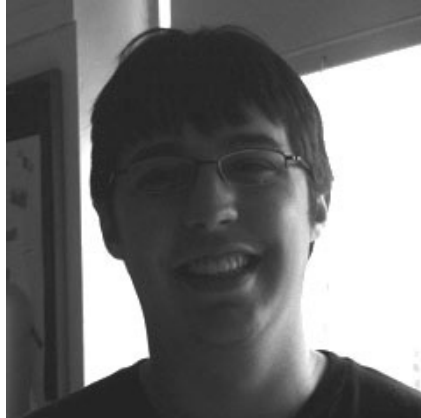


why so much hype over h1n1?

By Ryan Hutchison

Hysteria over H1N1 has swept the nation and the world. It's in the news every day, and there IS potential that this could be very dangerous. But it's highly unlikely. Swine Flu is no laughing matter, but reality is, the media is going completely over-the-top about a disease which infects and kills less people than the seasonal flu. In fact, 250,000-500,000 people die of the regular flu every year and about 3,000 have died from swine flu. Also, more than 1/3 of all deaths from swine flu have occurred in South America, where most of the population of those countries live in poverty and can't get to a doctor. The point is, we are going to be fine. The reason

people are afraid of H1N1 is because the media



J. Crossen, Echo

makes it out to be a big, deadly pandemic that will eventually cause people to become extinct. Remember SARS? Anthrax? Bird Flu? They were sup-

posed to wipe out most the world's population, but didn't. Don't think that the swine flu will be any different. But this doesn't mean you should ignore the symptoms and stop washing your hands. There IS a chance you may get swine flu, and if you do get H1N1 symptoms, please see a doctor. Don't be the one that makes the media's prophecies come true, but no matter who gets it, H1N1 isn't the doomsday scenario that the news wants you to believe. Speaking of doomsday, we have a better chance of getting hit by a comet than having a mass extinction due to swine flu. That said, be careful and watch for symptoms, but don't buy all the media hype.

the push we need

by Andrew Salamone

On Tuesday, September 8, President Barack Obama addressed the student body all over the nation. President Obama discussed the nation's responsibilities. How parents, teachers, and schools need to supply the items we need and help us in areas that we need help including the government's responsibility to set state records, but most important our responsibility to for our school work. Even though there are obstacles that may get in the way of our school work, we still need to concentrate on the work and get it done.

"How we do in school now reflects on how well we will succeed in the future." We can't expect to drop out of school and make it far in the world today. There's no excuse to drop out of school. "Just because you get a bad grade doesn't mean you're stupid. It just means you have to study more." That's what the student body needs to understand. There's no excuse and that's what you need to learn from this. The president also stresses working hard to make America an educational powerhouse in the world. Jeremy Hempeler, a sophomore here at Pen Argyl said, "I think that the speech will have more of an effect on me in the future. As of right now the speech will only have a little effect on me now."

Many students were also interested in the buzz on the day of the speech. WFMZ news covered the event, and students and faculty within PAAHS were interviewed for the piece.



A. Salamone, Echo

geklinsky

by Kenny Bush

Kevin Gelinsky, a 2005 graduate of Pen Argyl High school, had been active in many school activities during his years here. He took part in peer-mediation, student government, jazz band, orchestra, and even the school store.

Today, he is battling against an illness known as chronic liver disease. "And it's gotten worse," says Ms. Werner. Geklinsky will need a liver transplant because of this.

The Gelinsky Fundraiser has been established to collect money for him and thus, cutting down his medical costs. Such events included a fundraiser with entertainment and bake sales. The fundraiser last held at PAAHS on September 3 was a casual dress day in which teachers could dress down to less formal clothing by donating to the fundraiser.

For information to help the Geklinsky family, please see Ms. Werner in guidance.

h1n1 in pen argyl?

by Fred Lunt

I'm sure that many of you out there are concerned with the H1N1-pandemic, but fortunately Mrs. Curcio and the custodial staff are working hard to make sure we are all safe from harm. We already have pages on edline for parents to read and signs in the bathrooms to remind us to wash our hands and to help make us more aware of keeping good hygiene. The custodians are disinfecting all the tables in the school daily and making sure that all door handles are cleaned.

You may be thinking about how to detect early signs of swine flu and how to protect yourself against it right now. Fortunately Mrs. Curcio has given me a lists and advice to help us all, the early symptoms to be alert for are, "Respiratory illness, fever, sore throat, body aches, fatigue,

runny or stuffy nose, and stomach problems." If you are experiencing some of those symptoms then go see her and make sure you get treated. Also that, "Upon getting these symptoms you should be sent home, if it is swine flu then you are contagious 24 hours before the symptoms arise and 7 days after they subside; it is also very important that you avoid aspirin products." However there are ways to protect yourself by keeping good hygiene and not sharing utensils or cups.

Remember not to let the news panic worry you, it's just an illness and it can be treated. If an outbreak would arise in our school the CDC (Center for Disease Control and prevention) would handle the situation with utmost caution for our safety.