

Math

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Dept. from elementary through high school for nurturing great minds like these. "It's a team effort with all the math teachers. The love of math is instilled at a young age. They deserve so much credit," explained Preece. "If you have the product to work with, it makes all the difference."

Preece wasn't always a teacher. After a year in the district he left for Washington D.C. and began work as a systems analyst for IBM. After four years he came back to the area and took a similar job in a computer business, but found himself longing to teach again. "I missed the challenge of teaching. It's definitely more difficult than the computer business I was in," said Preece. He added, "Although I took a pay cut, I don't regret it. I wouldn't change a thing."

His love of teaching is no surprise considering his upbringing. His mother taught at Rutter Avenue Elementary School in Kingston. "I was always around teachers while I was growing up," said Preece. "That's what I knew."

Preece's stint in the corporate world has served his students well. Due to this experience he knows firsthand what math skills are required to make it in the business world. "Most high paying jobs such as occupational therapy, physical therapy and engineering usually require Calculus. It's important that our students are prepared well enough to make it through all the math requirements," Preece explained. "I want to get them through Cal-

culus, which is always the number one drop out class in college. I don't want them to eliminate any choices. That is why I want to encourage all students whether they are making a C or an A. What alarms me is that some people are too A conscious. If a student is working their hardest and getting a C, that is commendable."

Frank Galicki, high school principal, views Preece as a valuable asset to the faculty and students. "He is personable, approachable and demanding. Because of his experience in the business world, he knows what is expected of the students," he said.

According to his students, Preece takes the time necessary to make sure they understand exactly what they are doing. "He is a very good teacher," said Rose Alaimo, sophomore. "He helps you to understand instead of just memorizing. He goes back and explains from the beginning until it makes sense and is logical."

Christen Cembrock, senior, agrees with Alaimo. "Mr. Preece explains everything in detail and takes his time. I also like his sense of humor," said Cembrock. Sophomore Chris Nattress admires Preece's ability to make the long classes upbeat. "He's a good teacher and very funny. He makes learning fun," explained Nattress.

Preece believes mathematics helps students gain problem solving skills and develops logical thinking skills. With technology sneaking up on the educational system providing instant information, colorful graphics and

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Rose Alaimo
Dallas sophomore



Charles Preece, left, and Scott Saba are all smiles after their math students swept a recent competition.

sound bites, Preece knows kids still need the basics.

"Technology, while wonderful, is a quick fix. Computers and calculators are for speed. They don't replace the necessity of understanding how to work out problems. Students need to know why something is working, what's behind the scenes," explained Preece when asked if his teaching style had to change due to interactive technology.

Tower

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public utilities are exempt from the height limitation. Cellular One must still go before the Planning Commission on May 13 at 7 p.m. Geri Gitlin feels betrayed by the supervisors' action. "They lied to us. They misled us," she said. "They said at the meeting, 'This is just the beginning. We have to go through planning and zoning.' They knew what they were going to do. And then they had it written in the paper that no residents showed up."

According to Glen Howell, township secretary, the township has no say in the height of the tower. He said only the Federal Communications Commission can determine a tower's height.

Jay O'Connor, engineer of Broad Band Branch, commercial wireless division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau with the Federal Communications Commission, said the F.C.C. only gets involved with height/power restrictions. "It really depends on the terrain, height and power of the tower. If it is too high powered, the height would be lessened. Normally there is never a problem in this area," he explained. According to O'Connor, that is the only situation in which the F.C.C. would have any say in tower height.

"We can put our stuff on it for free. That's the main thing," said township supervisor Frank Wagner, referring to 911 and police antennas that will aid police department reception. "I'm glad it's here."

The contract stipulates the initial five year lease will have nine renewable five-year terms, for a total of 50 years. Cellular One will lease the space for \$9,600 per year or \$800 per month, with a 10 percent increase at each renewal. The contract also stipulates that upon termination of the contract Cellular One is responsible for removing the tower, equipment shed, and fence from the township property.

"They are moving very quickly," Gitlin said. "These people shouldn't have this kind of power over the area. It makes me very suspicious. \$800 is very puny. It's

"We can put our stuff on it for free. That's the main thing."

Frank Wagner
Township supervisor

a terrible spiritual and environmental detriment. Why would someone who has been a lifelong resident of the area want this?"

According to O'Connor, there is the option of "putting in a lot of smaller towers." O'Connor said increasing the number of towers would increase costs.

At the second March meeting of the township supervisors, Rich Rusnok of Cellular One told residents the tower would permit additional servers. At the April meeting, Dallas Township solicitor Frank Townend said Cellular One had said they would share income received from additional servers with the township, but Townend admitted he was unsure if this was included in the contract. A copy of the contract contained no provisions for the Dallas Township to share in revenues from subleasing space on the tower.

"There's a way to have progress without ruining the character of a town."

Geri Gitlin
Dallas Township

According to Gitlin, residents who were concerned about the tower were advised by a township supervisor to get a lawyer. Gitlin, who plans to do just that, says, "There's a way to have progress without ruining the character of a town."

Roger Landry, also a township resident, also plans to hire an attorney. Landry hopes to find out whether or not the township "circumvented the process." Landry said he would like to see the issue opened up for public discussion.

Security

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Joseph Kunec, board member, asked Joel Sims of Quad 3, Inc. if the new elementary school would have a security system built into it. "It's too soon to tell. If the board wants it we can look into it," answered Sims.

Also, the board voted unanimously to hire Quad 3, Inc. to design the new K-5 elementary school for a fee of \$525,000. James Richardson, Joseph Kunec, John George and John Litz made up the committee in charge of the recommendation. Quad 3 has worked with the district for more than two years developing plans for the building, which will be located behind the middle school on the district's main campus.

The board made one last unanimous vote by agreeing to purchase a John Deere tractor for the

district. The district will pay only \$13,857 for a 72-inch bladed tractor that normally sells for \$19,311. The discount is due to a state program. George said the state stepped in because the district's current tractors were in bad shape.

In other news, Dr. Gil Griffiths, acting superintendent, said 32 people applied for the position of elementary principal for Westmoreland Elementary. He said the administration is in the screening process now. Griffiths said a current administrator has asked to fill the position, and he said it is customary to try to accommodate those within the district first. Results of the screening process will be known next week. The next school board meeting will be April 14 at 7 p.m.

Bloomers

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sultant for the Underwater Design class, started participating in the show last year. "I had never done anything like this until last year. I really enjoy it," said Johnston. "We are always looking for people to get involved and participate."

According to Freifeld, 200 committee members and more than 100 volunteers participated at last year's event. Also, 21 vendors attended the show. Linda Thoma, chairperson, said she expects that many this year.

Freifeld, who is on the board of directors of the Northeast PA Philharmonic, thought up the idea for a flower show as a fund raiser for the Philharmonic in 1990. She said the Bloomers was perfect because it is a federated garden club, meaning anyone can enter it.

"It took a year to get it all together," she said of the beginning. "Now it's easier. A lot of

"We want the event to educate the public on horticulture and artistic designs."

Lora Marcolina Freifeld
Flower show chairperson

people have gained knowledge and other gardening clubs are involved."

For more information call the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic at 1-800-836-3412. To obtain an informational booklet including listings of all divisions, send two first-class stamps to: Back Mountain Bloomers Garden Club, P.O. Box 125, Dallas, PA 18612.

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