

# editors' note

Dashing through the snow, in a one horse open sleigh. The highly anticipated first snow of the year finally came to Pen Argyl and we had our first two hour delay! Christmas is just around the corner and the Green Echo Staff is ready for it. The walls in our classroom are covered in tinsel, lights, and all kinds of festive decorations. We even have our own Christmas tree. The Green Echo staff is excited for our luncheon with "retired" staff members, current staff members, their parents, and PAAHS administration. We are also so happy that senior citizens are here to celebrate Senior Citizens' day. This is one of the only days where we, as a student body, can connect and enjoy time with members from our community.

Winter break is greatly appreciated and definitely needed after this busy first semester. As editors, we are most certainly excited to leave the stress of the newsroom and enter the quiet and coziness of our relative's homes. We are also sure that everyone is excited for the break. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, you find time to spend with your family and friends. You might find yourselves eating a holiday dinner or opening presents. Later in break, we all will be united once more to ring in the New Year, 2010!

Sincerely,

Morgan Haycock and Mary Elchert, Editors

# letter to the editors

Dear Green Echo Editors,

It is always with interest that I read through the "Green Echo" high school paper. As the mom to a junior, it is nice to see what is happening within the school from the student perspective. I commend you on the work normally offered. Unfortunately, I was very upset and disappointed with the con side of the organ donation feature on page 11 of your Nov 09 issue 3 publication. As high school students becoming drivers and being given the option to choose to become an organ donor, your con offering has done a huge disservice to your peers. I support that you can have your own opinions; however, I would certainly encourage you to present clear and truthful data so that an informed decision can be made. An easy internet search with a visit to [www.donors1.org](http://www.donors1.org) would have helped clarify your incorrect information. Organ donation is not "a bad thing." Your family does have a say in the matter, there is not an additional cost for body repair related to an open-casket viewing, organ procurement and dissemination is strictly controlled within the United States, and all major religions worldwide support organ donation. Please encourage your readers to get the full facts about this very important topic. It only takes a few minutes to become informed, mark "yes" on that choice when you get your driver's license, and share something that you no longer need when and if the situation presents itself. I know firsthand that organ donation works - and I have a 16-year-old son to prove it.

Thank you,

Beth K. Kern-Skrapits

Editor, The Green Echo:

I have read with great pleasure the past three issues of The Green Echo. A number of interesting and varied subjects are covered and in reading many of the columns, I am pleased to discover just how our youth are interpreting and coping with the issues of today.

I would like to comment on the column regarding the pros and cons of organ donation. I feel very strongly about this subject because, due to kidney failure, my husband is in need of an organ transplant. In order to stay alive he must undergo kidney dialysis three times a week for four hours duration each session. As your writer, Erika Argenziano, states, "I'm not going to use my organs when I am dead, so if someone else needs it to live, then it's fine with me". I agree with her wise conclusion to a very controversial subject.

I would hope that all of you soon-to-be drivers and current drivers will consider checking the box that would permit you to be an organ donor. Speak to your parents about your wishes so they will know how you feel about this subject.

Keep up the good work; I am looking forward to your next issue.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Miller

# green echo staff

Journalism Advisor:

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Mary Elchert and Morgan Haycock

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Ben Miller

Section Editors:

Hard News

Ryan Hutchinson

District News

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Jessica Marascio and Paige Tinney

Sports News

Nathan Teada

Staff:



Front row from left to right: Julia Montoro, Mary Elchert, Dani Colona, Erika Argenziano, Emily Hernandez, Madison McEvoy. Top row: Caitlin Waring, Kayte Ceasre, Nathan Teada, Fred Lunt, Ryan Hutchinson, James Crossen, Morgan Haycock, Ben Miller, Andrew Salamone, Kyle Coley, Brenna Schmidt, Emily Walsh and Paige Tinney. Not pictured: Christine DePalma, Sam Sole, and Alex Pultz.

The Green Echo would also like to thank Mr. Smith, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Lear, Mr. Beardsworth, Linda Cesare, Mary Ann Miller, and Dr. Pettit for helping edit the newspaper. Special thanks is extended to Alex Keenhold for finding the pictures of Mrs. Paolini.

Mission statement: The Green Echo is a forum for students' views, photography, and journalism. It is produced by the journalism students of Pen Argyl High School and distributed free to students, faculty, and the community. Opinions are not necessarily the views of the Pen Argyl School District. We seek to generate intelligent discussions on news, lifestyles, and sports.

The Green Echo welcomes and strongly encourages letters to the editor relating to controversial articles or expressing opinions and suggestions. Differences of opinion on articles are always placed, so let your voice be heard. All letters to the managing editor will be printed as long as they are school appropriate and they are signed.

The Green Echo is a proud member of the Pennsylvania School Press Association.

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**Attention Students!**  
Interested in joining the paper?  
See Mrs. Shank.