

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Southeast Delco Presents "Disney's Beauty and the Beast"

Tickets are now on sale for the 38th Annual District Musical production of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast." Academy Park health and physical education teacher and district musical director Christine D'Annibale states, "Disney's Beauty and the Beast is a "Tale as Old as Time". This is the story of a handsome prince who is transformed into a hideous beast as punishment for his selfish actions. To become human again, the Beast must earn the love of a beautiful young woman that he imprisons in his castle, or remain a beast forever. This production has beautiful costumes and sets and wonderful music, dancing, and acting. You will leave believing that beauty truly comes from within and redemption is possible for even the most beastly person!"



Performances of Disney's Beauty and the Beast will be on Saturday, April 27th, Sunday, April 28th, Friday, May 3rd, Saturday, May 4rd, and Sunday, May 5th. Friday and Saturday evening shows are at 7:30 PM and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 PM. Advance tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students / children. The Sunday matinee shows are \$6 for children 12 and under.

Tickets at the door for all shows are \$10. We will also be having a "Tea" with Belle and Mrs. Potts before the Sunday matinees. The "Tea" and show ticket for children 12 years of age and under are \$10. To order tickets, please go to sedelcomusical.com.

Please support these talented, hard-working students with your presence and your applause.

Gifted Students Accept SeaPerch Challenge

The middle school gifted students are participating in The Greater Philadelphia SeaPerch Challenge on Friday, April 26th at Drexel University. Students will compete in an underwater robotics competition against thirty-one other teams from the area. The goal of the SeaPerch program is to increase student interest in robotics, science, mathematics, engineering, and technology and to introduce students to naval engineering.

This program has provided students with an opportunity to design and build a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). They will also convey engineering ideas, market their ROV, demonstrate their ability to maintain organization by documenting this experience in a notebook, and recognize and encourage better solutions in the area of engineering. These students have gained an overall understanding of the engineering process and its guiding principles. Soon, they will use their expertise and apply their know-how to the simulation task given to them at the competition. Go Robo Pirates!



Academy Park Omega Knights Family Fun Day

Academy Park's Omega Knights will host the 3rd Annual "Giving Back" Family Fun Day and Talent Showcase on Saturday, May 11th at 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission to the event will be a cash donation at the gate or aluminum tabs from soda cans and all proceeds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum tabs is one of many fundraising campaigns by the Omega Knights that benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Food, games, face painting, raffles, and live entertainment will be available. The Omega Knights are hosting this event to not only raise money for the Ronald McDonald House, but to have fun and bring staff, students, and residents together as a community. Please come out and support the generosity and community spirit of these very special Academy Park students.

District Family Literacy Night

We invite all parents and students in grades K - 8 to participate in our Annual District Family Literacy Night. Our theme this year is *Reading Around the World: Passports to Literacy!* The event will be held at Delcroft School on May 14th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Dinner will be followed by a special guest, Story Teller Vicki Town from Virginia. Our teachers will be telling folktales from a variety of countries from which students and parents can select to attend. After students have had their "passport" stamped for visiting at least two countries they may select a free book to take home. Please mark your calendars and come out for a lovely evening!



National Poetry Month

To celebrate National Poetry Month district Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students will participate in Poetry in Your Pocket Day on April 18th. Hoping to spark a love of poetry in our youngest students, they will wear a pocket necklace containing a special poem that they will read to each other and to anyone in the school who sees them during the day.

Reading Olympics

Our eleven elementary-middle school teams are preparing for competition at Haverford High School on April 29th and May 1st. The students will participate in a mock competition at Darby Township on April 19th, where they will answer questions about the 45 books they have read. We wish them luck!

New Benchmark Tests

Several teachers are working with Dr. Watson to create Common Core Aligned Benchmark testing in math and reading in grades 3 - 8 for the coming school year. This will eliminate the 4Sight Benchmarks that the district has been administering in the past to gauge student readiness for the state testing.



Music K-12 Meeting

District music teachers met recently to discuss their spring show repertoires and their plans to strengthen the music programs across the district. Concert Dates are on the website and are listed on this Update.

Literacy Design Collaborative

Teachers in our middle schools are working with Jody Pittock of REACH Associates to develop teaching modules based on the tenets of Common Core. The literacy design collaborative assists teachers in embedding process writing—mainly argumentative and informative styles—into their content lesson plans.

Reading Interventions

We have been successfully piloting the Leveled Literacy Initiative to support struggling readers in grades K - 2 and plan to take this program through grades 3 and 4 in the coming school year. Recently two Delcrott teachers, Megan Gordon and Lisa McDonough, piloted Pearson's Successmaker, an online program of reading / math support.

New Teacher Induction

As a part of their induction activities, teachers new to the district this school year received professional development on the use of technology in the classroom.

Veteran teachers, Erika Llewellyn, Carolyn Karcher, and Laura Caracappa presented on Discovery Ed, a streaming video program, *Socrative*, a program to record answers during class in real time, and *Storybird*, which supports story creation.

Technology and Students



The district is continuing to expand and update technology available to students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. This year we have added two carts of iPads to schools in an effort to help younger students acquire reading and math skills.

We are adding another two carts of iPads to help students in the middle and upper grades with remediation and with creating projects with this new equipment. We are also adding carts of laptops to each school so students have all the access they need to utilize technology.

As we expand the technology commitment in the elementary /middle schools, we will take the existing equipment and reallocate them to areas that need them. We will be following a similar process for the high school once the renovation is complete.

Reading and Math Pilots

Teachers in K-5 have begun to pilot the second core series from Pearson: Reading Street. Teachers will convene in May to share data and information about their piloting experience and select a new

Common Core Reading Series for use in grades K-5. New reading curriculum will be written over the summer for the coming school year.

Five teachers in our middle school are piloting a new Common Core series: Holt McDougall. They will then decide in May whether to keep the Pearson Connected Math or move to the new Holt McDougall series. New middle school math / Algebra I curriculum will be written over the summer for the coming school year.

Federal Programs Review

The district is preparing for a federal programs visit, which is scheduled for next week. A monitor from the Pennsylvania Department of Education will visit the district for three days looking at documentation and talking with students, parents, and staff. Federal program funds consist of Title I, II, and III monies that pay for staff to provide either intervention services or classroom reduction. At the end of the visit the monitor will make recommendations to make the program stronger, which will most likely be put into effect for the 2013-2014 school year.

PSERS Update

Several members of the Board of School Directors have asked administration about changes made to the state retirement system in July 2011. Act 120 of 2011 generated several revisions to the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). The revision that has garnered the most reorganization was the addition of two new classes of employees. This change is intended to have the greatest impact on the benefits received by employees and it has the greatest potential to slow down the raising costs of the retirement system.



The new classes of employees are for those people who join PSERS on or after July 1, 2011. Prior to Act 120 there were four classes of employees in PSERS: classes T-A, T-B, T-C and T-D, with the greatest number of active employees in class T-D. Class T-D was created in July 2001 with the passage of Act 9 of 2001.

The new classes, T-E or T-F, have changed a number of features for those employees who are enrolling in PSERS on or after July 1, 2011. Employees in class T-E or T-F will now have a ten year vesting period rather than the five year vesting period for those in class T-C or T-D. Superannuation for those in T-E or T-F changed as well. Instead of three ways, there are now two ways to reach that level. Those new methods are, at age 65 with 3 years of service or a combination of age and service that is equal to 92 with a minimum of 35 years of service.

Act 120 incorporated the concept of "shared risk" between the employee and the retirement system. "Shared risk" means that PSERS will set the employee contribution rate for the T-E and T-F classes based on performance of the investments.

By default a new employee is enrolled in class T-E but they can elect to move into the T-F class. This election is done because the new law mandates that a new enrollee into PSERS has forty-five days to choose between remaining in the T-E class or moving up to the T-F class. The law does not allow an employee to change classes once the forty-five day election period ends.

Those employees who remain in class T-E will see their employee contribution rate range between 7.5% and 9.5% based on “shared risk”. Those employees who elect to be in class T-F will contribute between 10.3% and 12.3%. Those employees who remain in the T-E class will have a pension multiplier of 2% and those employees who elect the T-F class will have the pension multiplier of 2.5%. These are the major changes to the employee’s benefits through PSERS.

The impact of these changes to PSERS is designed to be a long-term solution to the increasing costs of the retirement system. It will be a number of years before PSERS sees a savings from these changes but the actuarial projections indicate that savings will be generated.

Future Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, April 18, 2013	6:00 PM	ESC
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, April 25, 2013	7:00 PM	ESC
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, May 16, 2013	6:00 PM	ESC
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, May 23, 2013	7:00 PM	ESC

School Events

- *PSSA Reading and Math – Grades 3 – 8 – April 8th – 12th*
- *Autistic Awareness Night – APHS – Thursday, April 16th – 6:00 PM*
- *Poem in Your Pocket Day – Grades K – 2 – April 18th*
- *Kindergarten Family Night – Reading Is Fun – Thursday, April 18th – 6:30 PM*
- *Junior Prom – Lazaretto Ballroom – Friday, April 19th – 7:00 PM*
- *PSSA Science – Grades 4 & 8 – April 23rd – 25th*
- *District Musical – Beauty and the Beast – APHS – Saturday, April 27th – 7:30 PM*
- *District Musical – Beauty and the Beast – APHS – Sunday, April 28th – 2:00 PM*
- *Reading Olympics – Grades 4 & 5 – Marple Newtown Middle School – Monday, April 29th*
- *Spring Concert and Art Show – Delcroft School - Thursday, May 2th – 6:30 PM*
- *District Musical – Beauty and the Beast – APHS – Friday, May 3rd – 7:30 PM*
- *District Musical – Beauty and the Beast – APHS – Saturday, May 4th – 7:30 PM*
- *District Musical – Beauty and the Beast – APHS – Sunday, May 5th – 2:00 PM*
- *Spring Concert – Harris School – Thursday, May 9th – 7:00 PM*
- *Freshman Fun Day – APHS – Friday, May 10th*
- *Family Fun Day – APHS – Saturday, May 11th – 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM*
- *District Family Literacy Night – Delcroft School – May 14th – 6:00 PM*
- *Kindergarten Parent Council – Transition to 1st Grade – Tuesday, May 14th – 6:30 PM*

- *Spring Concert – Darby Township School – Wednesday, May 15th – 7:00 PM*
- *Blood Drive – APHS – Thursday, May 16th*
- *Spring Concert – Sharon Hill School – Tuesday, May 21st – 6:00 PM*
- *Spring Concert – APHS – Wednesday, May 22nd – 7:00 PM*
- *District Junior Science Fair – Grades 4 & 5 – Thursday, May 30th – 8:00 AM*
- *Senior Prom – Kings Mill – Friday, May 31st – 7:00 PM*