



# Voices of the Valley

Quality Educational Opportunities for All

Vol. 11, No. 3

June / July 2002

## GVES Pilots its First PEER MEDIATION TRAINING



Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

Members of the 4th and 5th grade peer mediation team in planning session with teacher / facilitator, Ms. Beth Zigmont.

This school year the Garnet Valley Elementary School launched the first-ever mediation training pilot program. Thirty five GVES students, in grades four and five, and seven faculty members committed to thirteen hours over three days of training in the skills of peer mediation. The training was funded by a Safe Schools Grant and is part of a larger initiative to involve students in peer-related activities.

veloped by a core group composed of staff and five GVES students. The core group visited Lakeview Elementary School in the Ridley School District to discuss Lakeview's experiences using the peer mediation program over the last two years. Students came back from this field trip with enthusiasm, then met with Mrs. Menzel, GVES Principal, to discuss and plan how to recruit a larger group of students for training and how to share

The pilot program was de-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Bethel Springs Elementary School Update!

Since our last issue in January, BSES has risen from a skeletal iron structure in February, 2002 to a warm red brick building with bright classrooms, offices, cafeteria, gym and library spaces surrounded by driveways, parking lots, and play-areas. The building is about six weeks away from housing the staff and being readied for students.

From ground breaking in June, 2001 to present the project has been on schedule and within budget. The staff expects to be in the building mid-August. All three elementary schools have scheduled "Sneak-A-Peeks" for the parents and students on August 28 and 29 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM. Check the web for the community visitation and dedication dates for BSES.



**Our Class of 2002 Awards and More - Pages 4 & 5**  
**2002 / 2003 Budget Approved June 25, 2002 - See page 2 for the story.**  
**See this and other GVSD news at [www.garnetvalleyschools.com](http://www.garnetvalleyschools.com)**

## Peer Mediation (from Page 1)

the training program with the GVES faculty and parents.

The five prospective student peer mediators presented peer mediation to the faculty discussing: what it is, how it works, the rewards or consequences of the program, how the faculty could help to nominate other prospective GVES student peer mediators.

The faculty nominated 30 students who they felt would meet the criteria of a good peer mediator: a good listener; one able to reflect, retell and ask questions, willing to use empathy and willing to help others solve problems.

The training pilot occurred over three days and provided GVES students and advisors with a thorough understanding of peer mediation's seven steps. Mediation is a way to settle arguments or disputes by working to find solutions that acknowledge the specific needs of people in conflict.

### Seven Steps of Mediation:

1. How does the mediator make the "disputants" feel comfortable and to understand the "basic rules"
2. What does "confidentiality" look and sound like and why is important
3. What goes on during "the discussion" and how do mediators "clarify" what they hear, especially using "retelling" as a tool
4. How important is finding the "common ground" in Step 5-Working It Out
5. How to brainstorm solutions **before** trying to settle on an agreement
6. Why it's important that the agreement is in written format
7. And when all is over, mediators still have the important work of "follow up" - Is everything still OK?

Peer mediation can help students deal with their differences in a thoughtful, non-violent problem-solving process that stresses empathy, good listening and a willingness to "talk it out." When mediation is used voluntarily and successfully, a written agreement or solution results. This helps the "disputants" and community feel friendlier, safer and more valued or empowered. "Our goal at GVES was to "pilot" a peer mediation program and check out our own results," stated Mrs. Joyce Tuffey, who along with Mrs. Lynn Cashell,

initiated the project.

In this small group of "Garnet Valley Caring Learners", we believe that the newly trained GVES peer mediators have taken one more step in the continuum of problem solving, critical thinking, conflict resolution and life long learning. The peer mediators are now developing an action plan to expand the peer mediation program in GVES and to carry it with them to GVMS.



Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.



"Peer Mediators" use discussion to clarify what they hear to find "common ground" before they try to settle on an agreement.

## June Board Meeting—2002 / 2003 Budget Approved

The new Garnet Valley School District budget calls for a 1.463 mill increase for the 2002/2003 school year. This new budget has \$44,137,979 in estimated expenditures. The budget for 2001/2002 was \$37,927,569. Millage rates for 2002/2003 in Concord Township and Chester Heights Borough will be 20.963 mills (2001/2002 = 19.500); for a 7.50% mill rate increase. Bethel Township tax rate will be 21.313 mills (2001/2002 = 19.820); for a 7.53% mill rate increase.

The tax increase for a property assessed at \$100,000 for Concord Township and Chester Heights Borough will be \$146.30/year increase, or, \$12.19/month. In Bethel the increase on a property assessed at \$100,000 will be \$149.30/year increase, or, \$12.44/month.

This modest tax increase is necessary after two years of a no tax millage increase, and includes the staffing and operational costs incurred in opening the new elementary school in Bethel. The tax increase was held to a minimum by applying last year's fund balance to all BSES one time expenditures.

### The Budget increase by percent breaks down as follows:

- Over 47% of the budget increase is derived from the opening of the new Bethel Springs Elementary School.
- 28% funds medical insurance and pension increases.
- Future debt service contributed about 14%.
- 11% was for an increase in general operations.

### Overall Budget Highlights Include:

- The district remains at the midpoint in the county for millage rate and per pupil expenditure (reference the Delaware County Almanac).
- The new budget provides no new programs for the schools, but maintains the current level of education for GV students.
- Building budgets were frozen at each school.
- Maintenance and equipment purchases were cut back to a minimum.
- The district continues to see a student population increase and expects the student body to increase by 212 students.

Copies of the budget are available to the public and may be picked up at the Education Center.



# Team Studies Gifted Program

In the spirit of continuous improvement the Garnet Valley School District recently requested a review of the gifted education program to be coordinated by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU). The review team was led by the DCIU Assistant Executive Director, Dr. Thomas Kerr, and was comprised of seven additional members, representing various perspectives, including experienced gifted educators and supervisors from Radnor, Lower Merion, Rose Tree Media, Penn Delco School Districts, Neumann College and the Delaware County Intermediate Unit.

Representatives from the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE) were consulted regarding the design of the study. Guidelines from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) were employed in the review.

The purpose of study was to identify strengths and needs in five major areas: **Control** (Soundness of policies, procedures, and alignment with the strategic plan,) **Direction** (Curriculum,) **Connectivity** (Instruction and Staff Development), **Feedback** (Assessment,) and **Productivity** (Allocation of adequate resources).

Team members spent three days observing district classes, reviewing documents, interviewing staff, students, parents, and analyzing the data which they had amassed. The report's executive summary concludes:

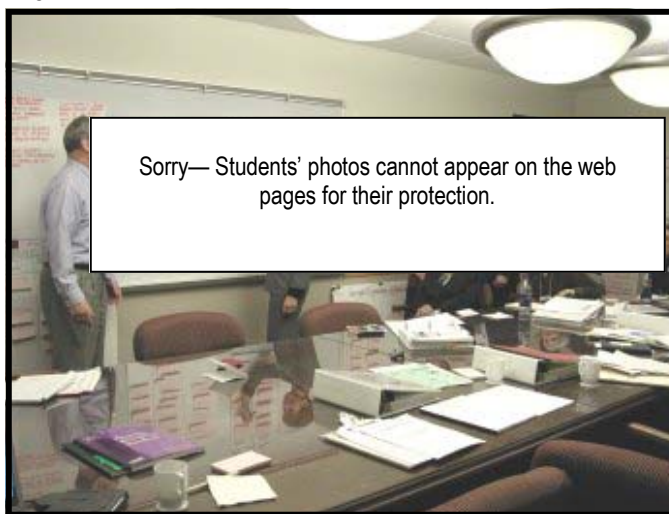
- The design and implementation of the program is developmentally appropriate for gifted education and is meeting the goals of the program and the district.
- There are no general recommended structural changes from the team for gifted education.
- The discrepancy between some parental views of what is included in a GIEP

versus the actual program for gifted students is one that needs to continue to be explored and discussed through open and direct communication.

## Highlights of the Sixteen Page Report:

### Control:

**Commendations:** Excellent alignment of gifted program with the strategic plan and the curriculum management system exists. Goals and objectives are clearly delineated in district documents.



Dr. Thomas Kerr and team evaluate their observations.

**Recommendations:** Increased communication regarding roles that relate to gifted education and greater coordination with regular education are suggested.

### Direction:

**Commendations:** A great amount of quality curriculum material currently supports gifted education. Gifted education staff are highly committed and current in all strategies and ideas relevant to appropriate instruction. Adequate supports are evident.

**Recommendations:** Greater alignment of the gifted program at the Middle School with regular education should occur. Opportunities for regular education teachers at all levels to develop more strategies for working with gifted students should be offered.

### Connectivity:

**Commendations:** Diverse opportunities, such as faculty meeting presentations, outside conferences, and peer coaching, benefit all, particularly at the elementary level.

**Recommendations:** Include a component in gifted education for new teacher induction. Teach all faculty more strategies for individualizing instruction. Continue to use support of guidance counselors and librarians.

### Feedback:

**Commendations:** Compliance issues are considered to be a high priority by this district. Procedures and criteria for admission to gifted programs are in place. A history of willingness to modify the program based on feedback exists.

**Recommendations:** Review screening and referral process for K-2. Use GIEP process to increase focus and inform staff in other instructional areas of needs.

### Productivity:

**Commendations:** Strong administrative and board support are in place to provide resources. Traditional and non-traditional resources, such as grants, are sought. Broad based technology supports gifted education, as does a positive climate.

**Recommendations:** Review building budgets for parity. Seek ways to further coordinate and communicate regarding various aspects of gifted education. An action plan to address recommendations is now underway.

The report of the visiting team concluded: "... there is an outstanding and strong program in the Garnet Valley School District for Gifted Education."



The full report of the **Program Review for Gifted Education** is available at each of the school's main offices, at the Education Center Reception Center, and at the Rachel Kohl Library or can be accessed on the GVSD's website.

# The Class of 2002 - Awards

The awards assembly for the class of 2002 had a change of venue this year from it's usual location at the annual senior banquet to a special evening ceremony at the GVMS auditorium. The change allowed more parents and siblings to attend.

Take a few minutes to browse the list and the photos from the night. Congratulations to the seniors on their June 11, 2002 graduation at the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware where 201 students received their diplomas. We wish every one of them success and hap-

piness as they continue their education, join the military, or pursue their career in the workforce.

**Check out the GVHS web page to see where they plan to go next...**

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN **Vincent Filliben**  
 SALUTATORIAN **William Coyle**  
 ART **Joshua Kerner**  
 BUSINESS **Stephanie Ennis**  
 ENGLISH **Annie Chang**  
 FAMILY / CONSUMER SCIENCE **Michelle May**  
 FRENCH **Lauren Long**  
 GERMAN **Anna Seiffert**  
 INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY **Joseph Urbans**  
 MATHEMATICS **William Coyle**  
 MUSIC **Richard Prugh**  
 PHYSICAL EDUCATION—BOYS  
**Nicholas Vecchio** / GIRLS **Colleen Ryan**  
 SCIENCE **William Coyle**  
 SOCIAL SCIENCE **Alan Mardinly**  
 SPANISH **Pamela Karwoski**  
 TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION **David Barnum**  
 VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL **Kevin Fedullo**

Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

German Club  
Kevin Joye

Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

Delco HI-Q Award  
Alan Mardinly

Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

Business/Joyce Nichols FBLA-  
Gabrielle Ulmer

Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

Mathematics—William Coyle

Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

Peer Counseling—Melissa Mancini and Meredith Funsten

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 811  
**Alan Mardinly, Diane Wuest**  
 ARMY RESERVE NATIONAL SCHOLAR  
 ATHLETE- **Vincent Filliben, Anne Seiffert**  
 BRANDYWINE LIONS CLUB **Christine Spatoulas**  
 BRANDYWINE VALLEY QUILTERS **Sheena Idelson**  
 BRIAN STRABLE MEMORIAL **Andrew Dunn**  
 CLASS OF 1986 **Christine Spatoulas**  
 COMMERCE BANK BUSINESS  
**Lindsay Mutschler, James Nelms**  
 CONCORD LODGE #625 F&AM MASONIC **Kevin Joye**  
 CONCORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**Alan Mardinly**  
 CONCORD TOWNSHIP SENIOR CITIZENS  
**Melissa Armitage**  
 CONCORDVILLE/CHADDS FORD ROTARY VOTECH  
**Kristen Kahlstorf**  
 DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
 GOOD CITIZEN **Alan Mardinly**  
 DR. KENNETH PERRY MEMORIAL SCIENCE  
**William Coyle**  
 GARNET FORD **Prince Gee, Sean McKinley**  
 GARNET VALLEY DEAN'S GOOD STUDENT  
**Anton VanZuylen, Christine Mancini,**  
**Matthew Blango, Sherry Link, Amy Trebilcock**  
 GARNET VALLEY FIFTH QUARTER CLUB  
**Michael Skulski, Matthew Shestack**  
 GARNET VALLEY LEADERSHIP **Meredith Funsten**  
 GARNET VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD  
**Vincent Filliben, David DeSandro,**  
**Christine Mancini**

## GARNET VALLEY SCHOOL WIDE SCHOLARSHIP

**Nicholas Vecchio, Annie Chang**  
 GARNET VALLEY STUDENT COUNCIL  
**Wellington Wu**  
 GREG SMITH MEMORIAL **Kenny Angarita**  
 HAROLD FINEMAN OUTSTANDING ATHLETE  
**Alex DeLong**  
 HENRY F. HOFMANN SERVICE **Melissa Mancini**  
 HOME & SCHOOL ABOVE & BEYOND  
**Annie Chang, Matthew Shestack**  
 I DARE YOU **Wellington Wu, Margaret Gardler**  
 IMMACULATA IACONA MEMORIAL  
**Joshua Kerner**  
 IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS,  
 CLASS OF 1970 **Prince Gee**  
 JACKIE FRANK MEMORIAL **Alma Garcia-Lopez**  
 LORRAINE O'DONOGHUE MEMORIAL  
**Jacqueline Malinowski, Nicholas Vecchio**  
 MAR-STAN'S UNPAINTED FURNITURE  
**Robert Mauer**  
 MERIT ACHIEVEMENT **Joseph Urbans**  
 PATTI KELLY MEMORIAL **Michelle May**  
 PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP  
**William Coyle, Andrew Ferrarelli**  
 REACH  
**Annie Chang, Amber Reader, Sheena Idelson,**  
**Andrew Dunn**  
 RICHARD L. MILLER MEMORIAL  
 MATHEMATICS  
**Annie Chang**  
 SEMPRIS FIDELIS **Kevin Wittman**  
 SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 SCHOLAR  
 ATHLETE **Cynthia Koza, Matt Murphy**  
 SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS  
**Annie Chang, Cynthia Koza, Diane Wuest**  
 STUDENT SERVICES GOOD CITIZENSHIP  
**Pamela Karwoski**  
 UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MATH / SCIENCE  
**William Coyle**  
 UNITED STATES MARINE  
 DISTINGUISHED ATHLETE  
**Pamela Karwoski**  
 UNITED STATES MARINE  
 SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE  
**Annie Chang**  
 VIRGINIA FISS ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL  
**Alan Mardinly**  
 WALTER J. UDOVICH HUMANITARIAN  
**Meredith Funsten**  
 WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN  
**Diane Wuest, Vincent Filliben**

Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

Photography Club  
Colleen Ryan

Varsity Club  
Mark Kuhn & Nicholas Vecchio

Senior HS Band  
Melissa Armitage

## **DELAWARE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL AWARDS**

STATE CONFERENCE BRONZE MEDALIST  
FOR HEALTH OCCUPATION - **Kristen Kahlstorf**

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN:**  
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS **Kristen Kahlstorf**  
COSMETOLOGY **Jamie Fiorito**  
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY **Prince Gee**  
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY **Sean McKinley**  
CARPENTRY **Kevin Fedullo**  
FOOD SERVICE **Denise Kelly**  
FOOD SERVICE **Brian Pacocha**  
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS **Gabrielle Ulmer**  
HVAC **Brad Kiker**  
CULINARY **Amanda Reighard**

## **SERVICE AWARDS**

ART **Matthew Greskiewicz**  
BUSINESS-JOYCE NICHOLS FBLA **Gabrielle Ulmer**  
CHORAL **Diane Wuest, Sarah Bean**  
DELCO HI-Q AWARD **Alan Mardinly**  
DRAMA CLUB **Sarah Bean**  
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE **Sheena Idelson**  
FRENCH CLUB **Michelle May, Alicia Shahadi**  
GERMAN CLUB **Kevin Joye**  
GUIDANCE AIDE **Kelly Conover, Megan Miller**  
HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE AIDE **William Golden**  
JOURNALISM **Annie Chang, Nicholas Vecchio**  
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY **James Owen**  
NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY  
**Sheila Wells, Laura Berkemeyer**  
NURSE'S OFFICE AIDE **Pamela Karwoski**  
PEER COUNSELING **Melissa Mancini, Meredith Funsten**  
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB **Colleen Ryan**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND **Melissa Armitage**  
SPANISH CLUB **Mary Oathout**  
SPRING MUSICAL  
**Benjamin Woodworth, Timothy Muldoon**  
STAGE CREW **Kevin Joye, David Barnum**  
STUDENT COUNCIL **Rachel Bruhn**  
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION **Matthew Davis**  
VARSITY CLUB **Nicholas Vecchio, Mark Kuhn**  
YEARBOOK **Jacqueline Malinowski, Joseph Krajewski**

Sorry— Students' photos cannot appear on the web pages for their protection.

Music  
Richard Prugh

Spring Musical—Timothy Muldoon  
& Benjamin Woodworth

Family & Consumer  
Sciences—Sheena Idelson

Journalism - Annie Chang  
& Nicholas Vecchio

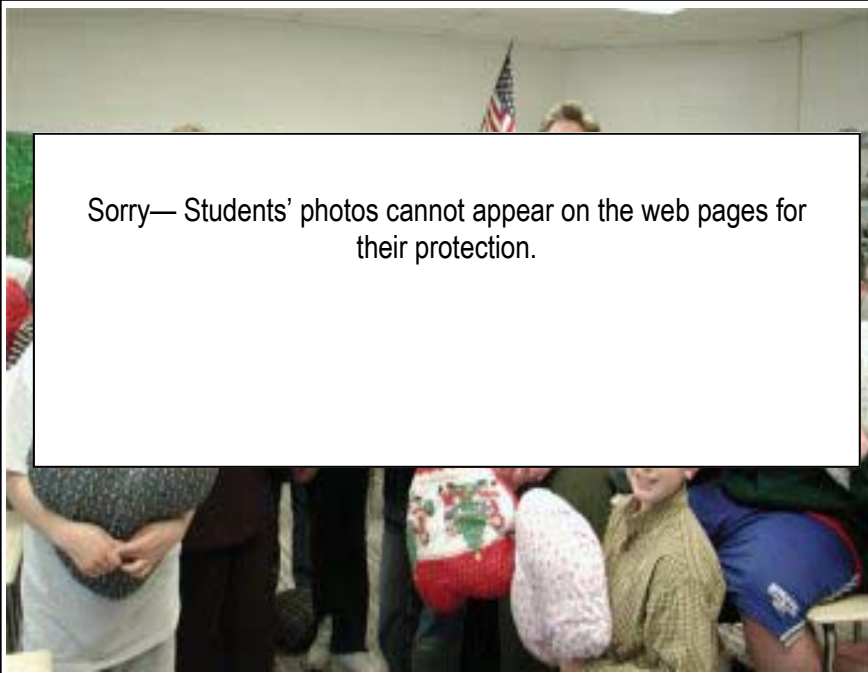
GVHS Office Aide  
William Golden

## **EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

A. DARLINGTON & MARIE HEYBURN  
**Alan Mardinly, Diane Wuest,  
Laura Pfeifer, Joshua Kerner**  
ART HONOR SOCIETY SERVICE  
**Joshua Kerner, Valerie Connors**  
CONCORD COMMUNITY  
**Sheena Idelson, Meredith Funsten**  
CONCORD FOUNDATION - **Ashley McCloskey**  
CONCORDVILLE/CHADDS FORD ROTARY BOOK  
**Lauren Long, Thomas Angelucci**  
CONCORDVILLE ROTARY STRIVE  
**Krista Conrad, Amanda Reighard,  
Howard Derby**  
DR. EDWARD D. MCLAUGHLIN MEMORIAL  
**William Coyle**  
GARNET VALLEY ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WEST CHESTER  
UNIVERSITY  
**Jennifer Fleck., Meredith Heavens**  
GARNET VALLEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
**Michelle May, Meredith Funsten**  
GARNET VALLEY HSA  
**Rachel Bruhn, David DeSandro**

GARNET VALLEY SUPPORT PERSONNEL  
CITIZENSHIP - **Kimberly Watkins, Justin Greskiewicz**  
GUIDANCE GOOD STUDENT  
**Kevin Heine, Howard Derby**  
HAROLD FINEMAN MEMORIAL **Cynthia Koza**  
HI-Q  
**Alan Mardinly, Joseph Laucius,  
William Coyle, Kevin Joye**  
JENNY ANN PARTON SPECIAL  
NEEDS EDUCATION  
**Sherry Link**  
JOHN MEYERS JR. MEMORIAL **Prince Gee**  
JON MOFFITT MEMORIAL **Andrew Ferrarelli**  
LEON J. MASCARO MEMORIAL  
**Robert Drew, Sheena Idelson, Kristen Nigro,  
Jason Werner**  
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY ESSAY  
**Alan Mardinly**  
PAT DARLING MEMORIAL  
**Jennifer Mathesian**  
SPECIAL FACULTY  
**Joseph DeBenney, Jaclyn Tefteau, Lisa Durkin**  
STEFAN THOMAS USHKA **Allison Haughey**  
STUART J. DIX MEMORIAL **Matthew Rustark**  
VFW BETHEL POST 6835  
**Benjamin Woodworth**





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Laurie Watson, Director of Volunteers, from Lankenau Hospital came to GVMS to receive eighty hand-made heart pillows made by the students of Service Club with the guidance of Family Consumer Science teacher, Susan Batchelor. Heart surgery patients receive a heart pillow in the recovery room. The nurses teach the patients to hug the pillows tightly when doing breathing exercises to help minimize pain. During Ms. Watson's visit the students learned about heart disease. "If you make good choices you can minimize your risks," said Ms. Watson. Service club is led by teachers Cap Knight and Julie Rickansrud.

## ***GVHS Pilots Twilight School***

During the 2001-2002 school year, the Garnet Valley District piloted an alternative school that operated from 3:30 to 6:30 PM using the high school facility. The program was funded through a grant by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The purpose of the program was to remove disruptive students from the regular school setting. It was believed that by providing disruptive students with a sound educational course of study and counseling in a smaller setting, they would succeed and eventually be able to return to the regular school program.

During this first year of operation, students were placed in this program for a variety of reasons: disregard for school authority, habitual truancy, threatening behavior, or misconduct that would merit suspension or expulsion.

Garnet Valley teachers, provided instruction in English, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, and tech-

nical education. A district counselor, psychologist, administrator, and social worker also worked with students, as did Holcomb Behavioral Health Care Systems. Staff met regularly to assess students' progress.

According to Mrs. Barbara Robinson, "The program was seen as successful by all involved. Four seniors who may have dropped out of school graduated on June 11. Two other students returned to the mainstream and six underclassmen have made serious gains." Most staff feel that the climate of Garnet Valley High School has improved.

Based on the success of the pilot project, additional grant resources are being sought to continue the Twilight School. In addition to providing a successful school environment for GV students, the Twilight School has a positive effect on district expenditures by reducing the cost of out of district placement (tuition) for students who would merit suspension or expulsion.



## **New\* Pennsylvania State Immunization Requirements Starting School Year 2002-2003**

**For children entering school for the first time (kindergarten or first grade) and for all students entering seventh grade;**

- Varicella (chicken pox) immunity, either from vaccination, history of disease, or laboratory testing and
- Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine

*\* These are in addition to current immunization requirements for diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, mumps and hepatitis B required by Pennsylvania schools for all students*

**For information call  
1-877-PA-HEALTH**

Or Peggy Amoss at GVSD  
610-579-7752

## **Garnet Valley Completes Negotiations with**

### **The Garnet Valley Employees Support Personnel Association GVESPA**

Garnet Valley School District is pleased to announce that negotiations have been completed and accepted by the GVESPA and the Board of School Directors through the school year 2005 / 2006. The negotiations were done in a positive atmosphere and completed before the collective bargaining agreement expired, and prior to the 2002 / 2003 budget adoption.



The support personnel association represents bus drivers, bus mechanics, custodians, maintenance, food services, paraprofessionals, secretaries and clerical personnel.

# Crisis Planning in Garnet Valley

When the Garnet Valley Administrative Cabinet assembled on the morning of September 11th to review the newly revised GVSD Crisis Manual, little did they realize how soon the plan would become operational. Within the hour the world changed, and all administrators present assigned new meaning to the term "planning". "Fortunately for the district, the work on the revised plan was thorough. Due to foresight of so many the crisis plan helped formulate responses to many unusual conditions in the subsequent months and made them manageable," states Assistant Superintendent Dr. Marjorie DelBello. The Crisis Manual is part of a larger district goal: "Continuous Improvement in the fostering of a safe and caring environment," as described in the GVSD Strategic Plan. The Safety and Security efforts are comprised of four stages: Pre-planning, Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention.

**Preplanning** involves the gathering of resources, the identification of key personnel, the training of all constituents, and the funding of safety initiatives. Facets of preplanning addressed this year are:

- Revision of the district crisis manual.
- In-servicing of district employees.
- Purchase of the supplementary publication, "The First Thirty Minutes", as a training tool for key personnel responding to emergencies.
- Expansion of our working relationship with state police, local hospitals, county emergency service providers, and specialized agencies.
- Review of Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania State Police
- Updating of maps, blueprints, and floor plans and coordination of updates with state police and fire departments.
- Attainment of aerial photographs of buildings and properties.

**Prevention** involves planning, preparation, data and information collection, training and networking. This year we have addressed "prevention" in the following ways:



Crisis planning review for the 2001 / 2002 school year.

- Reviewed and updated school board policies to ensure adequate direction in emergency situations. (For instance, policy # 218 now includes direction in the event of release of noxious substances, such as anthrax.)
- Expanded training of staff members to increase number with specialized skills that may be helpful during an emergency, such as CPR, First Aid, AED.
- Purchased three additional defibrillators and provided appropriate training.
- Trained all school nurses in "Assessment Procedures."
- Purchased rolling carts for each building nurse, to provide ongoing care to students with special medical needs in the event of an evacuation.
- Updated staging areas to accommodate evacuation, given new building footprints.

**Intervention** involved the activation, implementation, and communication implicit in the management of a crisis. Some aspects addressed this school year are:

- Reviewed and refined proper notification procedures to all appropriate school personnel and outside agencies.
- Conducted drills to ascertain potential flaws in procedures.
- Worked with the police and fire personnel to determine conditions when safely to use the public address system, cell phones,

and other electrical/electronic devices.

- Refined our internal code system when an evacuation or lockdown is warranted.
- Provided written statements for staff to read to students impacted by incidents.
- Provided "helpful hints" to parents/guardians for dealing with children and teens following a traumatic event.
- Provided on-site training for staff to manage their own stress, and to help students manage stressful situations.

**Postvention** involves aftercare as well as review and updating of one's crisis plan. Attention to this has involved reviews of the following practices:

- Refinement of practices related to screening to determine students most affected by trauma.
- Refinement of practices regarding which staff will be available for support of students most seriously impacted..
- Refinement of roles of building crisis teams and SAP teams.
- Plans for follow-up with affected staff and students.
- Additional training of key staff in "Critical Incident Stress Management."
- Additional training for SAP (Student Assistance) teams.

*The Crisis Plan as well as the Strategic Plan are under the direction of Dr. Marjorie DelBello.*

**GARNET VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Keep up to date—Check out our web pages at:*  
**www.garnetvalleyschools.com**

Look for **Voices of the Valley** in August for school opening information and the Adult Evening School Catalog

**New For 2002 / 2003—Full Color Calendar for Garnet Valley School District**

Look for your copy to come home with your oldest student in September. Extra copies will be available for a nominal cost at every GVSD office.

**SUMMER READING:**

Grades 5 thru 12 required reading tests must be completed by August 26, 2002. All testing done at the Middle School. See the web for dates and times.

**TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY**

Survey for district progress online on our web page— look for the results in the Annual Report coming this October.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our Seventh Congressional Art Competition: Winners.

**Mollie Johnson**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Collage

**Addie Walker**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Computer Graphics

**Shiela Wells**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Computer Graphics

**“SNEAK A PEEK”**

All three elementary schools will host “Sneak-A-Peek” on August 28 & 29 from 5:00—7:30 PM. More details coming in our next issue.

**Voices of the Valley** is published by Garnet Valley School District.  
Address correspondence to: Anthony Costello, Ed.D., Superintendent, 80 Station Rd. Glen Mills, PA 19342, Phone—610-579-4546.  
Jodi Dix: School Board Liaison  
Communications Specialist: Sue Fritz 610-579-7306

# Voices of the Valley

The Garnet Valley School District Community Newsletter

80 Station Road • Glen Mills, PA 19342

Visit the website at  
**www.garnetvalleyschools.com**  
to keep up to date.

## School Board Meetings

Garnet Valley School Board meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. The Work Session is held the Monday of the week before the regular Board Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**The Finance and Facility Operations Committees meet following the Work Session.**

Finance Committee Chair: Edward Plasha

Facility Operations Chair: Daniel Van Wyk

**The Education Committee meets on the Tuesday before the Work Session at 7:00 p.m.**

Education Committee Chair: Barbara Tarr

**The Policy Committee meets per chair's request.**

Policy Committee Chair: Jodi Dix

**The Building Projects Committee meets per chair's request.**

Building Projects Committee Chair: William Wilkinson

**GVSD Board of School Directors**

Michael J. Hanlon, Esq., President	610-558-2005
Kenneth J. Miller, Vice-President	610-459-3290
Jodi Dix	610-459-2159
George Patti	610-459-1717
Edward Plasha	610-558-5799
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Marjorie DelBello, Ed.D., Asst. Superintendent  
Kathie Estock, Ed.D., Asst. Superintendent  
Joseph W. Kauffman, Esq. Board Solicitor  
Thomas E. Delaney, CPA, Treasurer  
Margaret F. Brown, Secretary  
Nancy O. Ward, Supervisor Human Resources

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