

# The ABC'S of SPRING COVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 2012 Building a Foundation of Excellence...One Student at a Time Vol. 24, No. 2

## Taking Education Online SC Cyber School Offers Options, Flexibility

In the late 1990s, Spring Cove School District was one of just three school districts in the state that received grant funding to explore and develop digital classrooms. A few years later, SCSD helped found [blendedschools.net](http://blendedschools.net), which today provides a complete online curriculum for students from kindergarten through Grade 12.

In 2008, SCSD administrators put this experience to use and launched the Spring Cove Cyber School (SCCS). This year, 15 students from kindergarten through Grade 11 enrolled in SCCS.

During its first year, SCCS was only available to district students who took all of their courses online. Today, full-time SCCS coursework is available to those students who prefer the flexibility of online learning or whose life events make it difficult to attend a bricks-and-mortar school, perhaps due to health concerns or other limitations.

Students also work with SCCS to access individual online courses that are not available at district schools, such as advanced foreign language instruction or Advanced Placement

classes. Students can also combine SCCS courses with vocational education or correspondence classes to meet state educational requirements.

This level of flexibility is one reason SCCS is so successful. Additional success factors include students' commitment to the program, active involvement from parents and ongoing support from SCCS staff. In addition to providing a computer, books and materials, **Debbie Banks**, a certified teacher, is available to work with students in their home or by phone.

"We work closely with students and their families to make sure the student's educational needs are met," explained **Arlin Roth**, SCSD Instructional Technology Specialist. "Mrs. Banks does an excellent job communicating with our parents and assisting our students. She has been a major factor in the success of our program."

Mr. Roth also emphasized the role that parents play in their child's online studies. "Their support is critical to the child's success."



*The flexibility of Spring Cove Cyber School has allowed Kaleb Sollenberger to excel in his Kindergarten and 1st grade studies.*

Students who are interested in a cyber education can enroll at any cyber school in Pennsylvania or in the US. However, enrolling at SCCS offers students distinct advantages. For example, unlike students who are enrolled at other cyber schools, SCCS students:

- Receive a Central High School diploma following the successful completion of the CHS graduation requirements
- Can participate in SCSD extracurricular activities, such as sports, musical activities, and technology and vocational training
- Can attend regular SCSD

classes if interested

- Are supported by Mrs. Banks, an academic advisor who visits and consults with the student and family to keep track of assignments and grades, troubleshoots technical problems, tutors, and facilitates communication between students, parents and online teachers

Interestingly, SCSD is required to pay anywhere from \$8,800 to more than \$15,000 in tuition costs to other cyber schools that enroll SCSD students. That could have translated to more than \$200,000 in

*continued on page 2*



## Superintendent's Corner

### *The Wheels On The Bus Go Round And Round*

**I**n rural school districts, the Superintendent often gets to wear a few different hats. Spring Cove has certainly given me many opportunities to learn about various jobs and responsibilities. For this issue of the ABC's, I am wearing my school safety hat and would like to ask for your help on a very important concern – school bus safety.

Here is some background information that might help you better understand the tremendous task of transporting students. On any given day, our school buses transport more than 1,600 students. They drive an estimated 1,600 miles on any given school day – that's like driving from Roaring Spring to Denver, Colorado every day!

To ensure that students get to school safely, it takes dedicated drivers, reliable transportation contractors, and well-maintained equipment. We are fortunate to be well taken care of in all of those key areas. Our drivers are highly experienced, our contractors are totally focused on reliability and safety, and there is no safer vehicle on the road than the "big yellow bus." Here are a few statistics to back that up:

- According to the National Safety Council, the national school bus accident rate is 0.01 per 100

*million miles traveled compared to 0.96 for other passenger vehicles. That makes school buses to be about nine times safer than other passenger vehicles during the normal school commute.*

- *An average of six children are fatally injured inside school buses annually. More importantly, about 16 children are fatally injured as pedestrians in the loading & unloading zone around school buses annually.*

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**With our bus drivers, there is nothing that causes a greater feeling of anxiety than to see a vehicle zoom by the bus while students are outside of the bus.**

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*The last statistic speaks directly to our concern for the safety of children when they get on and off of the school bus. Unfortunately, we recently have had reports of passenger car drivers ignoring safety laws, including failure to stop for a school bus that is stopped with the red signal lights flashing.*

*What can you do to help? We ask that you become better informed by reviewing the laws. Pennsylvania law is very specific about stopping for school buses. Please take a moment to read the enclosed flyer to better familiarize yourself with state law. The flyer is also posted on our web page at [scsd.schoolwires.net](http://scsd.schoolwires.net).*

*Finally, we also ask you to be vigilant. If you see a violation occur, please report it to us and to law enforcement authorities. Nothing, and I mean nothing, is more important than the safety of our students. Thank you for making this your resolution in the new year and for many years to come.*

Sincerely,

  
Rodney L. Green, Superintendent

## SC Cyber School continued

tuition expenses paid to outside schools this year alone. Instead, in a year marked by dramatic budget cuts, those savings were re-invested in SCCS and SCSD programs.

Mr. Roth expects demand for SCCS services to increase in the coming years. That's due, in large part, to three factors: SCCS's ability to offer students a variety of online options, the increasing number of students choosing online courses to supplement their regular coursework, and a growing number of students choosing full-time cyber school education.

"Our programs are available to any SCSD student, whether they take all of their classes with us or just a few here and there through the years," he said. "I would invite parents of any students in our district who are enrolled in an outside cyber school to consider our program when making a decision for next year's enrollment."

For more information, visit <http://scsd.schoolwires.net/Page/1441>, contact Mr. Roth at [aroth@scsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:aroth@scsd.k12.pa.us) or 224-7579, or contact Mrs. Banks at [dbanks@scsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dbanks@scsd.k12.pa.us).

## Realignment on Hold

**D**uring the fall, the community was invited to two "town hall" meetings to share their perspectives on a possible realignment of the elementary grades. After these meetings, and after considerable thought and planning, the SCSD Board of Directors voted, at its November meeting, not to proceed with any elementary realignment activity for the 2012-2013 school year.

"We had some really great and productive discussions

during the community sessions," said **Rodney Green**, Superintendent. "But the public feedback was clearly in favor of doing more research on items such as transportation, educational benefits, and possible cost savings. These and other questions will need a more detailed explanation before we can determine our next steps."

The SCSD thanks those who attended the meetings and provided input on this important topic.

## Annual Budget Workshop

**Date:** Monday, March 26  
Monday, April 30

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** SCSD Administrative Office  
1100 East Main Street  
Roaring Spring

*The community is invited to learn more about the 2012-2013 SCSD budget process and district funding sources.*

## Music Program Hits the High Notes

**S**ingers and musicians are making their mark at SCMS, with more than 130 children now participating in the Choral program and 101 students enrolled as members of the SCMS Band.

"In the last few years, these programs have really taken off," explained **Harold DeLozier**, Band Director. "The students work hard and want to do their best. We couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments."

According to Mr. DeLozier and Mrs. **Melody Brumbaugh**, Choral Director, the program's success reflects the commitment that SCSD administrators, faculty and parents have made to provide musical education to the students. This commitment includes:

- A full-time instrumental music teacher at SCE and MES
- Exposure to musical programs beginning at the elementary level, including free music lessons for interested 4th and 5th grade students, and the participation of every 4th and 5th grade student in the springtime chorus experience
- Free middle school music lessons for brass, windwood and percussion instruments; families who do not own instruments can rent them
- Participation in the regional 6th Grade Band/Choral Fest
- SCMS participation in the County Band and County Chorus festivals with selection based on student auditions

Music lessons and choral practice are scheduled during study halls or as part of the lunch period.

"That was a turning point for us," Mr. DeLozier explained. "Making lessons and choral practice available during the



More than 100 students are members of the SCMS Band, including Shannon Weaver, Autumn Toth and Jenna Brown. (l - r)

*The SCMS Chorus joined the SCMS Band to celebrate the sounds of the season at last month's holiday concert.*

day introduced dozens of new students to the program." He noted that band and chorus requires students to work together to achieve their goals. "Every student has a role to play in every performance," he said. "It's a tremendous way to build teamwork."

Parents and students who are interested in the music or choral program may contact Mr. DeLozier at [hdelozier@scsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:hdelozier@scsd.k12.pa.us) or Mrs. Brumbaugh at [mbrumbaugh@scsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:mbrumbaugh@scsd.k12.pa.us).

# District Achieves AYP

For the eighth year in a row, Spring Cove School District and all of its schools have achieved Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), part of the federally mandated No Child Left Behind initiative.

The AYP results are based on the results of the spring PSSA testing cycle, and a district's ability to make sure that all students reach acceptable proficiency levels in math, reading and science.

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**The high scores reflect Central's ongoing efforts to improve student achievement, including additional academic support for students who may need it.**  
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The elementary schools and SCMS continued to do very well. Central High School also excelled, earning its highest AYP score ever.

"This is great news for our students and faculty," said **Dr. David Crumine**, Principal. "Last year, we missed making AYP on a subgroup of students. Our latest scores tell us that providing extra help and keeping the students motivated works." According to Dr. Crumrine, CHS will continue to carry out these and other programs to help students reach their potential on this year's PSSA. For detailed information on SCSD's 2011 AYP and PSSA scores, visit <http://paayp.emetric.net>.

## New Board Sworn In

New and re-elected members of the SCSD Board of Directors were sworn in following the November 8 election. We welcome **Willard Thompson** and **Randy Eckman**, who join the Board as new members. Mr. Eckman fills a vacancy that will expire in 2013. Other members include:

- Amy Acker-Knisely (Re-elected)
- John Biddle (Re-elected)
- J. Sam Dean, President
- Charlene Dodson, Vice-President
- Julie Mills, Treasurer
- Dr. Jennifer Murnyack-Garner (Re-elected)

**William Replogle** was also re-elected but recently resigned to accept a township supervisor position. His replacement will be chosen via applications that were accepted through January 4, and is expected to be announced by January 16.

We thank Mr. Replogle, as well as outgoing Board members **Harold Brennecke** and **James Butler**, for their service to SCSD and its Board of Directors. We wish you continued success in your efforts.

# Mock Trial Team Places 8th in International Tourney

## Two Students Capture "Best Of" Honors



*The CHS Mock Trial Team enjoys a break in the action with the team from Seoul, South Korea.*

In mid-October, eight members of the CHS Mock Trial team competed at the prestigious Empire City Invitational in New York City and again walked away winners.

During the Invitational, 34 top Mock Trial teams from 19 states and six countries competed in simulated trials, honing their prosecution, defense and cross-examination skills. At the end of the competition, sophomore **Connor Johnson** was named "Best Overall Attorney" from a field of 204 competitors. In addition, junior **Erin Ruggles** topped more than 200 peers to earn "Best Overall Witness" of the entire competition.

Guided by the leadership of Coach **Brad Heuston**, the team began its preparations this summer and traveled to New York through the support of the Spring Cove Educational Foundation. They will compete at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pennsylvania in January.

"The achievements of Connor and Erin were unbelievable," Mr. Heuston said. "They were recognized as the best of the best at an international competition. We're very proud of them and every member of the team."

Businesses or individuals interested in helping to sponsor the team for their January competitions can contact Mr. Heuston at [bheuston@scsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:bheuston@scsd.k12.pa.us).

# Venture Grants Expand Learning Experience

**E**very fall, the Spring Cove Educational Foundation awards grants to SCSD teachers who have or are developing innovative projects that complement classroom activities. This year, the Foundation awarded more than \$7,000 to teachers to support projects related to reading, health and fitness, the arts, environmental science and community service. Congratulations to the teachers whose winning proposals are strengthening education throughout SCSD.

## **CHS Double Dutch, Deannie Cafferty**

Since September, the team helped kick off Red Ribbon Week at SCMS, worked with SCE students during their Fall Festival, performed at Barnes and Noble, entertained more than 400 people during a MES assembly, and helped students at St. John's in Lakemont improve their Double Dutch skills. Planning is underway for a "Jump for Heart" week in January.

## **SCMS Reaching Out to Others, Kim Smith**

This year the 7th graders are again visiting local retirement homes and working with residents on various projects. The students visited area homes in the fall and before Christmas.

## **SCMS Military Service Project, Kim Smith**

This National Junior Honor Society project once again honors soldiers and veterans. The NJHS members held a breakfast



*The CHS Double Dutch team shares its positive message throughout the community with help from the Venture Grant program.*

for the local VFW and Legion members to celebrate Veterans Day and also helped to remove flags from a local cemetery. They also participated in the SOS project and recently created care packages (with more than 1,000 homemade cookies!) to send to soldiers overseas.

## **Developing Logic and Strategic Thinking Through Games, Zach Soohy**

Mr. Soohy launched the Strategy Club at SCMS and CHS last year to help students strengthen their logic, reasoning and problem-solving skills through chess and other games. With help from the Venture Grant, the Club bought several new games, which has boosted membership and given more students the opportunity to challenge themselves.



## **SCMS and CHS Battle of the Books, Zach Soohy**

Through Battle of the Books, student teams will read 20 books in more than 10 different genre categories to prepare for a local competition date in late March. Good luck to the teams!

## **SCMS Composters, AJ Hoestine**

As part of a year-round classroom science activity, SCMS students will make two class composters and watch redworms break down food scraps, leaves, grass, paper and other items. The compost also will be used in the SCMS courtyard flower gardens.

## **SCMS Digital Photography, Mark Reed**

Thanks to the Venture Grant, SCMS students

*Members of the Strategy Club check out new games purchased through the Venture Grant program.*

will have access to a high-end camera similar to those used by professional photographers. They will experience time exposure (night photography), indoor sports photography, manual aperture and shutter speed photography. Their efforts will be displayed during the 2012 Art Show and in the 2011/12 SCMS yearbook.

## **SCMS WeatherBug Monitor, Mark Snyder**

A new LCD monitor that can be viewed by the entire student body will be added to the Weatherbug station. It will include current conditions, the 3-day forecast, a live camera, Doppler radar and local weather alerts. With the winter months ahead of us, the monitor will be a great learning tool to keep SCMS students informed.

## A Warm Welcome

Spring Cove School District extends a warm welcome to the following teachers and support staff who joined our school community this year:

**Barbara Burket**, SCMS Cafeteria  
**Beverly Giffin**, SCMS Cafeteria  
**Rhonda Gselman**, SCMS Custodian  
**Jody Seller**, CHS English Teacher  
**James Hammel**, District-Wide Maintenance  
**Caroline Hoover**, CHS Cafeteria  
**Sherry Long**, Adm. Custodian/MES Cafeteria  
**Jessica Earnest**, Paraprofessional at Hollidaysburg Senior High School  
**Patricia Long**, CHS Paraprofessional

## Calendar Highlights

<b>February 15</b>	Educator, Support Staff and Volunteer of the Year Nominations Due
<b>February 17 – 20</b>	No School – Winter Break (Possible snow make-up days)
<b>March 12 – 23</b>	PSSA Testing (Reading/Math – Grades 3, 8, 11)
<b>March 26</b>	SCSD Annual Budget Workshop
<b>March 28</b>	End of 3rd Marking Period
<b>April 16 - 20</b>	PSSA Testing (Writing – Grades 5, 8, 11)
<b>April 19</b>	Celebration of Excellence
<b>April 23 – 27</b>	PSSA Testing (Science – Grades 4, 8, 11)
<b>April 5 – 9</b>	No School – Spring Break (Possible snow make-up days)
<b>April 30</b>	SCSD Annual Budget Workshop
<b>May 6</b>	Early Dismissal
<b>May 28</b>	No School – Memorial Day
<b>June 5</b>	Early Dismissal
	Last Day of School (Tentative)
	Commencement (to be scheduled on the final day of attendance for senior class)
<b>June 6 -8</b>	Possible snow make-up days
<b>June 21</b>	Spring Cove Educational Foundation Annual Golf Outing

## Q/A With ... J. Sam Dean President, SCSD Board of Directors

**S**am Dean recently began his first term as President of the SCSD Board of Directors. Dr. Dean, a lifelong district resident, is a former teacher, school administrator and educational consultant.

### What are the roles and responsibilities of board members?

Board members work with administrators, faculty and support staff to advocate for the health and safety of students. They also work with the administrative team to develop policies and procedures that prepare students for success in post-secondary studies and entry level employment.

### What do you consider to be SCSD's greatest strengths?

Several factors contribute to our success. For me, our primary strengths include our students and their values; our administrators, faculty and support staff; our facilities, which provide a safe and clean environment in which to learn; our parents and the community who support our students; and our financial status, with a limited budget reserve to meet any unforeseen short-term delays in state/federal reimbursements.

### What are the district's greatest opportunities and challenges?

Our opportunities are also our challenges. Specifically, this includes helping students maintain or exceed academic proficiency while continually working to reduce the number of children who struggle to meet academic goals. An early 2012-13 budget resolution by Pennsylvania's legislators is needed to facilitate educational budget planning for district programs and services. Employee contracts are important so that our team can maintain their focus on teaching and learning. Finally, as Mr. Green prepares to retire, we'll be looking for a new superintendent to maintain and advance continuity and excellence in management and leadership.

Once we meet these opportunities and challenges, we will have accomplished our goals for the year.

*The SCSD Board of Directors typically meets the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at the SCSD Administration Office. The public is invited to attend. Please visit <http://scsd.schoolwires.net/Page/1498> to confirm meeting dates or call us at 224-5124.*

# A Round of Applause

- Congratulations to all fall sports student-athletes. Our football, girls' volleyball, cross country, golf and girls' tennis teams had successful seasons. Our boys' golf and girls' tennis teams each won the Mountain League Championship, with the tennis team (pictured here) moving on to capture the District VI AA title!
- CHS Sophomore **Laura Ritchey** took second place honors in the creed contest at the 84th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October. Laura was one of 49 contestants from 48 states and Puerto Rico. As one of the final four contestants, she was required to recite the creed before a large crowd and answer questions from six judges. Her national ranking earned her a \$1,000 stipend to attend the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC later this year. Congratulations!



## News From the Athletic Department

- The Spring Cove School District and the Athletic Department has a new web homepage. Current schedules and team records can be found at <http://scsd.schoolwires.net>. Please check this site often as schedules will change throughout the year due to inclement weather, conflicts with other schools, transportation availability and accessibility of officials for games.
- The site also includes our mission statement, as well as the goals and expectations of our sports programs at the Junior High, Junior Varsity and Varsity levels.
- Spring Cove School District places a great deal of importance on sportsmanship. Student-athletes learn a great deal from our coaching staff, but they also learn from the actions of their parents. Please keep in mind that the extra-curricular activity in which your child participates is an extension of the classroom. Allow the players to play, the coaches to coach, the officials to officiate, and be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Questions? Contact **Chuck Gojmerac**, Athletic Director, at 793-5326.

- As part of their ongoing service to the community, SCE students collected more than 1,700 items for the Martinsburg and Claysburg Food banks.
- In November, more than 30 students from SCMS helped Operation SOS unload donations and assemble Christmas packages for members of the US military serving in Afghanistan. Organizer Gary Clare said Operation SOS couldn't have met its goal without the students' help.



**Spring Cove School District**  
Office of the Superintendent  
1100 East Main Street  
Roaring Spring, PA 16673  
814-224-5124  
<http://scsd.schoolwires.net>

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**District Administration**  
224-5124

**Martinsburg Elementary School**  
793-2014

**Spring Cove Elementary School**  
224-2311  
877-695-4859 (toll-free)

**Spring Cove Middle School**  
224-2106

**Central High School**  
793-2111

Don't forget to visit  
<http://scsd.schoolwires.net>  
for the latest news, sports schedules  
and calendar information.

## What's Happening

Members of the MES Student Council display some of the many gifts they collected during this year's Toy Drive.



SCE 5th graders created a wide range of projects as part of their history curriculum.



MES third grader Samuel Stahl shares his report on Rhode Island with classmates.

