December was a month for spreading holiday cheer throughout the community and various organizations. Students learned that serving others and brightening their day could be as rewarding as receiving.

Red Lion students worked hard to collect 327 canned food items and delivered them to the Red Lion Food Bank where Santa greeted them. In a contest between the other Adams and York County campuses, Red Lion collected the most items. Day Treatment collected for the York County Food Bank, Hellam for local families and Spring Grove for God’s Meal Barrel in Hanover.

Day Treatment and Spring Grove Campus students spent many hours helping prepare for the Adams County United Way Toy Drive by unloading, sorting and organizing toys and other items. This event benefitted 724 families including 1,497 children in the Gettysburg Area. Spring Grove students also decorated Christmas trees and visited with residents at the Cross Keys Brethren Home.

Shiremanstown Campus students visited Messiah Village to celebrate the holidays with the residents. They baked cookies and cakes, made a craft and played a Christmas game together.

Students from the Hellam Campus decorated ForSight Vision Center. They received a tour of the Industries for the Blind and were educated on the various resources ForSight provides to the visually impaired.

Traveling by horse-drawn wagon, Santa and student carolers from Hellam rode through the area singing and stopping to hand out hot chocolate and candy canes. Trinity Church Preschool, Kreutz Creek Elementary School, Jump Start Auto and other local neighbors received this special visit.

These are just a few of the holiday highlights—many more acts of service and celebrations occurred throughout the season. It was a wonderful time of giving for everyone involved.
Students Visit Prison Program

Teacher Chantal Williams and Behavior Manager Kevin Deane recently took a group of Spring Grove Campus students to the Maryland Correctional Institute in Hagerstown where they took part in a program called P.A.T.T.—Prisoners Against Teen Tragedy. Aimed at getting teens to avoid a life of crime, the program is designed to teach teens to avoid bad choices and influences that could put them behind bars.

The group received a guided tour of the prison including the cellblocks, isolation unit, cafeteria and common areas. A very impactful part of the day occurred when they had the opportunity to hear from five prisoners who shared honest and open stories of their life experiences. The inmates gave students a realistic picture of what consequences can occur as a result of poor choices.

Having experienced a visit to the P.A.T.T. program numerous times, CEO Steve Capoferri felt this was an excellent opportunity for the students and admires the willingness of the inmates to provide such a program. “Anytime someone is willing to share their life experiences and past mistakes in an effort to help others, it is well appreciated,” he said.

Student Paige Bechtel was in awe of the emotional hardships of the prisoners. She shared, “Everywhere I looked I saw someone’s son, uncle or cousin. Everyone had a family and it was hard to see how easily someone’s life could be torn apart. When I walked away from that experience, I really had to stop and think how different their lives could have been if someone stopped and cared enough to help.”

Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice.
—Anton Chekhov

Student Council Activity Highlights

Student Council has been meeting regularly and planning many wonderful activities. In addition to the Spelling Bee (see pg. 3) and various holiday community service trips (see front cover), a fun spirit week and other successful events took place.

One highlight in December was a multi-campus ice skating trip attended and enjoyed by students from Day Treatment, Hellam, Red Lion and Spring Grove.

Spring Grove Campus Student Council members visited the Painted Springs Alpaca Farm where they received a tour, learned about the shearing and spinning process and got to feed and hold baby alpacas.

A group of students from Day Treatment, Hellam and Red Lion Campuses came together for the January Winter Games. Red Lion dominated by winning all categories. Seth Delp won the Chess Tournament, Joseph Markle and Najere Brabham were victorious in Baggo and Zachary Matthew captured the win in Mancala.

Students and staff advisors are currently planning a Debate Team Challenge, Campus Cook-off, bowling trip and more.
Field Trip Fun

Students from four campus locations recently gathered together for the first ever Campus-Wide Spelling Bee. After qualifying at their home campus, Carlisle, Shiremanstown and West Perry Campus students traveled to Newville who hosted the event.

James Koser, Newville Campus Life Skills/Social Skills Teacher, found the Spelling Bee to be an excellent opportunity for the students to enhance their educational experience. He shares, “Students had the chance to build their vocabulary base through exposure to new words, while at the same time having a chance to conquer the fears associated with standing up and speaking in front of their peers. Overall, it was a fun way for everyone to both learn and boost their self-confidence.”

Newville student Brianna Bittinger was the first prize winner. The final word she spelled correctly to capture the event was ‘liability.’ She received a gift card, trophy and her name will be displayed on a plaque in her school. Nicholas Oneufer from Shiremanstown captured second by correctly spelling ‘concoct’ and Morgan Parks secured third with the word ‘anxiety.’ Both Nicholas and Morgan also received gift card prizes.

In addition to the top three place winners, the following students participated in the Spelling Bee:
- Carlisle Campus: Raekwon Brooks, Anastasia Conway, Taylor Covington and Seth Lynch
- Newville Campus: Spencer Nelson and Kevin Wardecker
- Shiremanstown Campus: Lauren Badarzynski, Chandran Boyer, Lucas Glinski and Tasha Wicks-Forman
- West Perry Campus: Malena Cassel, Calie Libby, Michael Riggleman, James Riley and Quintin Shanafelter

Spelling Bee a Success

Every day may not be good, but there’s something good in every day.

~Author Unknown
Mock DUI Crash Demonstrated

While headlines of tragic accidents are commonly read or heard about on the news, the true reality is not always felt without seeing the results in person. A group of professionals recently gave students a visual picture of the dangers of impaired driving by reconstructing a DUI crash scene. The mock presentation was held on the Newville Campus and also witnessed by students from the Carlisle and West Perry Campuses.

The Newville Fire Department, members of the Newville EMS, Cumberland County Coroner Todd Eckenrode and Pennsylvania State Trooper Ed Asbury worked together to recreate a powerful and realistic crash scene. Students Julia Diffenbaugh, Brandon Erickson and Kevin Wardecker volunteered to be the ‘victims’ of the accident. Upon viewing the reenactment, student Spencer Nelson commented, “I’m sure the EMS is a lot faster at a real scene but it did show how serious the real deal is—drinking and driving.”

That important fact of never getting in a car with an impaired driver as well as never driving impaired and the importance of always wearing a seatbelt were the lessons students learned firsthand. Witnessing the mock DUI truly demonstrated the reality of what can happen when such negative choices are made.

Thank you to everyone who made this valuable lesson possible.

A group of Carlisle Campus students and staff enjoyed a two-day trip at a YMCA camp next to Opossum Lake. In addition to fishing, hiking and team building exercises, they worked hard to complete a variety of community service projects for the YMCA. It was a wonderful time of enjoying the great outdoors with friends and teachers.

Residents at the Cross Keys Village had their wheelchairs cleaned in time for the holidays by Spring Grove Campus students.

Red Lion Campus students did volunteer work for the Mason Dixon Public Library.

Students from the Shiremanstown Campus made crafts with residents at Messiah Village.

Snow Days Alert

Please check with your campus for snow make-up days.
### River Rock Students of the Month

The Students of the Month for November, December and January have been announced. Students are selected based on their behavior, grades, attendance and positive attitude. Congratulations and keep up the great work!

#### November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle Campus</td>
<td>Walker Miller &amp; Kyle Shindel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Treatment Campus</td>
<td>Devin Bender &amp; Carlos Ginett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellam Campus</td>
<td>Margarita Maldonado &amp; Bryan Hare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newville Campus</td>
<td>Ashley Bible &amp; Caitlyn Stoltenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Lion Campus</td>
<td>Nicole Carver &amp; Daniel Loder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiremanstown Campus</td>
<td>Jaimie Crawford &amp; Shawn Strahosky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Grove Campus</td>
<td>Paige Bechtel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Perry Campus</td>
<td>Erin Smith</td>
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</tbody>
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#### December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle Campus</td>
<td>Anastasia Conway &amp; Luis Correa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Treatment Campus</td>
<td>Morgan Iser &amp; Gage Ventura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellam Campus</td>
<td>Kyle Arnold &amp; Gary Snavely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newville Campus</td>
<td>Corey Wilson &amp; Selina Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Lion Campus</td>
<td>Jacob Windon-Druck &amp; Sheena White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiremanstown Campus</td>
<td>Chandran Boyer &amp; Adam Ely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Grove Campus</td>
<td>Brandon Gimbel</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Perry Campus</td>
<td>Calie Libby</td>
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#### January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle Campus</td>
<td>Austin Swingle &amp; Alexander Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Treatment Campus</td>
<td>James Erb &amp; Kayla Crespo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellam Campus</td>
<td>Kyle Moyer &amp; Joseph Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newville Campus</td>
<td>Spencer Nelson &amp; Brian Frisbie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Lion Campus</td>
<td>Brian Freeman &amp; Lashanta Costen (not pictured)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiremanstown Campus</td>
<td>Bethani Curry &amp; Ricky Anstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Grove Campus</td>
<td>Jonathan Garman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Perry Campus</td>
<td>Logan Hile</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Students of the Month for November, December and January have been announced. Students are selected based on their behavior, grades, attendance and positive attitude. Congratulations and keep up the great work!
River Rock Perfect Attendance

The students listed below had perfect attendance for November, December and January. They were rewarded with a River Rock snack gift card. Students who had perfect monthly attendance and spent no time in the resource room were entered into a contest. One student from each campus was selected at random. November’s winners received Target gift cards, December winners received gift cards to f.y.e. Music and Electronics and January winners received Subway gift cards. Contest winners have a * next to their name.

Carlisle Campus

November
Andrews, Alexander; Correa, Luis*; Larrimore, Nafee; Swingle, Austin

December
Brooks, Raekwon; Correa, Luis; Larrimore, Nafee; Moat, Richard*; Stackfield, DeVante; Swingle, Austin; Vega, Samantha

January
Fry, Shaquill; Grizzelle, Kristoff; Lighty, Jason; Matthew, Zachary*; Rhoads, Douglas

Day Treatment

November
Dearing, Kiamboo

December
Barshinger, Treven; Brown, Latrell; Robertson, Brandon; Snow, Karissa

January
Carr, Alfred; Dearing, Kiamboo; Erb, James*

Hellam Campus

November
Greiner, Dustin; Izquierdo, Manuel; Leonard, Jonathan*; Maldonado, Margarita; Minnich, Dylan; Moyer, Kyle; Steinour, Benjamin

December
Chappell, Kevin; Greiner, Dustin; Grove, Faith; Hammond, John; Leonard, Jonathan; Maldonado, Margarita*; Martin, Deja; Miller, Brandon; Minnich, Dylan; Moore, Joseph

January
Greiner, Dustin; Maldonado, Margarita; Miller, Brandon*; Moyer, Kyle; Pietrusza, Paul

Newville Campus

November
Bittinger, Brianna*; Cox, Jr., Joel; Franklin, Kyle; Johnson, Chance; Lepperd, Jonathan; Nelson, Spencer; Parks, Morgan; Ross, David

December
Bittinger, Brianna; Cox, Jr., Joel; Davis, Larry; Franklin, Kyle; Jenkins, Nygel; Johnson, Chance; Lepperd, Jonathan; Nelson, Spencer*; Reineman, Gage; Ross, David; Shank, Joshua; Stoner, Dalton; Zimmerman, Dale

January
Johnson, Chance*; Marsico, Kobe; Nelson, Spencer; Parks, Morgan; Ross, David; Yeomans, Aaron; Zimmerman, Dale

Red Lion Campus

November
Bush, Dylan; Guthrie, Sydney; Howard, Marlena; Morgan, Kyle; Quattlebaum, Aleesa; Rivera, Magdelena*; Walters, Brandon

December
Gladfelter, Bethany; Guthrie, Sydney; Heidelberg, Tyler; Howard, Marlena; Hudson, Quintin; Pepler, Andrew; Rhoads, Douglas*; Sykes, Elijah; Walters, Brandon; Winond-Druck, Jacob

January
Fry, Shaquill; Grizzelle, Kristoff; Lighty, Jason; Matthew, Zachary*; Rhoads, Douglas

Shiremanstown Campus

November
Bahn, Kody; Ginski, Lucas; Kohr, Austin; Larimer, Brian; Rohrbough, Jordan; Sterner, Joseph; Stock, Jesse; Wicks-Forman, Tasha*

December
Allard, Ryan; Anstead, Ricky; Bahn, Kody; Boyer, Chandran; Cekovic, Ethan; Ginski, Lucas; Kohr, Austin; Miller, Jacoblynn*; Quigley, Brian; Rohrbough, Jordan; Sterner, Joseph; Thomas, Dan; Wicks-Forman, Tasha

Spring Grove Campus

November
Bechtel, Paige; Gareis, Nicholas; Gimbel, Brandon; Hamilton, Mollie; Leppo, Joshua; Ness, Dylan; Queene, Alex; Sentz, Dustin; Spangler, Madison; Strausbaugh, Nicholas; Taylor, Richard; Teal, Catherine; Tomas, Jason*; Tucker, Michael; West Jr., Richard

December
Bechtel, Paige; Bolinsky, Brenden*; Collins, Shoneci; Garman, Jonathan; Gentzler, Brittany; Gimbel, Brandon; Johnson, Coby; Leppo, Joshua; Moody, Justin; Mundy III, Harry; Queene, Alex; Rexroth, Joshua; Standridge, Dylan; West Jr., Richard

January
Baum, Zachary; Bechtel, Paige; Gentzler, Brittany; Leppo, Joshua*; Moody, Justin; Mundy III, Harry; Ness, Dylan; Queene, Alex; Taylor, Kaylee; Wagner, Dakota; West Jr., Richard

West Perry Campus

November
Lantz, Cody; McKeenan, Michael; Mutzabaugh, Tristan; Nastelli, Tristan; Rigglemann, Michael*; Riley, James; Shanafelter, Quintin; Smith, Jason

December
Cleland, Tyler; Evans, Mason; Donald; Gordon, Trey; Keefer, Derek; Kenny, Joseph; Lantz, Cody; Libby, Calie*; Mutzabaugh, Tristan Cage

January
Groce, Zachary*; McKeenan, Michael; Mills, Dakota
School district representatives and other guests attended an Open House at the Shiremanstown Campus in November where they enjoyed a delicious lunch and received a tour from students. Ieisha Hughes, Dan Thomas and Tasha Wicks-Forman did a wonderful job guiding guests and highlighting their school. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Shiremanstown Open House

Quilt of Wishes

West Perry Campus students took part in a meaningful project in December that helped them think outside of themselves and their own material Christmas wishes. Organized by Counselor Melissa Shepps, every student and staff member decorated a cloth patch depicting what they wished was different about the world.

Mrs. Shepps jokes that while she and her husband, who sewed the patches into a quilt, are not professional seamstresses, completing an exemplary project was not the goal. Instead, it was to get the entire campus involved in a fun project that had everyone thinking of others.

Seeing how some students were able to think about their own difficult situations and apply them to the world around them was fascinating. One student whose family is struggling due to unemployment decorated his patch with the words ‘more jobs.’ Still another student whose initial thought was to wish for ‘new sneakers’ changed his wish to ‘friendship’ after commenting, “Oh yeah. It’s not always about me.”

Completing the quilt and seeing it hang in her office is rewarding for Mrs. Shepps. She shares, “I get excited when I see kids stop and look at the quilt. It is fun to look at each patch individually, but then step back and look at the quilt as a whole. It just goes to show that we each have our own individual thoughts, hopes, feelings and wishes but we are also connected to each other in some way and have things in common with those around us.”

Once you choose hope, anything’s possible.

Christopher Reeve
Students Appreciate Local History

A group of Hellam Campus students being rewarded for displaying high levels of patriotism recently took a trip to the Prospect Hill Cemetery. In existence since 1849, Prospect Hill is the final resting place for some veterans from every war in which America has fought.

Jack Sommer, general manager of the cemetery, gave students a tour, showed them the memorials from different wars and helped them appreciate how the grounds are a home of special remembrance for our nation and our community.

One such memorial viewed by students is the Court of Valor Monument that is dedicated to local veterans who have received valor medals acknowledging brave and heroic actions while serving the United States. Topping the monument, which displays a large American flag, is a 3,000 pound piece of steel from the World Trade Center.

Students saw pictures of the thousands of flags that Prospect Hill has displayed for a number of years each spring. The flags represented were in honor of every American soldier’s life lost while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Trip organizer and Behavior Manager Karl Munscher found this trip to be a great experience. He said, “I can not fully express how special this trip was for our students. They truly understood and respected how many lives are touched by war and how much effort it takes to honor soldiers in the way they deserve.”

Coroner Shares Impactful Information

River Rock Academy would like to thank York County Coroner Barry Bloss who gave of his time by sharing a powerful message with students at Day Treatment, Hellam, Red Lion and Spring Grove Campuses. As a York City Police Officer for 26 years and the Coroner for the past 13 years, Mr. Bloss has seen a lot of unfortunate and tragic circumstances.

By telling stories of teenagers who died from alcohol and drug abuse, negative relationships, gang activity, suicide and car accidents, Mr. Bloss made a strong impact on students. Helping them understand that things like this happen all too often in our own community to kids just like them was very eye opening.

Todd Roberts, Hellam Campus Social Skills/Life Skills Teacher, appreciated the honest approach Mr. Bloss gave students. He said, “Students really listened to him and asked a lot of good questions because of the things he has seen first hand. By sharing that he has actually seen teenagers who died from mixing alcohol and drugs and witnessed the damaging effects on the inside of a brain from marijuana use, his stories were more ‘real’ for students.”

A program titled PLADD, People Learning About Destructive Decisions, where students can keep learning by playing interactive games and reading stories was given to each campus. By dispelling myths and giving realistic facts, the program helps dissolve the attitude some students display of thinking they know all the answers about addictive substances and relationships.

Mr. Bloss also inspired students by sharing his background of growing up poor in York and how far he has come. When he was young, he never envisioned himself holding the elected position of York County Coroner. At the Red Lion campus he shared, “You can be anything you want to be. Work hard, do the right things and don’t ever give up.”

Carlisle Campus students visited the South Middleton Fire Company where they received a tour and did team building exercises. As part of the experience, they had the opportunity to work directly with various types of firefighting equipment.
Announcing the
River Rock Reaches Out 5K and Fun Run

River Rock staff and students have been participating in various 5K races throughout the region for years. So when a group of students approached Jennifer Long, Carlisle Campus Counselor, and asked why River Rock didn’t do its own 5K, a seed was planted.

Ms. Long looked further into what it would take to put together such an event and approached the administrative staff that fully supported the idea. After much planning, we are pleased to announce the first River Rock Reaches Out 5K and Fun Run on April 2nd at John Rudy Park. Individuals of any age can sign up for the 5K and teams consisting of one adult and one child age 10 and under can take part in the Fun Run.

The cost to enter the 5K is $20 if registered prior to March 19th and $25 after that date. Prizes will be awarded in numerous age categories. The Fun Run is $15 per team and all children will receive a prize.

Ms. Long is working hard with Matt Macaluso, Red Lion Campus Behavior Manager, and Jordan Rickert, Spring Grove Counselor, to prepare for the event. They are actively recruiting staff and students to volunteer as well as securing local sponsors. Ms. Long is very excited about the progress of the event and said, “I feel 100% positive that it will be a success especially because I already have so much support from River Rock staff and students.”

Reaching out to others in the community is very important to River Rock which is why all of the money collected for the race will be given to Olivia’s House. Located in York, Olivia’s House is a grief and loss center for children that provides no-cost services to families in York County and the surrounding communities.

Founded by Bereavement Specialist Leslie Delp to help children and their families during the difficult time following the death of a loved one, Olivia’s House has a very soothing, caring and well-designed atmosphere. A visitor instantly sees and feels how much effort and thought has been made to ensure a comfortable setting for those they serve.

On her feelings about the upcoming event, Ms. Delp shares, “Olivia’s House is built and sustained by the community and River Rock Academy is a wonderful example of our community doing their best work to support the children.”

For more information or to register for the 5K or Fun Run, contact Jennifer Long at jlong@riverrockacademy.net or 717-324-2889.

Coach of the Year

The York Daily Record recently named Jen Reichard 2010 Division II Girls Volleyball Coach of the Year. Ms. Reichard is a Counselor at the Hellam Campus and the Head Volleyball Coach in the Eastern York School District. Her team finished tied for second in Division II this past season and earned a spot in the YAIAA tournament. A highlight of the season was the upset of Division II champion Susquehannock.

Ms. Reichard is a leader and dedicated member of the River Rock Academy family. Congratulations on this well deserved honor!
Three basic behavioral norms that are the foundation of River Rock Academy are:

- No student has the right to hurt, intimidate, or ridicule another student.
- Education and the classroom are sacred.
- Our school is sacred and we will always protect its property and belongings.

November/December/January 2011

Campus Happenings

Carlisle Campus students and staff volunteered at the NHS Autism School’s Christmas party

Students from Day Treatment expressed concern for the environment by picking up litter in Manheim

Staff and students enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving feast prepared with care by everyone at the Hellam Campus

Newville Campus students toured the First Capital Federal Credit Union in York that was designed to be ‘green’ with recycled building materials and other earth friendly designs

At Penn State York, students from the Red Lion Campus we able to attend class, receive tours and ask questions about the possibility of furthering their education

Shiremanstown Campus students had fun demonstrating pride in their school during Spirit Week

Spring Grove students took part in a team building activity during class

At Caitlin’s Smiles, West Perry students sorted and assembled craft kits to be distributed to hospitals throughout the state