

# Southeast Delco School District

## Board & Community Update

### *Boardroom Art*

Throughout the school year, the boardroom at the Education Services Center is resplendent with artwork created by our talented students. District art teachers, Alyssa Brown, Melody Brown - Carey, Tara Chambers, Christine Hall, Amber Hiltner, Christine Sorton, and Christopher Sweeney provide instruction to their students and encouragement to express themselves through art. The teachers use the students' work to create wonderful art shows that are enjoyed by district staff and members of the school community.



Each of the four grades 1 – 8 schools provide artwork for a group show in the fall and spring. Students attending the Kindergarten Center provided a wonderful holiday display in December that celebrated a variety of cultural traditions they have studied in class. Currently, artwork from district high school students is on display. Their work illustrates both their talent and potential.

District residents are welcome to visit and view the art shows at the Education Services Center located at 1560 Delmar Drive in Folcroft. Please call 610-522-4300, extension 5328 in advance of your visit to ensure access to the boardroom.

### *Student Data and Assessment*



District administrators have been busy completing the necessary ground work to bring Assessment Builder and Performance Tracker into the district. On the Performance Tracker side, the district has been setting up frameworks to house assessment data on every district student. Work has also been done within our student information system to ensure that all student data is up-to-date. The addition of Performance Tracker will allow teachers to easily view and analyze each piece of assessment data we have on students. This includes scores for PSSA, DIBELS, 4Sight, STAR, and Study Island data.

On Assessment Builder, teachers and administrators are working to make sure our assessments in the four major areas (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) are aligned to the Common Core Standards. They are also working to ensure there is high rigor in the type of questions we are asking students. The addition of the Assessment Builder program will allow greater control over the types of assessments administered and the data derived from them.

### *Teacher Observations*

District administrators are continuing to expand the use of the iObservation system for classroom walkthroughs. To date, district administrators have completed over 900 classroom walkthroughs.

The purpose of a walkthrough is to provide real-time feedback to teachers on their practices in the classroom. Teachers are free to respond to feedback, creating an on-going professional dialogue between educators. The goal for building administrators is to be in classrooms on a daily basis, helping teachers provide the best instruction possible for students.



### *Science Fair*

The District Science Fair coordinators, science teachers Rachael Kelly and Carl Breithaupt, met with Elementary Teaching and Learning Director, Dr. Monica Watson to plan for this year's Elementary Science Fair to be held in May. All participating students in the finals will be rewarded for their efforts with a field trip to the Franklin Institute.

### *Reading Olympics*

Middle school students are being prepared to enter their first Reading Olympics. Students in grades 6 – 8 are reading between 8 and 10 books for competition with numerous county schools at the beginning of May.

### *Pre-K to Kindergarten*

A meeting was held at the Kindergarten Center to plan for students who will transition from pre-K to Kindergarten in September 2013. Dr. Watson, Mrs. Thomas, Interim Principal at the Kindergarten Center, Nicole Barrella reading interventionist, and Geralynn Mundondo of Today's Child Learning Centers were in attendance. As a result of the meeting, a Kindergarten Center Open House is scheduled for parents and children from Today's Child Learning Centers, Head Start, and A Child's Nest on March 6<sup>th</sup> to familiarize our future youngest students and their parents with the Kindergarten Center.

### *Math and Science Partnership Grant*

Academy Park High School Principal Dr. Small and Dr. Watson attended a meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit regarding the district's participation in a county-wide Math and Science Partnership Grant. The purpose of the grant is to support increased academic achievement for students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and the teaching skills of classroom teachers.



## *Professional Development*

Ten district elementary teachers met with Charlene Schmidt and Lisa Bruder of Houghton-Harcourt for training on the first of two series to be piloted in district schools. Teachers will pilot *Journeys* and *Reading Street* for six weeks and determine which of the two Common Core Series is best suited for our students in grades K - 5 for the coming school year.

Middle school English Language Arts teachers will be working with Jody Pittock on their Literacy Design Collaborative training. This process evolves from the Common Core and helps teachers to embed more argumentative writing into their curriculum. Social Studies teachers will receive the same training in the spring.

## *Future Board Meetings*

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, January 17, 2013	6:00 PM	ESC
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, January 24, 2013	7:00 PM	ESC

## *School Events*

- Kindergarten Center - Parent Council – Dad’s Matter – January 15<sup>th</sup> – 8:20 AM
- ***Martin Luther King Holiday – No School for Students and Staff – January 21<sup>st</sup>***
- ***APHS - Semester Final Exams – Early Dismissal – January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM***
- ***APHS – Semester Final Makeup Day – Early Dismissal – January 25<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM***
- ***Kindergarten Center – Report Cards / Parent Conferences – Early Dismissal – January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup> – 12:45 PM***
- ***APHS – Professional Development for Staff – Early Dismissal for Students – February 6<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM***
- ***DTS, Delcroft, Harris, Sharon Hill Schools, and Kindergarten Center – Professional Development for Staff – Early Dismissal for Students – February 6<sup>th</sup> – 12:45 AM***
- ***District-wide - Professional Development for Staff – No School for Students – February 15<sup>th</sup>***
- ***Presidents’ Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff – February 18<sup>th</sup>***