

# Southeast Delco School District

## *Board & Community Update*

### *Family Math Night*

Southeast Delco School District held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Math Night on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sharon Hill School. District families were treated to dinner and participated in math games and



activities designed for students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Along with food and entertainment, a raffle was held throughout the evening and nine lucky winners took home exciting math games.

The purpose of Math Night is for families to become familiar with grade-level math standards and to participate in activities that support those standards through mathematical application and problem solving. Students enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with their parents and celebrate their math knowledge. Math Night reinforces the value of family interaction in the learning process and the importance of collaboration between home and school in the development of students' math skills.

### *APHS Football Community – Winners, On and Off the Field*

APHS hosted and defeated Radnor High School by a score of 44-16 in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the district playoffs. As important as winning, if not more so, is how Academy Park presents itself to their opponents and their supporters. Please read the following letter from a Radnor parent praising our students and the Southeast Delco community.

*Good afternoon, Principal Robinson,*

*I just wanted to take a moment to congratulate your school on their victory last night over Radnor and, more importantly, thank you for a wonderful experience.*

*My son graduated from Radnor last year (football player) and yesterday I drove up to get him from college and bring him down just for this game, as it was historic for Radnor to even be in a playoff game. My daughter (a junior at Radnor) also attended. We fully anticipated your team would blow us out and were totally at peace with that - we just wanted to be supportive.*

*What I didn't expect was to leave the game feeling so happy for the other team. From the minute we approached your stadium, your ticket sellers, ticket takers, concession stand workers, students and parents could not have been nicer or more welcoming. I have attended many, many football games in my son's career, and never left a game thinking so highly of the competition's school community.*

*My daughter loves walking around and meeting people, especially through her band friend connections. The first thing she said when we got in our car to go home was, "Wow - the kids from the other school were so nice! I met some of their band members near the snack*

*stand and they were so friendly!" I told her I had been struck as well by how really great the people representing your school were. Even as we were leaving, people were saying thank you for coming. I literally walked out of the stadium with a smile on my face, despite the loss.*

*I don't know if school pride is something that you specifically have been striving to encourage, but it certainly came through at the game last night. You should be so proud of your students and their families.*

*Thank you for a wonderful experience. I will be following Academy Park's team, and wish them and all members of your school community much success and happiness. I hope you have a wonderful school year.*

*Best regards,*

*Radnor Raider Mom*

## ***Employee Assistance Program***

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) estimated that 3 percent of an employer's work force was absent on any given day. The district believes that a portion of these absences can be reduced by providing employees with supports that could proactively address underlying stressors.

To that end, Southeast Delco offers services through the district's EAP + Work / Life Support Program. Employees of Southeast Delco are eligible to receive confidential support for personal & work / life issues at zero cost.

Employees have access to licensed professional counselors that provide confidential, short-term support addressing a wide-range of issues. Counselors may also make referrals for ongoing treatment, if needed.

### ***Personal issues commonly supported by program counselors include:***

- Depression, anxiety or stress
- Marital or family / parenting issues
- Work stress / conflicts
- Anger, grief, loss, or substance abuse

### ***Work / life Issues commonly supported by program specialists include:***

- Legal or financial problems
- Childcare, eldercare, adoption, parenting concerns
- Time management related challenges or relocation support

For help balancing family and work responsibilities, the EAP Work/Life team of specialist will connect employees with resources in their immediate area for expert support. Eligible employees, their spouses, dependent children, parents and parent's in-law can all take advantage of this benefit. Our ongoing challenge is twofold - getting the word out about the EAP Work / Life benefit, and breaking down stereotypes regarding the value of counseling.

## *Special Education Highlights*

The Special Education Childcount is coming and the whole department is working to ensure that all our children are counted. The December 1 count determines the amount of money the district receives for special education.

December will mark the beginning of our state performance plan committee meetings which are part of the Comprehensive Plan review process for Southeast Delco School District. The special education plan review needs to be completed by the end of March 2017 with the completed plan approved by the school board by the end of May 2017. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact Ms. Brown-Flint. We need representatives from all stakeholder groups including teachers, support staff members, administrators, community members, and parents.

## *Life Skills at APHS*

During the months of September and October, the life skills classes worked on the following functional skills:

- Telling time
- Math computation
- Counting money
- Reading comprehension
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Identifying living and non-living things
- Identifying parts of a plant
- Shopping, reading recipes, cleaning, using coupons and cooking

On October 26, 2016, the class visited the Sharon Hill Fire Station No 9. Firefighter Chuck Burke gave the class a lesson on fire safety. As part of the lesson, the class viewed a fire safety video, which was a reenactment of a family that was stuck in a house fire caused by a candle in the bedroom. The following are a few items that Mr. Burke went over with the class:

- Kitchen safety
- Bedroom safety
- Using appliance safety
- The importance of having a house fire plan

## *District Gifted Support Program*

The gifted students acted as Ambassadors of Democracy conducting a mock presidential election. Voting followed the informational PowerPoint that cited factual information on each candidate's stance on the issues important to students today. Results were announced on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> in each school and are as follows: Clinton: 87.6%; Trump: 12.4%.



The gifted students participated in a unit of study focused on biomimicry. In short, scientists and engineers are learning from science / nature and using this genius to make the world a better place. This unit of study culminated with a learning experience focused on natural engineering at Longwood Gardens where students participated in a scavenger hunt and learned about the lotus effect, Velcro and various other popular inventions inspired by nature.

SeaPerch is starting earlier this year and the competition will be held in March, 2017 (date TBD) instead of April. Southeast Delco will be represented by a high school team with a few very capable middle school students taking part as well.

The gifted students will be studying choreographer George Balanchine's work as well as Tchaikovsky's musical score in The Nutcracker ballet and document their findings in the form of writing before attending the final dress rehearsal at the Academy of Music on Friday, December 9, 2016.

Finally, the gifted students will be learning computer coding (programming/development). They will complete 20 hours of course work on code.org and meet once a month with a mentor. The first meeting is scheduled for November 29th and planning is still underway; however, students will work on writing algorithms, developing a website and computer apps.

### *Future Board Meetings*

Board Organization	Monday, December 5, 2016	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, December 22, 2016	7:00 PM

### *School Events*

- 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***
- APHS Keystone Exams – Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>
- ***Martin Luther King Holiday – No School for Students – Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>***
- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Exams – Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>
- End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period – Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>
- Report Cards Issued – Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>
- Academy Park Talent Show – Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM - APHS

### ***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
- Delcrott 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 – Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM