Dear Diane,

Welcome to the second edition of the online news report from Blue Mountain Academy. It is our distinct pleasure to have you as a “friend” and as such, letting you know what is happening is important.

Your love, support, and continued prayer is so important to us, more so then you would ever know. Working with today’s teenagers is more challenging than ever, but knowing that we have you behind us, quietly encouraging, is truly a blessing.

Thanks for being a supporter of BMA and enjoy this latest version of the “news”.

Appalachian Staff

Find Out More!

There is a lot more you can learn about Blue Mountain Academy by simply visiting our website at www.facebook.com/bluemountainacademy. Swing by and see what you’ve been missing!

Senior Bible Learns About Ellen White

Principal Dave Morgan was invited to visit the Senior Bible class by Chaplain Shawnessey Cargile. The discussion was about Ellen White and her role in the Seventh-day Adventist church today. Mr. Morgan presented a historical and biographical sketch on Mrs. White, reviewed the four tests of a prophet, and shared how uncomfortable Ellen was with that title, simply referencing herself as “a messenger of God”.

All About the Mission!

The mission of Blue Mountain Academy is to provide a Seventh-day Adventist education that leads students into lives of service for Jesus.

Appalachian is a quarterly newsletter of happenings on campus for students and alumni alike. Please feel free to forward this e-mail to anyone that would benefit from knowing more about Christian education.

Appalachian Staff
Blue Mountain Academy

Now THAT’s Service!

Recently we had another big weekend for the class of 2015 as BMA officially presents them. For the first time we get to see their colors, their banner, and their class song. Saturday night we get to see their talent at a dinner and show.
Students asked many thought provoking questions about her life, her ministry, and her writings.

Mr. Morgan shared that it wasn't his goal to "tell you what to believe, but, like Sister White, attempt to broaden your world view of who God is, and what our place is in this 'cosmic conflict' so you can make your own decision about asking him into your life."

Leadership Class Lesson: Collaboration

Students in Leadership class today discovered the importance of collaboration. Broken into four groups, they were given 20 pieces of spaghetti, 1 yard of string, 1 yard of tape, and one large marshmallow. The groups were given 18 minutes to create the highest free standing structure that they could, topped off with the marshmallow.

One group successfully completed a tower in the 20 inch range with the marshmallow on top. The next two groups attempting a similar tower waited until the final moments to place the marshmallow on top. When they did, their structures could not support the weight and they collapsed. The final group attempted to create 3D cubes to stack on top of each other but simply ran out of time.

Joseph Williams commented, "I feel like we couldn't complete the task because we couldn't collaborate." Rachel Munene, member of the winning design group, shares, "to do the project successfully there has to be teamwork, everybody has to be engaged and you can't be afraid to fail."

Elizabeth Thurman reflected, "sometimes we may over think simple situations. Also, there wasn't an assigned leader...so whoever had the personality to lead naturally took over."

Blue Mountain Academy seeks to lay the foundation that tomorrow's leaders will need to be successful by offering a leadership class that is interactive, mentally stimulating, and essential to understanding the challenges that will confront them in the future as God reveals His calling for their lives.

One good thing about the weekend is the warm weather and promise of sunshine for Sabbath. One bad thing about that is this warm weather is making all the snow melt. This has created a problem for the girls as they will have to make their way through a puddle of water to make it to worship. The solution? Chris Kramer of maintenance is shown using some good old Berks County ingenuity by taking the wooden sides to a trailer and turning them into a wooden bridge for the girls to safely walk over, saving them from ruining their shoes and Sabbath dress.

Thanks Mr. Kramer! Just another way BMA communicates its love for its students!

URGENT HELP REQUESTED

In January, the following need was shared:

"Blue Mountain Academy has worked hard to make Christian education affordable. Despite the financial support of many of you, and our efforts to be as efficient as possible, there are currently three students that, because of the parents inability to cover the expense of
The experiment on the importance of collaboration and teamwork has been conducted all over the world. Want to know which group had the most frequent success in accomplishing the goal? Visit [www.ted.com/talks/tom_wujec_build_a_tower.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/tom_wujec_build_a_tower.html) for more information!

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**News from the Registrars Office**

Thank you for your interest in one of the remaining yearbooks from past years. We hope that the time you spent at BMA holds great memories for you.

In order to mail you a yearbook, we do need you to cover the cost of postage ($10/each). If you would like to make a donation above and beyond that amount, please specify whether it will go towards our Annual Fund or the Worthy Student Fund. You will receive a tax deductible receipt for any amount over the $10 postage.

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**Tour Group Brings Blessing to Congregation**

LaSonnette sharing their talents at St. John's United Church of Christ, Sunday morning in Orwigsburg, PA.

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**Join Our Mailing List!**
In order for us to mail you the yearbook of your choice, we ask that you choose one of the following payment options:

Debit/Credit:
1) Call the BMA Business Office at 484-662-7021 and charge $10/each (plus any donation you would like to give) to your debit or credit card.
2) Either give your first and last name and full address to the person on the phone or email it to me at dengen@bma.us
3) Make sure we know exactly what year(s) you want sent.

Check:
1) Send a check for $10/each (plus any donation you would like to give) made out to BMA (memo: [year here] yearbook), and mail it to: Attn: Registrar, Blue Mountain Academy, 2363 Mountain Rd., Hamburg, PA 19526.
2) Include your first and last name and full address so I will know where to mail it.
3) Make sure we know exactly what year(s) you want sent.

Come back and visit your academy anytime soon. This year’s Alumni Weekend is April 25-27, 2014.

Thank you for supporting BMA!

In His Service,
Diana Engen
Registrar
Building Character One Student At A Time!

In 2010 the Blue Mountain Academy Board and staff reviewed the previous strategic goals established in 2006 and identified five distinct areas for administration to focus on. As the principal of Blue Mountain Academy, I accept this wisdom from this group of experienced, passionate, and spiritual supporters of BMA.

I am offering my vision within each strategic goal (that will come in the next Appalachian), however, what you will not see yet are the methods for how each goal will be achieved and how we will measure that accomplishment. Since I took over as principal at BMA (July 2012) I will have been working closely with my staff as we map out how each goal will be realized. We have then decided how each strategy is to be measured and at the appropriate time we have assessed our progress.

Above all, I want you to know that my vision is driven for a passion to reach each student that comes through the doors of BMA. Our God calls us to take care of His lambs, and that is a calling I take very seriously. I am reminded of a poem I came across my first year of teaching. It's written by Dorothy Law Nolte.

If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame,
He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance,
He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.

If a child lives with security,
He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself.

Here the class officers are pictured with their colors, banner, and their aim/motto. Here is their class song:

Legacy 2015 Class Song
Bel Canto Prepares for Korea!
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, He learns to find love in the world.

Strategic Goals for BMA

Goal 1: Maximize intentional opportunities for students’ spiritual growth and development.
The entirety of why Blue Mountain Academy exists is this; to introduce them to Jesus Christ, encourage them to accept Him as their Lord and Savior, endeavor to use their lives to serve Him in whatever capacity He chooses.

Goal 2: Ensure that all students are given opportunities to maximize their individual academic potential.
Students are not all created equal. To that end, it is important for the staff to recognize that within their class there are students with a wide range in learning abilities. Equipping our teachers to meet the varied needs of the students is a first step toward the success for each. Another important step is being honest with ourselves; that means realizing that there are some students that Blue Mountain Academy is not equipped to help.

Goal 3: Enhance BMA’s awareness among constituents and potential students/families, leading to maximized, stable annual enrollment.
The first step in creating stable enrollment is to make Blue Mountain Academy affordable. The second step is ensuring that an environment of affirmation is created which allows students to freely take risks in their learning without fear of ridicule or belittlement. When students know they matter, and are given a glimpse of how their life can be something more than a secular pursuit of money, then they will begin telling others about what an incredible school they go to.

Goal 4: Leverage sound fiscal management and strong philanthropic support to maintain affordable tuition rates.
Follow the pennies and you will find the dollars. Continuing to pay close attention to how efficiently our school is running is key to maintaining a school that lives within its means. Additionally important is being more progressive at the use of the Blue Mountain Academy footprint. Moving from an attitude of managing our asset to one of maximizing our asset is an important paradigm shift that is crucial to the survivability of the school.

Goal 5: Intentionally infuse Seventh-day Adventist standards into the academic, spiritual, and social programs.
It may appear at times that this is not happening; however, working with teenagers is messy. Sometimes the appearance is that nothing is happening, wrongs are not being righted. This is an incorrect characterization of how issues are handled at Blue Mountain Academy. The real culprit is that we have not done a good job of communicating how important discipline is to our program. The reality is that we expect students to make mistakes, in fact, we crave it! We crave their mistakes because it is at this very moment that “discipleship” can occur, taking our students from being mere reflectors of others thoughts, to actually learning to think and make appropriate decisions.

Bel Canto, the touring choir, listens as the orchestra plays during the Christmas weekend worship service. Both groups are conducted by Lawrence Galera, music director. The concert weekend is a highlight of first semester. Second semester the touring groups begin weekend trips to local churches and schools.

BMA is serious about our music program and tries to include all interested students. In addition to Bel Canto, classes and learning opportunities include: La Sonnette Ensemble, the touring handbell choir, Sylvan Singers, the concert choir, and the orchestra.

Sophomore Rachel Jackson, a violinist, chose BMA because of the music program. “Here, I feel strongly called to pursue music as part of my life.” She is also learning guitar and piano through private lessons.

Private music lessons are available for beginner through experienced musicians in guitar, band instruments, piano, organ and strings. Classes in Dimensions of Music and Music Theory are also available.

Retiring Teacher Makes Impact
Cary Corbin (seated) is surrounded by his class of eager students on a recent “play day.”
Seventh-day Adventists believe very strongly in a God that is loving, merciful, and long suffering; it is with that spirit that we will work with your children!

Core Values at Blue Mountain Academy

Relationship with Christ. Seeking a relationship with Christ through prayer, Bible study, service and evangelism.

Mission Focus. Joining Jesus and His mission to reach our friends, community, and world.

Academic Excellence. Preparing students for success though an exceptional instructional program.

Family Atmosphere. Respecting and caring for each other in a safe, nurturing community.

Student Leadership. Empowering students to serve others through leadership.

Experiments apply the mathematical formulas that are being studied in Physics. Accelerated motion was the focus on this day.

Forward this email

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