

# wellness committee meeting

by Caitlin Waring

The latest Wellness Committee Meeting covered many health-related topics having to do with the district's students, staff, and community. Nurses gave updates on the H1N1 flu. The vaccination for this strain of flu, and the common flu, has been administered. Lots of kids got the flu shot, and Akeem Thompson, sophomore, says, "Surprisingly, it didn't hurt at all."

Also at the meeting, the Healthy High Five program was discussed. This is a program that started at Plainfield, getting students active and healthy in a fun and safe after-school program. The program is now beginning at the middle school. Mo Scharr, freshman, says, "I wish we had something like that when I was in elementary school."

We've recently held a Health and Safety Fair, which was a huge success. Over 500 parents and students attended, and about thirty kids from the high school volunteered to help out. Attendees thought the fair was not only informative, but entertaining, with teachers and principals participating in the dunk tank. The Families First 5-K Run was also discussed. The members of the Wellness Committee said it was hugely successful, with thirty sponsors, over eighty runners, and twenty walkers.

It's clear that health in the Pen Argyl School District is important, so remember to eat right, stay active, and strive to be healthy.

# high school news

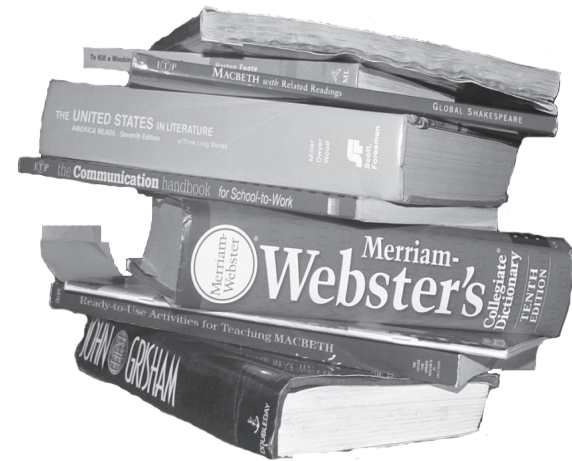
by Mary Elchert

For the month of January, the school will be preparing for midterms. From January 4th, the day we return to school, to the day, midterms start, January 20th, the school will be in study mode. Teachers will be reviewing the past months' material so their students are prepared for the tests that they will be giving them. Midterms are Monday, January 20th to Wednesday, January 22nd. Electives or half year courses will have the midterms taken during the last class days leading up to midterms. Students of half year classes can be exempt with a 95 or above average. However, kids taking midterms will not have the chance to be exempt until the final at the end of the school year. Midterms are 10% of your final grade so everyone should study hard.

Also, grad project presentations for ju-



AARON MEDERNACH FINISHED HIS SPANISH TEST, AS HE EAGERLY CATCHES UP BEFORE FINALS. PHOTO: K. CESARE, ECHO



niors who are taking the class this semester will be presenting on January 11th. That day is an early dismissal for the student body. Both high school and elementary school staffs will

be judges and advisors for the presentations. Every room in the high school will be full coming 1:00 p.m. that day. Students are graded on either a pass or fail basis and the presentation has to be 15 minutes long, including a 2 minute video. Students are also expected to bring in props to explain their topic to the advisors. Half of the 11th graders will be presenting in January while the other half will present in the spring.

Also, the 3rd marking period begins on the 25th of January. Mr. Smith would like to extend a warm Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa to all students and staff.

# attention: new full-day kindergarten

November 17, 2009 was a historic night for the Pen Argyl Area School District. That night, our school board voted unanimously to approve full-day kindergarten for all our students beginning January 25, 2010, the start of the third marking period. Over the next eight weeks, we will work very hard to ensure a smooth transition for all our students.

All of us view this as a very positive development for our youngest students, and we look forward to having the kindergarteners here for the entire day.

# plainfield school news

Dates to remember:

December 24 – January 3, 2010 – Winter Vacation.

January 4, 2010 – Return to school.

January 25, 2010 – Full-day kindergarten starts for all for all students.

Kindergarten news:

Over the past sixty days, Kindergarten students have been making an unlimited amount of progress. Parent conferences were well-attended this year, and remember, spring conferences are a "needs only" basis. This December is filled with all sounds, letters, and words, along with counting skills.

First grade news:

November kept the students busy and on their toes. The month kicked off with Bring Your Parents to School Day. The parents had an opportunity to visit their son/daughter's classes and observe a Language Arts les-

son. If you were unable to attend this event, a second day is planned for this spring.

Second grade news:

All throughout November, the Second Graders learned about the colonial times. They even went on a field trip to the Burnside Plantations. After Thanksgiving Break, the students will be getting ready for the upcoming holidays. The PTA is also sponsoring a field trip to the Nutcracker Ballet.

Third grade news:

Of course, the holidays are right around the corner, but Third Grade hasn't taken a break in their education. In math, they are working on decimals, multiplication, and division. They will also be working on plays to nonfiction literature, and even to how humans and nature are connected. Many projects will be assigned this month, so be ready.