



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Tara Stauffenberger is an instructor at Mahoning Valley Academy. She recently completed the Luzerne IU18 special education certification program. The certification took two years to complete and achieve.

The Luzerne IU18 special education certification teaches educators how to approach students at their level, and use a variety of instructional strategies to better serve the students. Proctors from the program did weekly observations to check on Stauffenberger's progress.

In most cases, students of the program would be forced into a student teaching rotation for twelve weeks, but as an already-established educator at BHA, Stauffenberger was able to complete that portion of the process by simply teaching her class every day.

Stauffenberger has started a trend at BHA in that several of her colleagues at Mahoning Valley Academy are also going for the certification.

Upon successful completion of the program, and sufficient scores on state tests, educators have the ability to work as a special education teacher in PA schools.

We congratulate Tara Stauffenberger on achieving this feat, and we're actively cheering on those following in her footsteps!



OUT IN THE PUMPKIN PATCH



One of the yearly highlights for our BHA programs is the trip to Crystal Spring Tree Farm. Kids at Valley Ridge Academy took a hayride around the massive, 250-acre farm, and they learned it can take between 8 and 10 years to grow a Christmas tree—what a commitment!

After the hayride, the kids played on the rustic miniature town-themed playground, and then they took a pumpkin home to decorate their living space.

Crystal Spring Tree Farm is a superstar in the area. On multiple occasions, trees from the farm have been showcased in the Blue Room of the White House. They have been an incredible neighbor to BHA, and as always, we thank them for their support of our programs.

IN THE NEWS AT THIS HOUR

BHA was in the news in October! Thanks to one of our new friends in the Career Employment Program, Caitlin Moyer of Cindy's Deli, we were able to get the message of our organization to thousands of people throughout the area.

Both WFMZ-TV and the Times News reported on the story of Palmerton High School student, Josh Ahner, and his experience working with Caitlin to prepare for the breakfast and lunch rush. Viewers witnessed Josh cooking chicken noodle soup, chopping vegetables, and gaining confidence.

Click the links below for more.

WFMZ: <https://bit.ly/3gAhdKk>

Times News: <https://bit.ly/3N35lhW>



LOOKING FOR THE BIG WIN

Social media settled the score at Willow Academy.

Homerooms at Willow competed to construct the best scarecrow. Students were part of the process from conception to construction. Each homeroom decided on a completely different theme where nothing was off the table. It was completely up to the class' creativity!

The winning scarecrow was decided by a vote on Facebook. The world was given four days to vote, and Miss Brandi's homeroom picked up the victory with the sliding pumpkin head!

Playing outside at recess proved to be the inspiration behind "Scary Larry," Miss Brandi said. Miss Jenny, the classroom's IA, brought in some kids' clothes, and the rest of the process moved along easily.



GETTING IN TOUCH WITH NATURE



PRIDE students took a trip to the Carbon County Environmental Center in October, and they got to learn about the flora and fauna that occupy the Poconos.

Mrs. Glose's and Miss Megan's classes went on a scavenger hunt around the park, which included finding the biggest leaf they could find, and exploring each of the animal exhibits.

They also toured the converted dairy barn that showcased animal skeletons and taxidermized versions of animals that live throughout the Poconos.

CCEEC is built on 70 acres of woodland, wetland and meadow within Mauch Chunk Lake Park. They are dedicated to wildlife preservation and rehabilitation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FRIENDS

We love our first responders!

Proud volunteers from the Lehighton Fire Department stopped by ISST during Fire Prevention Week to teach the kids about fire safety, and they showed the kids equipment on two different fire trucks in the department's arsenal.

Students were also shown what firefighters look like in the course of fighting fires, so as not to be afraid of them in a rescue situation. They were shown different hoses, life-saving tools like the "jaws of life," and perhaps the most important tool on a fire truck—the coffee pot hidden in the back of the truck!

Lehighton Fire Department has been serving the Lehighton/Mahoning Valley/Weissport area since 1874.



SHOWING SCHOOL SPIRIT



Dressing up for Halloween is the best way to show school spirit.

Students and educators alike had to put on their thinking caps to dress up for each theme day. One day challenged the students and educators to dress like their favorite decade.

Friday was the cherry on top. Kids dressed up in their Halloween costumes, and did they ever dress to the nines! Each classroom had their own theme, such as Mr. Lee's room dressing as contestants on The Price is Right, or Miss Dawn's classroom dressing as three blind mice, or Mrs. Kayla's class dressing as the Sanderson sisters from the cult classic Disney film, Hocus Pocus.

It's safe to say Journey had school spirit!

Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™



Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? What does it all mean? Knowing the difference can save you, your home, and your family! Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and knows how to respond. Learn the sounds of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by checking the user guide or search the brand and model online.

What is your alarm telling you?

SMOKE ALARMS

- A continued set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means smoke or fire. Get out, call **9-1-1**, and stay out.
- A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- A continuous set of four loud beeps—beep, beep, beep, beep—means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call **9-1-1** and stay out.
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- CO alarms also have “end of life” sounds that vary by manufacturer. This means it’s time to get a new CO alarm.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of everyone in your home, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Some tips:

- ✓ Install a bedside alert device that responds to the sound of the smoke and CO alarms. Use of a low frequency alarm can also wake a sleeping person with mild to severe hearing loss.
- ✓ Sleep with your mobility device, glasses, and phone close to your bed.
- ✓ Keep pathways like hallways lit with night lights and free from clutter to make sure everyone can get out safely.

Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!

Get out and stay out! Call 9-1-1 from outside.



Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!

A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire unit if it's over 10 years old. If you don't remember how old the unit is, replace it!



**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**



FLEXING A POETIC MUSCLE

eBridge Academy student Abby Clark wrote a poem about parents as part of the curriculum's Creative Writing class. Please enjoy.

PARENTS

Parents will always care for us,
Even in the worst of times.
They will always be there for us,
They do their best to provide.

For hours at a time,
They might be mad at us.
But no matter how mad they are,
They'll never stop loving us.

FOR YOUR WELL-BEING



Take time for yourself as we head into November. It's easy to get bogged down waking up to complete darkness when the alarm goes off or watching the sun go down at 5:00.

Below are a few resources that will help your holistic well-being, such as some self-affirmations that will help you build confidence.

Swap: [The Best Healthy Swaps for Gluten](#)

Listen: [Run Towards the Danger](#)

Watch: [Why having Fun is the Secret to a Healthier Life](#)

Boost: [15 Mantras That Help Boost our Confidence and Creativity](#)