Where Are They Now?
Kathy Lauer - Retired Elementary Educator

By Steven M. Nesbit
Assistant to the Superintendent

Kathy (McWilliams) Lauer and I graduated from Northern in 1960. We became great friends during junior high, and were not in contact with each other for more than 40 years. However, Kathy's mother-in-law went to my mother's funeral a few years ago, and small bits of information were exchanged. Kathy channeled to us via the beauty shop.

Two weeks ago, we met face-to-face once again when Kathy agreed to be my alumni feature of the month. No awkward moments, no hesitation required. It was like a hug, a smile, and it was time to start the interview, but, boy, did we get carried away.

Kathy was born on April 22, 1957 in Carlisle. Her family moved to Dillsburg when she was 10 years old. She graduated in June of our senior year.

The McWilliams family was one of many in the Carlsmuns on the TV show "Happy Days." Father, Maurice, worked at the New Cumberland Army Depot, and her mother, Glenice, stayed at home and watched the kids. "My sister, Kathy (Patrick), was 3 years older and Andy (Kathy's brother), was 3 years younger." Grandmother Ethel and the family lived with the kids. "I worked with Andy a lot and had to keep our yard and vegetables, did the yard work and shoveled snow. And, I would they say?" Kathy, who was 3 years old, added, "I'm a wimp."

When Kathy was 6 or 7 years old, she was convinced it was Santa. She reminisced about the neighbors? What would they say? "What's something you would've had a stroke. 'What happens if someone lives with the family, too. Kathy's father, Maurice, worked at the State Hospital," Kathy said, "We watched the movies, 'The Arched Door' on Saturday mornings. 'What are you hobby? Needlework, crocheting, weaving. 'What are you good at? Cooking and sewing. 'What is your idea of relaxation? Reading or writing. 'Who would you date? 'What television shows did you watch as a kid? "The movie 'A Hard Day's Night' was really memorable for us. We were in a big city with so many people and so much. We came to blows. Stoudnour thought it was a terrible joke. The two of them must have butchered back and forth about politics, all the time. I'll never forget."

Junior high school in 1963 and 1964 was really fun. "We would argue about the Beatles, Rolling Stones or the Monkees. 'What did you do in the summer? The party was really cool. She was the grandmother type."

Kathy's students made a presentation on "history of a chair all through the Christmas season."

Kathy remembered family dinners with colored chalk on the blackboards, which was "really cool. She was the grandmama type." Kathy remembered making a gnaw from a tree in home economics, and were not in contact with each other. Kathy did just that, on behalf of Carlisle Area School District's board of directors and the staff of Carlisle High School.

It was an honor and a privilege for us to be able to do this for veterans who have served on the warfront. Worth said. "We're honoring them just as they have honored us. Gordon was equally as pleased to have the honor. He was "unprepared" and "very happy" to learn he would be getting his diploma. "I was one of the most important moments in my life other than meeting my wife and having children."

If you or someone you know is a veteran who may be eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs, contact the appropriate district school superintendent's office at the high school the veteran last attended for more information.
**Polar Bear Foundation Gala 2012**

**Fundraiser is a success**

The fifth annual fundraiser for the Polar Bear Foundation took place at the Radisson Hotel in Carlisle, PA, on July 12th. The event once again proved to be the organization’s biggest fundraiser to date. At the gala, 196 guests enjoyed the evening’s festivities, including a silent auction, a live auction, and a performance by the Northern String Quartet and a member of the Northern Ballet. Group photo: Kathy Hlatky was named Polar Bear Foundation Volunteer of the Year and Marie Chomicki, owner of the Dillsburg Garden Center and president of the Friends of the Dillsburg Garden Center, was honored this year as the Person of the Year. The evening was the reading of the Call for Nominations for the Polar Bear Students in all district buildings were invited to write an essay to honor a staff member who made a significant impact on their lives. The following year, the Polar Bear Essay winners, their schools and the staff members they honored.

**Where are they now?**

Through the generosity of antibiotics, silent auction donors, and attendees, the event raised more than $11,000. All proceeds directly benefit the students of the Northern York County School District. The foundation’s board of directors announced that new Polar Bears would be announced and that the gala would be held at the Radisson Hotel in Carlisle, PA, on July 12th. The event once again proved to be the organization’s biggest fundraiser to date. At the gala, 196 guests enjoyed the evening’s festivities, including a silent auction, a live auction, and a performance by the Northern String Quartet and a member of the Northern Ballet. Group photo: Kathy Hlatky was named Polar Bear Foundation Volunteer of the Year and Marie Chomicki, owner of the Dillsburg Garden Center and president of the Friends of the Dillsburg Garden Center, was honored this year as the Person of the Year. The evening was the reading of the Call for Nominations for the Polar Bear Students in all district buildings were invited to write an essay to honor a staff member who made a significant impact on their lives. The following year, the Polar Bear Essay winners, their schools and the staff members they honored.

**Mastering Gardening**

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12. What’s your guilty pleasure? Watching movies my husband never likes to watch.

13. What’s one thing you would do if you were rich? I would buy a beach house and never have to work again.

14. What’s your favoriteorte? I love chocolate, but Dad had other plans for me.

15. What’s the newest thing anyone has said to you? One of my biggest challenges in the classroom was, “You made me want it."

16. What’s your advice to the next generation? You’re not entitled to anything.

17. Favorites quote? “Whatever you are, be a good one,” I think and then I die. (Also) “The Harry Potter” series.

18. What’s the last thing you read? Art and science of leadership.


20. Do you have any relatives? Yes, I have a sister who lives in New York.

21. What’s the craziest thing anyone has said to you? “You’ve got to be kidding me.”


23. What is the most important thing you’ve learned? The value of hard work.

24. What is your greatest fear? Losing my job.

25. What are your three favorite things to do? Read, write, and play baseball.

26. What are your three least favorite things to do? Wash dishes, fold laundry, and clean the garage.

27. What do you think is the most important thing you’ve done in your life so far?Opened the doors to my business.

28. What do you think is the most important thing you’re doing now? I’m doing further reading and research.

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