

**March 6, 7 & 8, 2014**  
*Crazy For You*  
High School Musical

**March 7, 2014**  
In-Service Day-No School

**March 17-28**  
PSSA Testing-Reading & Math  
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6

**March 31-April 4**  
PSSA Testing-Writing  
Grade 8

## Professionals Offer a Glimpse Into Their Vocation on Career Days

Elementary and middle school students recently had an opportunity to learn about various careers and vocations. Volunteers, many of whom were parents or community residents, came to share their knowledge and skills with New Brighton students.

Elementary career day was held on Friday, November 22, 2013. Traditionally, only fourth grade students participate in the event. However, this year, third grade students participated with a focus on entrepreneurship, following the Pennsylvania career education and work standards.

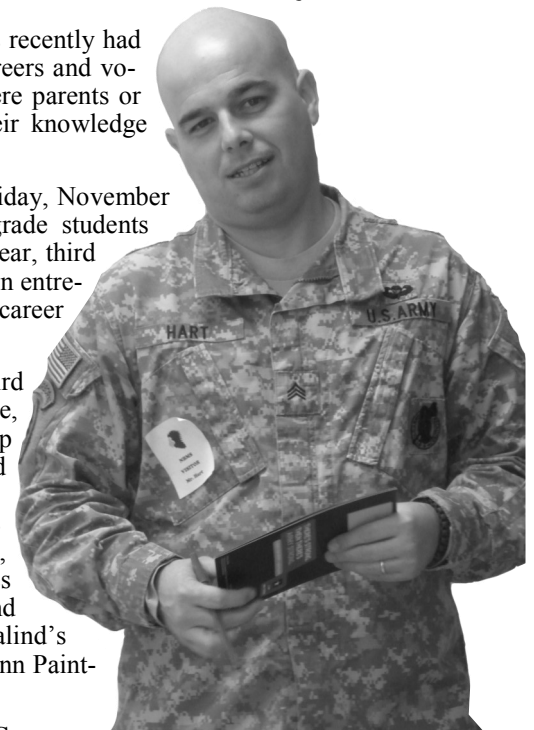
Local business owners spoke with third grade students about their career choice, the pros and cons of business ownership and exactly how each of them got started in their profession. Participating entrepreneurs were Jeff Kohlmann, Hank's Mexican Food and Custard; Jason Hall, lawn care business and other business ventures; JoMarie Henry, Bullfrogs and Butterflies Daycare; Mike Crudden, Rosalind's Candy Castle; and Tom McKee, West Penn Painting.

"This is the fifth year I have had a Career Day in 4th grade, but the first year to try it as well in third grade, and it was a huge success!" said organizer and guidance counselor, Mrs. Kelly King. "The entrepreneurship piece was definitely something that was missing from our curriculum, so for the students to hear it first hand from local business owners was very effective!"

Fourth grade speakers included Officer Jeff Wijnen-Riems, K-9 Police Officer; Andy Kirschner, university level athletic director and softball coach, Jarrod Gerello and Bob Trosky, information technology and web professionals; Michelle Kurtyka, university level physical education teacher; Rich Greathouse, electrician, and Tricia Beatrice, physician's assistant.

All middle school students participated in Career Day on December 10th. Students rotated through a series of five speakers throughout the afternoon.

The following individuals volunteered to share their knowledge and expertise with our students: Gabriel Engel, school teacher and administrator; J.D. Krepps, owner of Forbush Drive-In; Jeff Wijnen-Riems, K-9 officer; Kathy Glovier, lab technician; Jeff Frankenstein, musician; Chris Ruppen, geologist; Stacy Martella, pharmacist; Jason Zelle and Ethan Bosch, therapists; Vernon Hart, military; Missy Adams, food service; Garen Fedeles, attorney; Tracy Cox, pastor; Melinda Rombold, human resources; Chris Camp, Fun Fore All business owner; and Chris Lindsay and Ed Gourley, engineers.

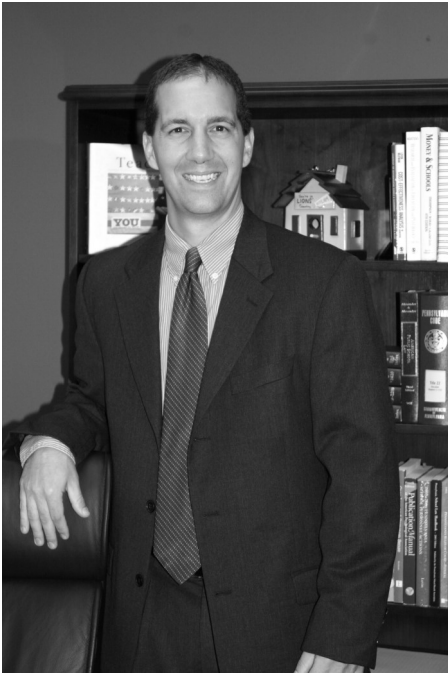


*Sgt. Vernon Hart, U.S. Army, speaks to seventh grade students during Career Day on December 10, 2013.*



*Andy Kirschner, Penn State University-Beaver Campus coach and athletic director, speaks to elementary students during the annual Career Day held on November 22, 2013.*

## Superintendent's Message



*Dr. Joseph Guarino, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent of New Brighton Area  
School District*

As a community member, you are sitting to read this as the holiday season has ended. The grey days of winter are upon us, and we are all struggling to keep our New Year's resolutions. As I write to meet production deadlines, I find myself in the middle of the holiday season. Thanksgiving recently passed and the winter holidays are in full swing. I am faced with the hustle and bustle of this time of year while trying to enjoy the season and all the joy it brings to young and old. It is truly the season in which to be thankful and of giving. Yet it is often much too easy to forget those aspects of the season. A simple glance across the district makes it is easy to witness the thanks and giving that signify this time of year.

Thanksgiving is truly an American holiday that involves all religious and ethnic groups and engages us in giving thanks for all the good in our lives. Our school community is touched by so many and has so many areas for which to be thankful. I am thankful for one of the best student bodies around; who give freely of their time to sponsor activities like Trunk-or-Treat, create the newspaper *The Pride Post*, work so hard that we have over twenty-five percent qualify for the honor roll and over fifteen qualify for post-season athletic honors in various sports. We also have almost three hundred students involved in holiday concerts.

I am thankful for their competitive nature, evidenced by our girls' soccer team making the playoffs for the first time and competing proudly through the semifinals, the football team returning to the playoffs for the first time in ten years, and our Marching Lion Pride band for performing beautifully at their Band Festival and the many seasonal parades throughout Beaver County.

I also give thanks for the many who give their time and energy to support our schools. From our outstanding PTA members, who volunteer countless hours assisting in the school, to our teachers and parents who proudly cheer on our student body no matter the event. To our local police, fire departments, and business leaders who are quick to offer an assembly or participate in a career day. We are a fortunate community with so many blessings for which to be thankful.

As we transition from Thanksgiving to the winter holidays, we embrace a season of giving. Teachers are organizing food and toy drives. Our high school Leadership Club is again working with the Beaver County Office of Aging to wrap and deliver presents through the Surprises for Shut-ins campaign. Elementary school students presented the New Brighton Borough with beautiful wreaths for the season and our music students in all three buildings are providing countless concerts and programs to share the joy of the season with those around the community.

I mentioned at the start that I am writing this in the midst of the holiday season, yet you are reading it well after the holidays have passed. I write this message to remind all of us of the many things which we have to be thankful for as members of the New Brighton community. The activities and events I listed are just a small sample of all that occurs in our district. While November and December are often associated as the months during which we give thanks and find ways to give back, I think the accomplishments of our students, staff, and community provide many reasons for us to give thanks throughout the year.

## PTA Hosts Annual Breakfast with Dads

The PTA Breakfast with Dads, which is in its fifth year, was held in November at the elementary school. Dads, grandfathers, uncles, big brothers, and even moms if a student does not have a father figure, are invited to attend and have breakfast with their child.

This year 291 dads, grandfathers or uncles attended the event. Many of those who attend are so thankful for this opportunity with their child. The children are very proud to show their classrooms and cafeteria to loved ones. They also love to show off their loved ones.



*Second grade student  
Lainey Mayer and her  
brother Brady Mayer,  
kindergarten, enjoy  
breakfast with their  
dad Mr. Dan Mayer.*

## Katarina Whalen Performs at Honors Band Festival

On December 12 – 14, 2013, 124 students participated in the PMEA District 5 Honors Band Festival that was hosted by director Dr. R. Tad Greig at Westminster College. Students who participated in Honors Band competed against high school students in grades 9 – 12 from Beaver, Butler, Mercer, and Lawrence counties. The Honors Band festival was designed to give students in District 5 the opportunity to play in an ensemble with full instrumentation and perform with some of the highest level of musicians in the four counties that comprise District 5.

Auditions for this festival took place on November 19 and New Brighton had one student, Katarina Whalen, make it on E-flat clarinet. Katarina competed against over 50 clarinet students. She scored high enough to be one of 28 clarinet students selected to perform. This was the first time in several years that New Brighton has had a student make this ensemble as it is very competitive to receive a spot in the group.

The guest conductor for Honors Band was Mr. Jeffery W. Ball who is the founder, artistic director, and conductor of the Brooklyn Wind Symphony. Mr. Ball is director of bands and coordinator of performing arts at the Grand Street Campus High Schools in Brooklyn, NY. He is in the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music Wind Ensemble and is the principal director of the New York City “All-City” High School Marching Band.

With Mr. Ball’s extensive resume, it was a great experience for all of the students participating in Honors Band. Describing the festival, Katarina said, “It’s a much different atmosphere playing alongside musicians who have an immense amount of talent and as much passion for music as I do, and I love these festivals for that.” The students really enjoyed playing the music and learned a lot from Mr. Ball.



*Junior, Katarina Whalen, with guest conductor Mr. Jeffery W. Ball, at the PMEA District 5 Honors Band Festival at Westminster College.*

## Alecia Riccio Shares Peace Corps Experience With 8th Grade Pen Pals

Two years ago when the current eighth grade students began their middle school journey, they started exchanging pen pal letters with Miss Alecia Riccio’s students at Naosanobis Primary School in Leonardville, Namibia. This past December, Miss Riccio visited with our eighth graders and shared her experiences from Namibia. Miss Riccio was a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa from August 2011 through October 2013. There she taught English, Science and Arts. Alecia is currently working for the Namibian Ministry of Education as an advocate for women’s health issues.

While Miss Riccio was home for the holidays she shared her experiences with students at the middle school. Alecia discussed the Peace Corps history and mission with the students. She explained the Namibian culture including information about the tribal regions, homes, clothing, food and traditions. She spoke some native language and brought in authentic Namibian money, jewelry, fabrics, and food for the students to view. She even brought Namibian candy as a treat for the students.



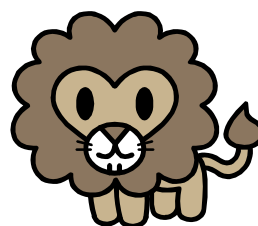
*Alecia Riccio, daughter of middle school librarian, Mrs. Laura Fryer, shares her experiences of living and working in Namibia, Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer.*

## Little Lions Preschool

The students in the Little Lion’s preschool have had a busy year so far! They have been learning through play with the help of their high school seniors. Highlights from the year so far include trick-or-treating at the administration offices, a classroom Thanksgiving dinner with their families, and a Christmas performance. Instructor, Mrs. Elizabeth Gallagher is pleased to receive a Donor’s Choose Grant which will be used to purchase new blocks and math manipulatives for the preschool classroom.

Are you looking for a preschool program for your child? We are still welcoming all students ages 3-5, who are potty trained, in the Little Lion’s Preschool. Please contact Mrs. Gallagher for more information.

egallagher@nbsd.k12.pa.us  
724-846-1050 x317





## New Brighton Students Excel at BCCTC

Three New Brighton High School students have been recognized by the Beaver County Career and Technology Center for the achievements and leadership.

Ashley Glenz, a senior Graphic Arts and Printing student at Beaver County Career and Technology Center, has been elected to serve as President of the National Technical Honor Society at BCCTC. Membership to the society is based on the student's GPA at their home school and BCCTC, activities the student is involved in, and teacher nomination. The Honor Society provides community service, field trips, and an annual recognition ceremony. Ashley enjoys attending BCCTC because of the hands on learning experience and increased opportunities.

Junior, Quinton Tenney, was named October Student of the Month for the Logistics Materials Management program. This is Quinton's first year attending BCCTC.

Junior, Noah Kairis, was named November Student of the Month for the Business Information Systems program. Noah also competed in the Future Business Leaders of America regional competition this fall and placed first in Spreadsheet Applications. Noah will move on to compete at the state FBLA conference in Hershey, PA in April.

Congratulations to all three students on their accomplishments!



Beaver County Career and Technology Center students, Ashley Glenz, Quinton Tenney, and Noah Kairis, are recognized for their leadership and accomplishments.

## Girls Soccer Team Makes History

The 2013 Varsity Girls Soccer Team advanced to the playoffs in early October for the first time in school history. The team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the WPIAL losing to Greensburg Central Catholic in the Class A Semi-Finals. The Lions upset #5 seed South Allegheny in the first round of the playoffs, and #4 Neshannock in the second round.

Seniors Kailey Bonner, Elaina Smith, Leslie Miller and sophomore, Maya Watkins were named to the Section 1 All Section Team. Bonner and Watkins were also named to the All WPIAL team. The Lady Lions finished the season with an 11-8-1 record.

The team is coached by Ms. Amanda Cwynar along with assistant coach Nichole Casper. Team members include seniors Kailey Bonner, Elaina Smith, Leslie Miller, Leah Kelly, and Paige Goode; juniors Kasee Riley, Brittany Zahn, and Kelly Lane; sophomores Anna Kelly, Maya Watkins, Hanna Csoman, Sydney Main, Celeste Peterson, Jenna Concelman, Alyssa Starcher, Alexis Starcher, and Yasmina Sommers; freshman Paige Murray and Katlyn Bracken.



Celebrating a victory during their history making season are New Brighton Girls Soccer team members (from left) Jenna Concelman, Anna Kelly, Myah Watkins, Hannah Csoman, Celeste Peterson, Elaina Smith, Alexis Starcher, Sydney Main, and Kailey Bonner.

## Middle School Honors Local Veterans



*Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Bob Hedglin, United States Army & Air Force, is the keynote speaker at the Middle School Veteran's Day Assembly.*

On Friday, November 8, 2013, the middle school honored local veterans at their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Celebration. Administrators, teachers, students, parents, and most importantly, local veterans attended the afternoon assembly.

Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Bob Hedglin, United States Army & Air Force, was the keynote speaker. Lt. Col. Hedglin retired in 2009 from the USAFR after 33 years of total service in the United States Armed Forces. Lt. Col. Hedglin is the recipient of many military decorations.

Sixth grade poetry winners recited their poems, written in honor of veterans, to the audience. Poetry winners included Rocco Beightley, Levi Inman, Dylan Myers, Cameron McCarthy, and Erie'onna Hammock.

Eighth grade poster winners announced were Mary Nagy, Darrion White, and Marissa McGarry.

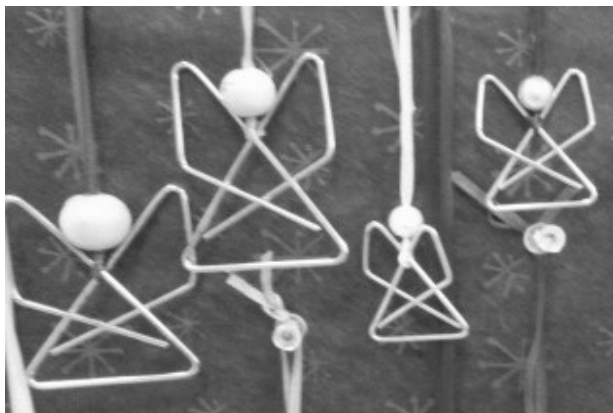
The Star Spangled Banner was performed by eighth grade students Gina DeMarco on vocals and Erin Kelly on keyboard. Other musical presentations were made by the advanced chorus members and eighth grade students Dennis Whalen, Bailey Maybray, and Michael Cornelius.

Members of the American Legion Post 19 made the presentation of colors.

The annual celebration is organized by eighth grade history teacher, Mr. Matthew Wagner. Mr. Wagner is also known as Master Sergeant Matthew Wagner of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

## Life Lessons

Middle school life skill students have been working on various skills by making and selling craft items. Students are counting, measuring, threading, and painting to create inexpensive items. These items are sold to staff for \$.25 each. Students are using real money to budget, maintain records, calculate profit, and determine supply and demand. In the spring, students will determine what they can afford to do with the proceeds.



*Life Skills students created unique angel ornaments from paper clips and small beads.*

## Students Spread Holiday Cheer

Many people share the spirit of Christmas at this time of year and New Brighton students are no exception. They found several ways to help area families in need.

Middle school students provided a much welcomed Thanksgiving dinner for some local needy families in November. As part of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade project, students organized a contest among home rooms to collect items for the meals. Each homeroom was challenged to complete a grocery list of Thanksgiving food products. Students quickly responded by bringing in stuffing mix, gravy, vegetables and other delicious items for a Thanksgiving meal. Mrs. Estright's 6<sup>th</sup> grade room, Mrs. Mercer/Mr. Schwartz's 7<sup>th</sup> grade room, and Mrs. Russo's 8<sup>th</sup> grade room were first in their grade levels to complete the list and each received a treat as a reward. New Brighton Foodland made a monetary donation to purchase turkeys for the project.

Calculating discounts to get the most for their money, nine members of the NBMS FOR Community spent a December afternoon shopping at Toys R Us for children in need. The FOR Community sponsored a Halloween Dance in October for middle school students to raise money for the project. All the toys were donated to Toys for Tots for children in Beaver and Northern Allegheny Counties. Middle school shoppers included Nicole Nagy, Mary Nagy, Legion Lake, Job Cox, Cameron Strum, Rachel Speelman, Ireland Delaney, Erieus Hammock, and Emily Castelli.

Elementary school art students decorated 35 wreaths for New Brighton's seventh annual Brighton Lights Night and Christmas in the Park. The students donate decorations and help decorate the wreaths the entire month of November in art class. The wreaths were awarded that evening by Chinese and silent auction. This year \$780 was raised to help the New Brighton Community Life Committee distribute a Christmas meal and gifts to needy New Brighton families.



## Apps Making the Grade

Chalk boards were replaced with white boards, which were replaced with smart boards. Now textbooks, notebooks, and calculators are being replaced with new technology as well. Teachers are using technology that students use outside of the classroom every day and incorporating it into their lessons to increase student interest and engagement.

“We purchased 150 iPads this summer and we were able to equip seven classroom teachers throughout all core subject areas with a classroom set of iPads” said Administrator for Instructional Technology and Online Learning, Mr. Robert Lee. “The iPads are also used as learning centers in the elementary school and to deliver live instruction via FaceTime for a homebound student.”

Many old tasks can be accomplished with the iPads in a new way and many new applications are being explored. In a fun way, today’s technology is being put to good use by the teachers.

Students in Mrs. Nichole Tomczak’s and Mrs. Hailey Kohan’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes are bringing their writing pieces to life by using the iMovie app. They are able to incorporate their writing piece with original poems, music, and interviews into their movie.



*Eighth grade students Mason Rea and Caleb Norman use iPads in language arts class to create movies from original writings.*

Performing tedious calculations with long numbers becomes a breeze allowing more time for students to analyze data and make decisions based on that data. “Students are more engaged” said Mrs. Kerri Heymann, high school math teacher. “They are talking about what the numbers mean”. Sophomore, Troy Moon, likes using the iPads in math class because you don’t have to do the calculations by hand. Some of the students, however, find it difficult to enter information since there is no keyboard. Ashley Davis, a junior, finds that using the iPad is more interesting than traditional methods. Sophomore, Abbie Worst, likes the fact that students are not using as much paper so the iPad helps to save trees! Also, pre-calc students in Mr. Tom Nagel’s class are able to use a graphing utility app to see the shaded half-planes when graphing inequalities. This allows students to actually see the convex polygon that is formed by multiple intersecting lines. Students are then able to find the minimum and maximum values for a given function.

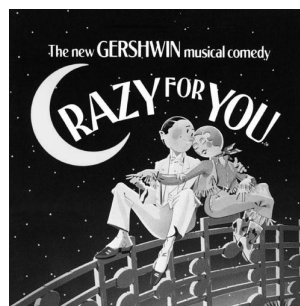
History comes alive with today’s technology. Nearpod is an app that allows social studies teacher, Mr. Bryan Pasquale, to create interactive electronic presentations which each student can view on their own iPad. During the presentation, Mr. Pasquale can live poll and quiz the students to access their level of understanding. “I receive feedback in real time” said Mr. Pasquale. Some other apps that his students use in class are iMovie, Educreations, and Garageband.

This looks like it is just the beginning for the use of newer technology in the classroom. Mr. Robert Lee states that “The long term goal is to integrate this technology into all of the core classes in the high school and middle school over the period of five years.”

## Students Prepare for Musical

Rehearsals have begun for this year’s high school musical performance, *Crazy for You*. The romantic comedy, which is under the direction of Mrs. Allison Dalcalmo and musical direction of Mrs. Jamie Beilstein, will run March 6, 7, & 8, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Tickets will go on sale to the public on February 3 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for reserved seats, \$8 for general admission, and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Reserved seats can only be purchased at the administration office. General admission and student tickets are also available at the high school office and New Brighton Public Library. All tickets are \$10 the night of the performance.



### College Admissions Testing Dates

#### SAT

Test: March 8

Registration Deadline: February 7

Test: May 3

Registration Deadline: April 4

#### ACT

Test: April 12

Registration Deadline: March 7

# Healthy Happenings!

Elementary physical education teacher, Mrs. Jocelyn Cornman, is offering a new program for elementary students called Kids of Steel Pittsburgh Marathon Program, which will take place this spring.

This is an exercise and nutrition program that teaches students the importance of regular exercise and healthy eating. Kids that register who log 25.2 exercise miles and make healthy food choices will have the opportunity to finish the Pittsburgh's Kids Marathon in May to receive a finishers medal and prize. Interested students can expect to receive more information from Mrs. Cornman in the upcoming months.



*Elementary students stop to pose for a picture during Splash Week, a week of physical education at the Sun Rise Pool.*

## New Brighton Area School District Board of Directors

**Mitch Yanyanin**, President  
**John Ludwig**, Vice-President  
**Enrico Antonini**  
**Harry Caminite**  
**Christeen Ceratti**  
**Gary Rombold**  
**Gretchen Rombold**  
**Melanie Smith**  
**Kim Williams**

## Administration

**Joseph Guarino, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Gabriel Engel**  
Director of Student Services

**Marydenise Feroce**  
Business Manager

**Rick Start, Esq.**  
Solicitor

**Linda Emert**  
School Board Secretary

**Edward Kasparek**  
High School Principal

**Robert Budacki**  
High School Assistant Principal

**Julian Underwood**  
Middle School Principal

**Jason Hall**  
Elementary School Principal

**Robert Lee**  
Administrator for Instructional  
Technology and Online Learning

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

PA School Law has increased its immunization requirements for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade beginning in the 2011- 2012 school year. Students who are already in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or will be entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade must meet these requirements or **may be at risk of exclusion from school.**

In addition to the immunizations already in place for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, the following are new requirements which started during 2011-2012 school year:

- \* 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization)
- \* MCV (meningococcal conjugate vaccine)

## DOES YOUR SENIOR STUDENT HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE???

Ms. Young and Ms. Hubbard will be available after school by appointment to any senior student who needs help with college searching, completing college or scholarship applications, registering for the SAT or ACT or any other post-secondary process. Please have your child stop in the guidance area at the high school to set a date. Contact your child's guidance counselor if you have questions.

Ms. Young (Last names beginning A-L)      Ms. Hubbard (Last names beginning M-Z)

## Notice of Nondiscrimination

The New Brighton Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for handicapped persons should contact the Director of Student Services at 724.843.1795 extension 4.

The Communicator is a publication of the New Brighton Area School District. Editor is Linda Runatz. Story ideas, questions or comments should be directed to lrunatz@nbsd.k12.pa.us.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
New Brighton, PA 15066  
Permit No. 79

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER  
NEW BRIGHTON, PA 15066



## Amazing Art

Mr. Damian Cassano's advanced art students were challenged to convey an emotion through a recent art project. The amazing projects lined the entrance of the high school throughout December.

Senior, Sara Fritsch explained that students covered a Masonite board with shreds of newspaper, painted the newspaper with coffee to create an old, weathered look and lastly, used one color of oil paint to create their portrait. Sara wanted to convey the emotion of morose in her portrait shown here.