

Students perform stream survey at Loyalsock Creek

By JEREMY GARCIA, MALLORY PERCHINSKI, IAN LABATE, SARAH CLYMER AND AUDREY PASNELLO
Freshmen



A closer look inside our schools from the students' perspective

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Page B-8



This page was created by students at St. John Neumann Regional Academy

For some of the students of St. John Neumann Regional Academy's High School Campus, nature became their classroom.

Their teacher, Denise Tobin, took students on a field trip to James B. Short Park to perform a stream survey.

They worked with a watershed expert to test water conditions in several ways, and identified multiple macro invertebrates.

The students were able to see the effects of their actions on the environment.

The survey itself took place Oct. 24 at Loyalsock Creek. The creek is part of the Millers Run watershed.

Participating in the survey was the freshman honors biology class and the Advanced Placement biology class from St. John Neumann high school campus.

Their tour guide was a watershed expert, Cary Entz, from the Lycoming County Conservation District.

She gave to the students her first-hand experience of the testing of the stream's chemical parameters and knowledge about the macro invertebrates that live there.

The inhabitants of the creek include crawfish, mayflies, right-handed snails and caddice flies, just to name a few.

The guide explained that these were the "good macro invertebrates."

Because the good macro invertebrates were some of the only organisms that could survive in a stable environment, they were a living indicator of the health of the creek.

The students also looked for the "bad macro invertebrates," which would indicate if the creek was unhealthy or polluted.

To find these organisms, the students needed to perform various tasks, such as using a kick net, which is a special net designed to allow only water through, but it would trap the macro invertebrates and a little debris.

For the net to function, one of the students would kick water into the net, then search the net by hand.

Also, the students searched through the rocks looking for different caddice fly houses and other actual organisms, without disturbing the natural environment.

The purpose of this trip was for the students to learn about the things they could do that would make an impact on their local environment and restore natural wildlife in the creek.

They were able to identify the macro invertebrates beneficial for the environment of Miller's Run water shed.

They also worked to identify creatures that are usually discovered in polluted water. The trip was an enriching experience for the students.

Team effort

Academic Decathlon team wins eight medals

By HANNAH FACEY, HANNAH HARRIS, NICHOLAS WARD AND KELSEY SILVAGNI
Freshmen

On Nov. 1, 10 students from St. John Neumann Regional Academy journeyed to Curwensville High School to compete in an Academic Decathlon scrimmage.

In Academic Decathlon, teams from their respective schools compete against each other for medals in various subjects.

This year, the two areas of competition were the Civil War and infectious diseases.

At the scrimmage, the teams contended for medals in Language and Literature, Science, Essay and the Super Quiz Relay.

Prior to the competition, each of the teams are placed into groups depending on their grade-point average, and according to the size of their school. At competition, students take written tests in different subjects.

They also compete in the Super Quiz Relay, speech, and interview. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded according to individual scores.

The St. John Neumann Regional Academy team brought home a total of eight medals. In the Varsity Division, Nicholas Ward won gold medals in science and art.

In the Scholastic Division, Hannah Harris won a bronze medal in science; Danielle



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The St. John Neumann Regional Academy Academic Decathlon team members are, front row, from left, Nicholas Ward, Hannah Facey and Hannah Harris; second row, Desirae Maustellar, Kahlie DeHotman and Kelsey Silvagni; and third row, John Geritzen, Ryan Workman, Danielle Byrne and Ann Kaufman.

Byrne won a gold medal in essay and a bronze medal in language and literature; and Ann Kaufman won a silver medal in essay.

In the Honors Division, Kahlie DeHotman won a bronze medal in language and

literature, and Hannah Facey won a bronze medal in essay. The Neumann team placed fifth overall.

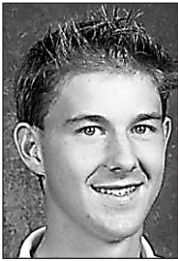
The next scrimmage will be Jan. 11 at Lycoming College. It will be hosted by Montoursville Area High School.

Williamsport Lions Club sponsors Leo Club

By JAMES CREELEY
Junior

The oldest Lions Club in District 14-G, the Williamsport Lions, was pleased to announce a first for them. For the first time in its 85 year history, the Williamsport Lions will be the founding father to the newest Leo organization.

The St. John Neumann's High School campus recently formed the Neumann Leo Club, under the direction of club adviser Mary McFadden, who also is a Williamsport Lion and is the chief financial officer for the academy.



CREELEY

The formation of the SJNRA Leo Club is in part the responsibility of the new club president James M. Creeley Jr., who completed the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Governor's School for Global Entrepreneurship at Lehigh University this past summer.

Upon his return home with much insight and spirit, he met with and sought the permission of the Junior-Senior High School Principal Eugene Kurzejewski.

In the academy at its earliest years, students are taught



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students at St. John Neumann Regional Academy high school campus recently formed the Neumann Leo Club.

about service and about returning and giving back to our community.

This model coincided with the theme of the Governor's School on Global Entrepreneurship, which was service leadership.

Creeley's next step was to meet with Frank Pellegrino, an advocate for the academy, former president of the Williamsport Lions, and a great community mentor, whose insight and generosity epitomize the meaning of service leadership.

The concept overwhelmed Pellegrino, and he knew that the formation of the Leo Club at

St. John Neumann Regional Academy would not only receive huge club support, but would be right in line with the Lions Club's 85th anniversary celebration. Creeley presented the concept and received permission to charter the organization.

The announcement at SJNRA to form the Leo Club was met with great enthusiasm. The club exceeded its membership goal of 20 members and now has 25 members, and continues to grow.

The club members elected their officers shortly after their first meeting.

The officers elected are

James Creeley Jr., president; Matthew Roman, vice president; Ann Kaufman, first vice president; Audrey Pasnello, second vice president; Katie Robinholt, secretary; and Adam Bahr, treasurer.

Also, Darren Crisman, Chelsea Martin, Cody Foulkrod and Elizabeth Sheleman will serve on the club's Executive Committee. These young men and women will provide the leadership that will guide the club in the upcoming year.

The SJNRA Leo Club began to brainstorm for ideas for its first service opportunities. Several ideas were proposed, many of which emphasized community-related service.

In addition to contacting Mayor Mary B. Wolf's office to discuss a civic beautification project, the Leo Club decided to complete a variety of holiday service projects.

Such service projects may include the distribution of gifts to children during the holiday season, or the maintenance of homes of the elderly in our community.

Also, the Neumann Leos recently participated in the Fall Pancake Brunch. The Leos will support the Lions in all of their endeavors.

The induction ceremonies for the Neumann Leo Club officers are scheduled for Jan. 10 at the Williamsport Acacia Club.

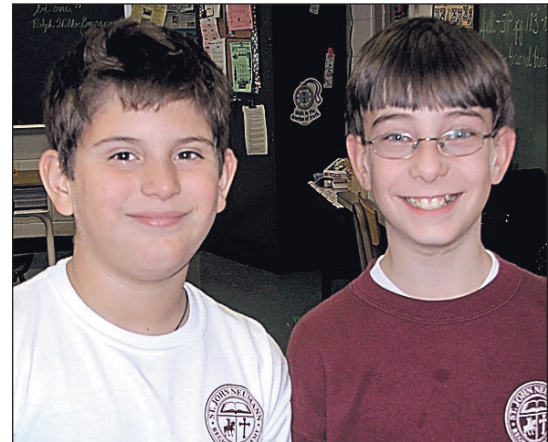


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Chase Willard, left, and Nick Fischer.

Native Americans in the classroom

By CHASE WILLARD AND NICK FISCHER
Fifth-graders

Recently, students in the fifth-grade classes of St. John Neumann Regional Academy were given a Native American project to do.

The project consisted of making a migration map, writing a three-page report and constructing a three-dimensional structure to show their tribe's dwellings. Some things that had to be mentioned in the report were the tribe's medicine, religion, weapons and defense.

We interviewed two fellow Neumann students about the reports and projects.

Bethany Morton said, "I thought it was very interesting, and it was fun because we were able to make our own projects. Native Americans were a lot different than I had expected them to be."

Fifth-grader Ryan Reid remarked, "I liked it because we got to learn a lot more about Native Americans. I learned that Native Americans worked a lot harder than we do."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fifth-grader Bethany Morton poses with her Native Americans project.

St. John Neumann honors two students

Sophomore Rachel Bauer has been chosen to represent St. John Neumann Regional Academy at the annual Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership conference at Millersville University in May.

Bauer was chosen based on her leadership skills. She is active in Neumann's chorus and drama club. She also is an accomplished dancer with the Williamsport Civic Ballet.

HOBY Leadership provides life-long leadership development opportunities that empower individuals to achieve their highest potential. Known as HOBY's flagship program, the Leadership Seminar is designed

for high school sophomores to recognize their leadership talents and apply them in becoming effective, ethical leaders in their home, schools, workplace and community.

The high level of energy, encouragement and motivation as well as the interaction with peers, panelists and volunteers are important elements in nurturing the students' future leadership roles.

In addition, students participate in hands-on leadership activities and meet state leaders in such areas as business, government, education, media and the nonprofit sector.

Sophomore Adam Bahr was nomi-

inated as the St. John Neumann High School Student of the Quarter by his teachers.

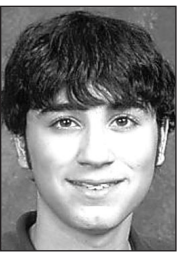
His selection was based on academic excellence and community involvement.

Bahr was selected as a Junior Rotarian in eighth grade, and is actively involved in Neumann's Odyssey of the Mind program, the Leo Club and the varsity golf team.

The Student of the Quarter program is sponsored by the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and Wegmans. Bahr's photo soon will be featured at a checkout counter at Wegmans.



BAUER



BAHR