

# Southeast Delco School District

## *Board & Community Update*

### *Assessing Student Achievement*

Southeast Delco is implementing a new assessment initiative this year with help from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. During the 2016 / 2017 school year, students in grades 4 and 8, and students taking Algebra I at the high school, will be utilizing the state's Classroom Diagnostic Tests (CDTs).

The CDTs are aligned to the PSSA and Keystone Assessments administered during the school year.

The tests are taken online and the results are available immediately for review by both the student and the teacher. It is the hope that with greater alignment to state assessments and the immediate availability of data, classroom instruction can be tailored to give students the greatest chance of proficiency on state assessments.



### *Literacy Changes Lives*

The Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA) hosts an annual conference focused on providing opportunities and resources to make literacy available for all. This year, the theme of the KSRA conference is "Literacy Changes Lives," and four interventionists from the Southeast Delco School District will be among the presenters. Nicole Bourque, Beth DeStephanis, Cindy Silverthorn, and Heather Thomas will present a session entitled, "Living Large with Literacy."



The objective of this presentation is to share inexpensive and realistic ways to improve or expand literacy support within a school or district with limited staff and financial resources. The team will discuss how blending the roles of reading specialist, reading coach, and reading interventionist into one position has enabled the district to continue to improve the instructional outcomes for students.

Interventionists will share how they have initiated and expanded several positive, student reading programs, including: Literacy Night, Poetry-in-your-Pocket Day, Poetry Slam, Read Across America, Read-Ins, Fun Fridays, Rocky's Reading Challenge, Book It!, and Reading Olympics. The team will present its Literacy Blog, which contains reading strategies, websites, and games that help parents and teachers support students' reading skills.

They will also discuss Parent Connection nights, teacher Book Club, English / Language Arts, and Professional Learning Communities, and how they enhance and support student learning. Additionally, the team will provide insight into getting the most out of programs such as Donors Choose, which allows teachers to crowdfund for educational projects and support classroom instruction.

The district is pleased to be able to share these four excellent educators with KSRA and eagerly anticipate the insights and ideas they will bring back to our schools.

### *Bond Refinance*

At the September 15<sup>th</sup> committee of the whole meeting, the district's financial advisor, Brad Remig discussed an opportunity to refinance two of the district's current bonds. Refinancing of these bonds will produce significant savings over the life of the bonds. At the October 20<sup>th</sup> committee of the whole meeting the board will be asked to consider who the district will choose as the bond underwriter.

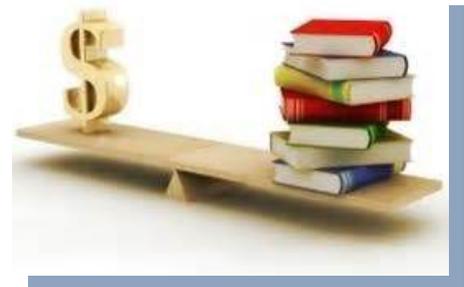
In order to move forward with the bond refinance a bond underwriter will need to be selected. Administration has met with two bond underwriting firms and information on both firms will be discussed at the meeting.

### *Yearly Audit*

The local audit for the 2015 / 2016 year will begin on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Pam Baker from the auditing firm of Barbacane, Thornton & Company will be at the October committee of the whole meeting to present the audit plan. This will be the first year that the local auditors will present at both the beginning and end of the audit.

### *2017 / 2018 Budget*

The administration will soon begin preparation of the 2017 / 2018 General Fund Budget. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has calculated the index for fiscal year 2017 / 2018. The base index is 2.5% and the adjusted index for Southeast Delco is 3.7%.



### *Staffing*

With support from the entire district, human resources has worked very hard over the summer months to successfully transition over 25 separations (retirement / resignations / transfers) into newly appointed employees of the Southeast Delco School District. However, there are a few more specialized, historically difficult positions to fill; predominantly at the secondary level.

The district's continuing challenge is finding creative ways to remain competitive in a shrinking applicant market as it relates to talent acquisition and retention. To that end, we are working with community partners at every level to develop solutions to our shared staffing challenges. Available positions can be found on our website, as well as other media resources.

## *CVS/Caremark*

The change from Express Scripts to CVS / Caremark has been a smooth transition. To our knowledge, all employees have received their cards and are using their benefits without issue and no significant challenges have been reported to human resources.



## *Wellness Committee*

During the first week of October, Rite Aid Pharmacy traveled throughout the district administering flu shots to faculty and staff. Email notifications were sent by human resources to all employees on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, as well as paper notifications the week of August 29<sup>th</sup>. This year, 126 employees received the shot beating last year's total of 114 participants.

## *Collingdale Community Center*

The district is working on occupying the newly leased Collingdale Community Center. Final preparations are being made to classrooms to get them ready for students enrolled in the district's Alternative Education, Independent Study, and Cyber Programs. These preparations include food services, transportation, nursing, and technology.

The district believes that the acquisition of the building and the movement of these programs will allow for increased opportunities for all district students and staff. The targeted date for students to begin attending classes at Collingdale Community Center is Monday, November 7, 2016. We will keep you informed of any additional details as they arise.

## *Cadets from Southeast Delco Make History*

Southeast Delco student members of the Cadets of the Pennsylvania Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps participated in the Commissioning of Naval Ship USS John P. Murtha LPD 26 on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. The full story, along with photos of the event, will be included in the November district newsletter.



## *Future Board Meetings*

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, October 20, 2016	6:00 PM
DCCC Board Appreciation Dinner	Wednesday, October 26, 2016	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, October 27, 2016	7:00 PM
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, November 10, 2016	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Wednesday, November 16, 2016	7:00 PM

## *School Events*

- Academy Park High School Fall Play – October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7 PM
- APHS Field Hockey Alumni Game – Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10 AM – Knight Field

- Junior Class Ring Ceremony – Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – 6 PM
- Family Math Night – Grades K – 8 Families – Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5:30 – 7:30 PM – Sharon Hill School
- ***Teacher In-service – District-wide – No School for Students – Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>***
- Parent / Teacher Night Conferences – Grades 9 – 12 – Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>
- Parent / Teacher Afternoon Conferences – Grades K – 8 – Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Parent / Teacher Afternoon & Night Conferences – Grades K – 8 – Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ***Early Dismissal – Grades K – 8 – Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 12:45 PM***
- ***Thanksgiving Holiday – No School for Students – Thursday and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>***
- Board Organization – Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – 6 PM – ESC
- ***Early Dismissal – District-wide – Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM***
- Progress Notices Issued – Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>
- ***Winter Break – Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – No School for Students or Staff***

### ***Winter Concerts***

- Sharon Hill School Winter Concert – Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM – APHS
- Darby Township School Winter Concert – Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM – APHS
- Delcroft School Winter Concert – Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM – APHS
- Harris School Winter Concert – Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM – Harris School
- APHS Knight of the Arts – Concert, Art Show and Fashion Display – Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – 7 PM