

Above & Beyond



Penn Manor School District

Spring 2023

Dedication weekend April 14-16

3-day event to celebrate completion of high school

Penn Manor School District will host a weekend celebration April 14 through 16 to thank the community for its patience and support during the high school renovation and construction project, which was completed in the fall.

Activities will include:

Thursday, April 13, through Sunday, April 16 – An art show featuring work by student artists from all Penn Manor schools will be on display from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 13, and remain on display throughout the weekend.

Friday, April 14 – Recognition of **Distinguished Penn Manor Alumni** Elizabeth Maine Allen, (Class of 1974), William Myers Jr. (1976), Charlie Reisinger (1990), and Tiffany Harrington Harris (1991).



Penn Manor High School will officially mark its completion during a Dedication Celebration Weekend April 14 through 16.

The alumni will be honored at a luncheon in the high school Large Group Instruction room. Earlier in the day, they will talk with current Penn Manor students about their time at Penn Manor and their experiences since graduating.

Saturday, April 15 – Penn Manor Community Day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the High School Auxiliary Gym, featuring food trucks, childrens' games and activities and displays on Penn Manor student groups and activities.

Admission is free, and attendees will be able to tour the high school during the event.

Sunday, April 16 – Penn Manor High School Dedication Ceremony at 2 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The ceremony will feature student musicians, distinguished guests and tours of the high school before and after the ceremony.

Please join us in celebrating Penn Manor's past and its bright future.

Cardboard regatta a test of physics knowledge



Students, above, attempt to paddle across the Millersville University pool during the Cardboard Regatta. In upper right photo, extra weight is added to capsize the boats.

PMHS students design, build boats to race at MU pool

Penn Manor High School Physics students recently set sail in the Millersville University swimming pool in boats made entirely of cardboard and duct tape.

The competition was the brainchild of high school physics teacher Barney Peace, who challenged his students to design, build and pilot the boats to compete in the Cardboard Regatta.

About 160 students par-



ticipated, either in the water or by helping their peers get into their boats, timing the race heats, breaking down the soggy cardboard creations or serving as commentators.

Students had to provide

More REGATTA on Page 7

Dan Forry hired as new CFO for Penn Manor

The Penn Manor school board has appointed Dan Forry to succeed Chris Johnston as Penn Manor's chief financial officer.

Forry will begin at Penn Manor on March 27 and work with Johnston during a transition period prior to Johnston's retirement on June 30.

"I am grateful to the Penn Manor executive leadership team and the school board for selecting me as the next CFO," Forry said. "I'm excited to be joining a Penn Manor team that is committed to 'a better community ... one student at a time,' and I look forward to working with this incredible group of people."

Forry currently serves as chief finance and operations officer at Elizabethtown Area School District. From 2009 to

2020, he was chief operating officer and director of enterprise and operations at Hempfield School District.

Forry was a shift manager at Exelon Nuclear from 1999 to 2009 and previously was a nuclear submarine officer with the U.S. Navy.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he has a master's degree in business administration from Elizabethtown College and a master's in operations research from George Washington University.

Dan and his wife, Sue, live in West Hempfield Township with their five children, Daniel, Tim, Grace, Leah, and Lila.

"We are very excited to have Dan join Penn Manor School District," said Penn Manor superintendent Dr. Phil Gale. "He has 14 years of school experience, which will allow him to continue to lead Penn Manor in a strong financial manner."



Dan Forry

Donna Wert honored for 24 years on school board

Congratulations to Donna Wert, who was recently honored for her 24 years of service as a member of the Penn Manor Board of School Directors.

Donna was honored during the November 7 school board meeting with a plaque presented by John Paul Capresecco, member outreach manager for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

A retired teacher who worked in special education, Donna joined the board in August 1998. Her current term expires in December 2023.

"It has been ultra-fulfilling to serve on a board that has been recognized by PSBA and other organizations for its



Donna Wert receives a plaque in honor of her 24 years of service from John Paul Capresecco of the PA School Boards Association.

effectiveness and its focus on student achievement," Wert said.

"And also, for a district that continues to get recognized for its excellence and a community that's involved and actually cares about the type of student that graduates from Penn Manor."

Donna has been an inspiration to many in her years serving the Penn Manor community.

Message from the superintendent

I am not a fan of winter. I don't like cold temperatures, snow, short amounts of daylight, or ominous-looking gray skies. While I'm sure many of you have not enjoyed this year's winter weather, it has been a relatively mild winter that I can tolerate.

I've come to realize that it's not necessarily the weather that makes me dislike the season; it's what winter prevents us from doing. When it's cold out, I find myself not wanting to go outside for recreation or to be with other people. This makes me feel isolated and less a part of a community.

During warmer weather, I find it much easier to walk through my neighborhood, be with friends and family for a cookout, or join a group for a round of golf. I feel much more a part of a community when I'm able to be outside with others.

It's natural for humans to come together. We get together at weddings, birthday parties, and sporting events. We connect in online forums, social media groups, and watch parties. Being part of a community is in our makeup.

We need a community of people to regularly interact with. We find encouragement, support, guidance, or correction from others. We're built to need one another so we can grow, love, and stay on track.

As the recent unfortunate events unfolded at Martic Elementary School, I saw the Penn Manor community in action. The teachers, custodians, support staff, secretary, bus drivers, and principal at Martic went above and beyond to make sure our students were safe. The Pennsylvania State Police and police officers from Pequea Township and Millersville Borough came to the aid of the school community.

This is but one example of what happens regularly in the Penn Manor community.

"While we are large, spread out geographically, and have many differences, we are all part of a community that wants to make a difference in the lives of each Penn Manor student."

While we are large, spread out geographically, and have many differences, we are all part of a community that wants to make a difference in the lives of each Penn Manor student. This common desire is what unifies us and allows us to set aside differences that could easily divide us.

Over the past four years, the



Dr. Phil Gale

Penn Manor community has made significant sacrifices as the high school was renovated. Now that the project is complete, we have an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate this significant accomplishment. During the weekend of April 14, 15 and 16, we are planning activities to celebrate, thank our community and officially dedicate the building. Please plan to join us for the activities that will take place as we say "thank you" and show off the new building.

I have benefitted from being part of the Penn Manor community for the past 23 years. I have grown to appreciate the willingness of many to support our schools. Although we have not always agreed on everything, we have agreed that we need what is best for students.

Thank you for being part of the Penn Manor community and the support you provide as we work to educate each child.

- Dr. Phil Gale

(717) 872-9500, ext. 2223
phil.gale@pennmanor.net

Athletes, coaches named to Wall of Honor

High school ceremony is the first since 2019

Several former Penn Manor student athletes and coaches were recently inducted into the Athletic Wall of Honor.

The inductees included Coach Joe Herman, football and basketball star Cody Booth, pole vaulter Jocelyn Witmer, the 1997 girls' track 3,200-meter relay team, and the 2005 boys' volleyball team.

Coach Joe Herman

A former Penn Manor teacher, Mr. Herman was the Comets' head and assistant track coach for over 40 years, leading numerous student athletes to district and state medals. He also was a longtime boys' soccer coach and has been the boys' basketball scorekeeper for more than 40 years.

Jocelyn Witmer (2008 graduate)

Jocelyn was a three-time L-L League champion, a two-time District III pole vault champion and finished 4th and 5th in the PIAA championship. She also was the LNP Track & Field Athlete of the Year in 2008 and competed for Penn State as an NCAA qualifier.

The 1997 girls' relay team

Team members Tess Smith, Allison (Funk) Hess, Erin (Gemmell) Panzarella,



Photos from the induction ceremony, counterclockwise from top left, Cody Banks, dinner attendees, Joe Herman, representatives of the '97 girls' relay team, Jocelyn Witmer, and coaches and members of the '05 boys' volleyball team.

and Betty Mohler Tesch won the 1997 League and District III Championships and finished fifth in the state. They also set a school record of 9:26.82.

Cody Booth (Class of 2009)

Cody was a league all-star in football as a tight end and defensive end and earned first team Lancaster-Lebanon All-League Honors in basketball in his senior year. Cody was a four-year football letterman at Temple University and spent three years in the NFL. He is an assistant football coach at the University of Idaho.

The 2005 boys' volleyball team

Coached by Chris Telesco, the team was Section I, Lancaster-Lebanon League and District III Champions. The team was ranked number 1 in the state for most of the season and finished fifth in the state.

The induction ceremony and dinner were held January 20 at Penn Manor High School. The Wall of Honor inductees were later recognized during halftime of the boys' basketball game.

Congratulations to these students and coaches, past and present!

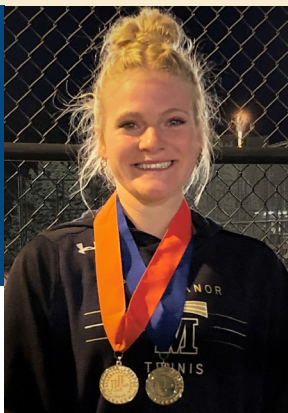
Fall & winter sports team highlights

Penn Manor's fall and winter sports teams chalked up several notable accomplishments.

In **girls' tennis**, Catherine Rabatin became the first female player ever to win four Lancaster-Lebanon League and four District III AAA Championships. She also qualified for the state championship, advancing to the quarterfinals.

Catherine will go down as one of this region's all-time great tennis players.

The **field hockey** team won the L-L League Championship for the second straight year with an exciting win over Manheim Township in the finals. The Comets also advanced to the semifinals of the District III Championships and



Catherine Rabatin, left, made history in tennis, while the field hockey team won its second straight L-League Title and qualified for states.

qualified for the state championship.

Girls' soccer had a strong season, qualifying for the PIAA State Championship and advancing to the semifinals of the District III PIAA Championships.

Runner Kaleb Kabakijian had a stellar **cross country** season by earning league and district medals and qualifying for the PIAA State Championship. He had a great run at states, finishing 34th.

The **girls' volleyball** team put together its best season in 10 years and advanced

to the PIAA District III Championship quarterfinal game.

Golfer Jesse Shue was a PIAA State qualifier, finishing 31st in the state. The **football team** put together a strong season, finishing at 5-5 and just missing the playoffs.

In winter sports, the Penn Manor **bowling team** tied for the Section I title and made it to the finals of the L-L League Championships. The **girls' team** qualified for the state championship.

More SPORTS on Page 7

High school hosts STEM Summit and REAL Life programs

Students complete hands-on lessons on financial literacy, STEM-related careers

Thanks to a partnership with Junior Achievement, Penn Manor High School students participated in hands-on activities designed to prepare them for life after high school.

On February 28 and March 1, all high school juniors



Students test their electrical wiring skills during the STEM Summit.

participated in REAL Life, a financial literacy program designed to help students understand how financial decisions will impact their lives during high school and into adulthood.

Earlier in the school year, ninth-graders got to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, math and the trades during a two-day STEM Summit.

Both programs were provided at no cost to Penn Manor through Junior Achievement of South Central PA with the assistance of community volunteers.

During REAL Life, students participated in a budgeting simulation in which they were assigned a unique life situation, including marital status, number of children (if any), education, employment, and income.

They had to determine how much of their income was available to them each month



Students, above, participate in a game that challenged them to make sound financial decisions as part of REAL Life activities. In photo below, students create foam hands by mixing chemicals together during the STEM Summit.



after taxes, and allocate their money as they completed their budget, led by an adult volunteer from the business world.

Another activity was “Is

the Price Right?” in which students worked in groups to try to guess the prices of common household items.

The 11th-graders also learned the “do’s” and “don’ts” of successful job interviews.

During the STEM Summit, held November 30 and December 1, freshmen rotated through seven different stations, where they got to conduct science experiments and participate in engineering and math competitions related to specific careers.

At the chemistry station, they poured chemicals into latex gloves and watched the chemical reaction create colorful solid hands. At

More **PROGRAMS** on **Page 5**

Resources Fair to help families get assistance

Penn Manor School District will host a Community Resources Fair March 29 to help Penn Manor families connect with the resources they need to thrive.

The event will run from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Penn Manor High School cafeteria.

Parents will be able to visit different booths for information about child care, finances, assistance with housing and utilities, mental health resources, extracurricular activities and educational resources.

Participating groups and organizations will include

several area churches, Union Community Health Center, Community Action Partnership, Spanish American Civic Association, the YWCA, Career Link, and several others.

In addition, Penn Manor school psychologists will be presenting two workshops in the high school Large Group Instruction room on executive functioning skills, which help students to focus, plan, prioritize and work toward goals, regulate behaviors and emotions and adapt to new situations.

Registration is not required for this free event.

March 29 Community Resources Fair

Time: 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Where: High School Cafeteria

Who: Penn Manor Families are invited

Lancaster community organizations and Penn Manor staff will be on hand to share useful information on these topics:

- Education
- Health care
- Child care
- Mental health
- Utilities
- Finances
- Housing
- Extracurricular activities
- Diverse populations
- Post-secondary programs
- Presentations by our school psychologists at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. in the LGI room

Child care will be provided in the auxiliary gym, and interpreters will be available. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is FREE

Alumni return to PMHS to share job, college tips

Two groups of Penn Manor High School alumni recently returned to their alma mater to share their tips on succeeding in college and entering the workforce.

Seven students who graduated from Penn Manor in 2020 and 2021 spoke with current Penn Manor seniors December 21 about their experiences in college.

The students shared tips about budgeting time, keeping up with academics, staying active socially, planning out academic schedules and other aspects of college life with the

seniors.

They also took questions from the audience.

In November, a panel of five alumni from different eras working in different fields participated in a panel discussion to provide input to teachers on the skills students need to be successful in today's workforce.

The panel included Rob Barley (Class of 1987), chief financial officer, Star Rock Farms; Lauren Dissinger (2005), director of sales and customer experiences, Cargas Software; Seth Perry (1997), owner/operator, Seth



Recent Penn Manor graduates, above, talk about college life with high school seniors. In photo below left, graduates, ranging from the Class of 1987 to 2005, talk to Penn Manor teachers about the skills students need to succeed in the workforce.

"The panel discussions demonstrate the strength that comes from a community that values educating students based on their academic abilities and life goals."

— Dr. Phil Gale
Penn Manor
superintendent

presentation in the high school auditorium.

The panelists talked about some of the valuable skills and traits they acquired while attending Penn Manor, including empathy, teamwork, respect and the value of hard work. Several singled out individual teachers and programs with instilling these positive habits, which they continue to use today.

The panel members also discussed what skills high school graduates need to successfully enter the workforce.

Good communication and collaboration skills were among those most mentioned, along with technology skills, creativity, financial literacy, empathy and curiosity.



Reduced-cost internet service offered to families

Penn Manor families may be eligible to participate in a federal program that provides a \$30 per month discount on internet service fees, plus a \$100 discount on a computer/tablet purchase.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is open to families whose income is 200 percent or less of federal poverty guidelines. That means a family of four could qualify with an income of \$60,000 or less.

Families also can qualify if they participate in SNAP, WIC, Medicaid or the free and reduced-price lunch program, among others.

You can learn more about the program here: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>



Commencement is May 31 at F&M

After a three-year hiatus, Penn Manor High School commencement is returning to an indoor ceremony at the Alumni Sports and Fitness Center at Franklin & Marshall College.

Commencement is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31. Additional details will be shared later in the year.

Programs

Continued from Page 4

other stations, they were challenged to complete a wiring circuit; conduct lab tests for signs of diabetes, mononucleosis or strep throat; and program a robot to draw a design.

Students got to work directly with professionals from STEM fields, who shared the engineering, biology, physics, chemistry, design and math principles they use in the workplace.

In all, nearly 900 students took part in these thought-provoking, stimulating activities.

Many thanks to Junior Achievement and our community volunteers.

Manor FFA members earn national awards

Floriculture, Livestock teams earn medals

Two teams of Penn Manor agricultural education students earlier this year earned top honors at the National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

The Manor FFA Floriculture Team of Vita Failla, Leah Hess, Jeanette Kneisley, and Carly Railing placed fifth in the nation out of 45 teams, earning a gold ranking.

Team members had to identify 50 flower and equipment specimens, solve 10 floriculture problems, take a general knowledge test, create and price a \$55 arrangement and a \$25 corsage, create advertising media, transplant young



The Livestock Evaluation team, from left, Logan Broderick, Jenna Smith, advisor Amanda Gagne, Chloe Perry and Ezekiel Smith.

plants, and work as a team to create planters for sale.

They earned 795 out of a possible 800 points as a team. Leah, Jeanette and Carly earned individual gold medals, and Vita earned a silver medal.

The Manor FFA Livestock

Evaluation team of Logan Broderick, Chloe Perry, Ezekiel Smith and Jenna Smith earned a silver ranking, placing 30th of 45 teams.

The students had to evaluate nine live animal classes, give four sets of oral presentations



The Floriculture Team of, from left, Vita Failla, Jeanette Kneisley, Leah Hess, and Carly Railing.

on why they placed a class of animals in a certain way, complete a team activity on animal genetics and take a general knowledge test.

Logan and Chloe earned silver individual medals, and Zeke and Jenna earned bronze medals.



Superintendent Dr. Phil Gale addresses dinner attendees.

Leadership Dinner honors past Penn Manor leaders

In order to move forward, it's important to acknowledge those who helped you get to where you are.

With that thought in mind, Penn Manor recently honored several of its former school directors and administrators during a Leadership Dinner at the high school.

The December 6 event brought together former school board directors and district administrators, who dined with Penn Manor's current leadership team and its nine school directors.

The guests included nine former school board members,

whose service extended from 1975 to 2021. Combined, they served the Penn Manor community for 83 years.

They included Alice Ahfield, Don Anderson, Richard Bauder, Rich Frerichs, Donald Graver, Pat Kline, Ken Long, Jeff Lyon and John Wentzel.

After dinner, guests took a tour of the high school led by principal Baron Jones.

"The dinner was an opportunity to celebrate and recognize those who have contributed to Penn Manor through their service," said superintendent Dr. Phil Gale.

Penn Manor senior wins anti-litter photo contest

A budding photographer at Penn Manor High School has been honored with a first-place award in a contest designed to spread an anti-litter message.

High School senior Maddie Whited earned a first-place prize in the student category of the 2022 Gene Capaldi Lens on Litter Photo Contest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Resources Council.

Her winning photo, "Nature Show," depicts a discarded television set abandoned in the woods with leaves and twigs where the screen used to be.

Maddie came across the TV while exploring the woods at her family's cabin in Huntingdon in early November.

Maddie learned about the contest from



Maddie Whited, right, and her art teacher, Maggie Cantrell, with Maddie's winning photo.

her Penn Manor art teacher, Maggie Cantrell.

"Photography has always been something that interests me, but Mrs. Cantrell taught me more about it and helped me realize it's something I want to pursue," said Maddie, who plans to study photography at Millersville University.

Congratulations to Maddie and Mrs. Cantrell on this award!

Special education services at PM schools

Penn Manor School District is required to provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities who are determined, through the evaluation process, to need special education and related services under IDEA and 22 Pa. School Code §14.

A school-age child with a disability who is determined to be in need of special education and related services is identified as a child in need of specially designed instruction.

The following are disability categories under IDEA:

- Autism
- Deafness
- Deaf/blindness
- Emotional disturbance
- Traumatic brain injury
- Hearing impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Other health impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Visual impairment, including blindness
- Speech and language impairment

A full description of the services and programs available is accessible at: www.pennmanor.net/special-education/ or by contacting Peggy Anastasio, director of student services, at (717) 872-9500, extension 2244.

Annual notices

Federal and state laws require school districts to provide students, parents and/or the public with notices on such topics as privacy, nondiscrimination, child nutrition, open records and homelessness.

Penn Manor invites parents and guardians of students to review the information on notices at www.pennmanor.net/annual-notice/.

Please contact your child's principal with any questions or concerns about the information contained in these notices. You may also contact the superintendent's office at (717) 872-9500, ext. 2223.

Substitute teacher pay at PM increased to \$150 per day

If you have considered working as a substitute teacher in Penn Manor School District, now is the time to apply. We've increased our daily pay to \$150, among the most competitive rates in Lancaster County.

And that rate increases to \$200 per day after 15 consecutive work days.

You can apply for day-to-day sub positions through Substitute Teacher Service at <https://help.thesubservice.com/penn-manor-open-positions>

As a substitute, you can pick and choose the hours and locations where you'd like to work. At Penn Manor, day-to-day subs are provided with lesson plans and instructions to assist

them in the classroom, and they also receive free lunch.

Subs are needed at all levels in Penn Manor schools.

The Substitute Teacher Service staff is available to assist applicants in meeting state requirements for working in our schools and to provide training and other resources to prepare you to enter the classroom. In addition, as an STS employee, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits during the summer, when school is not in session.

Please consider helping Penn Manor meet the educational needs of our students by working as a substitute teacher.

Sports: fall, winter highlights

Continued from **Page 3**

The **boys' basketball** team had their best season in more than 10 years, finishing 11-11. A highlight was a buzzer-beater finish over Manheim Township in the final game of the season. Junior Ethan Benne was a league standout, finishing 7th in points per game and 5th in total points.

In **boys' wrestling**, Travis Clawson was a Section I first-team All-Star and finished 2nd in the L-L League Tournament and District III Section II tournament. Gavin Boland was a Section I first-team All-Star.

Riley Evans also had a good season, finishing 3rd in the District III Section II Championships.

The **girls' wrestling** team had a lot of individual success through the season. Annisa Orr, Trinity Mowery and Kaitlyn Clawson finished in the top 3 of the girls central regional and qualified for the state girl's championship.

Girls' swimming finished the year with a 4-4 record and a 9th place finish at the league meet, where several relay teams earned league medals. Grace Bresch, Kari Anderson and Kenzie Wolpert all qualified for Districts.

In **boys' swimming**, Brayden Clow was an 8th place medal winner at the league meet, and two relays teams earned medals, placing 5th and 7th.

Congratulations to these student athletes and their coaches!

Regatta: Cardboard boats compete

Continued from **Page 1**

the cardboard and duct tape for each vessel. Prior to construction, they learned about Archimedes' principle of buoyancy – force equals the weight of the water displaced.

They used that concept and density to calculate the water level on the sides of their boats. They also calculated the maximum mass their boats could hold. Many students doubled the layers of cardboard or added extra support to help their boats stay afloat longer.

While helpers held their cardboard creations in the water, two students got into each boat to begin their race heat, which was timed by student

volunteers waiting at the other end of the pool. Most boats were successfully paddled by hand across the pool. Once on the other side, weight was added as more students piled into the cardboard creations until they invariably sank.

"The success of this type of project depends on the efforts of the students, and with so many boats reaching their destination, I think they rose to the challenge," said Mr. Peace. "This is a great activity that allows students to apply what they learn in the classroom and have a lot of fun."

The event was funded with a \$2,642 grant from the Penn Manor Education Foundation to cover pool rental fees.

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Central Manor featured in Google CS video

Crew films fifth-grade science lesson using coding software

Students and staff at Central Manor Elementary School are among the “stars” of a new video created by Google to promote its CS First software, which helps students learn coding.

The 3½ -minute video, “CS First: Unlock Opportunities for Students with Computer Science,” was released to the public on January 3. View it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_BPf2dDLvA.

Over the summer, Google reached out to Judy Keller, a Penn Manor

technology trainer, to see if Penn Manor would be interested in participating in the project, which showcases how three schools use the software. Judy is a certified Google trainer and has helped implement CS First in all our elementary schools.

On October 12, a film crew came to Karli Broomell’s fifth-grade Central Manor classroom to film a science lesson that utilized CS First.

Prior to filming, students completed a unit on cells, organelles and the roles they play. Mrs. Broomell then challenged students to create a skit using CS First in which a cell’s organelles have conversations with each other describing their functions.

Students broke into small groups to write a script for their skit and then worked independently using CS First to complete their project, putting their own unique touch on it, Mrs. Broomell said. “In the end, one student was on her way to producing a rap song about cells utilizing the skills she had learned in the CS First curriculum.”

That student was among several who were interviewed for the video, along



A videographer films students in Karli Broomell’s classroom as Penn Manor technology trainer Judy Keller looks on.

with Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Broomell. The video also features footage of students at work on the project in the classroom and a shot of the Central Manor playground.

“It was such a neat experience to watch a film crew at work right within the walls of our classroom,” said Mrs. Broomell. “The students loved the video.”

Many thanks to our students and staff, as well as Google, for making this opportunity possible.



A screenshot from the video