

# Southeast Delco School District Board & Community Update

## *Southeast Delco Expands In-District Services to Special Needs Students*

The first 6 weeks of school have been an exciting time for special education at Southeast Delco. The district's community classroom is up and running with the assistance of students enrolled in the program who helped move in and set up donated furniture and household goods. The students also measured a space for a refrigerator then walked up to Big Don Edwards and purchased their first appliance. The classroom still needs a washing machine, which will be their next big purchase. Several district employees have stepped up and donated the majority of the items needed for the house.



The Community Classroom hosted a Back to School night on October 4<sup>th</sup> and parents were given the opportunity to tour the new facility. Parents received a copy of the curriculum and discussed with faculty the types of support and services that are currently available to students and parents. A significant outcome of the meeting was the plan to form a support group for parents of high school students with disabilities. This support group will provide access to the agencies that are imperative for students to transition into adulthood. Some of the activities that were discussed included cooking with our kids, theme dinners, article and book study, presentations by agencies that support adults with disabilities, and presentations on continuing education that provides training for students with disabilities.



The district is also developing a Parent University. This program will provide training and collaboration for parents to enable them to better support their children in the school environment and at home. The district will offer workshops on *Making the Most of Your Parent Teacher Conference* and *Confident Parenting*. Other activities will include an autism awareness night and "straight talk for parents," which will discuss drugs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and how parents can identify and intervene with children who may be using drugs.

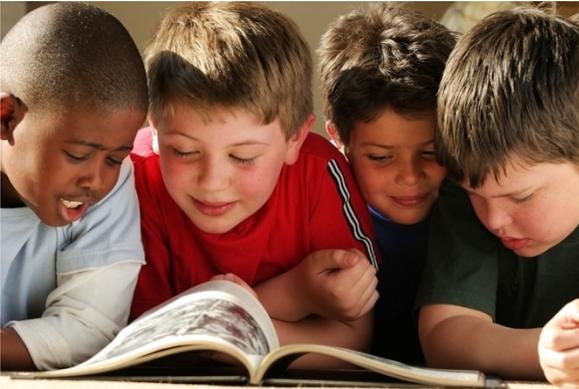
The district opened a fourth autism classroom at Delcroft School. The class is taught by Jen Livingston, a veteran Southeast Delco special education teacher. The district has been fortunate to have established a great relationship with Dr.

Mike Mallee, a leading Delco expert on autism, who is providing on-going support to our autistic support program. Dr. Mallee worked closely with Ms. Livingston to set up her classroom and develop a positive classroom environment. We are very excited to have Ms. Livingston teaching the new class and we anticipate great success.

Dr. Mike Mallee also provided professional development for the district's paraprofessionals on the first full day of professional development for the new school year. Regular education teachers attended an abbreviated presentation by Dr. Mallee on the same day.

### *Common Core Math and Reading*

Grade level teachers have worked over the summer creating math assessments. Each question is tied to a particular standard so that teachers may gauge how well their students learned that particular standard. We are piloting these assessments in the current year.



Teachers in grades K-5 are implementing the new Common Core Math program - *Go Math*. The district is also planning to update our ten year old core reading series in grades K-5 this year. To begin this work, building administrators, reading interventionists, and skilled teachers will attend three vendor presentations of core reading series. Of the three available products, two will be selected and piloted next semester for about six weeks. All participants will then come together to draw comparisons, look at the quantitative

and qualitative data, and choose one of the Common Core Reading series to provide a framework for our literacy block. The district will first look at math and reading in grades K-5 Common Core because PSSA will become Common Core PSSA in 2014 and grades K-5 will need to be ready for those assessments. Middle school Common Core PSSA will be administered a year later.

### *Education Continues for District Educators*

Primary reading interventionists attended DIBELS Next training at Pattan in King of Prussia on September 25<sup>th</sup>. This is the newest version of an assessment that the district will use to monitor student progress in reading success in phonics, phoneme segmentation, fluency, and comprehension in our grades K-3 classes.

District administrators attended the *Common Core for English, Language Arts: Overview and Evaluation of Existing Curriculum* at Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and the *Common Core for Math: Overview and Evaluation of Existing Curriculum* at DCI U on September 24<sup>th</sup>. All of this training supports the district's current work as we make our transition to the Common Core.

Dr. Watson, Director of Teaching and Learning, met with the New Teacher Induction class on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Topics included, *What Makes an Effective Lesson*, the *PA Department of Education Standard Aligned System*, and *Common Core*. The district has 19 new teachers, including four new reading interventionists hired as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant. Six teachers from Today's Child are joining our class of Inductees this year. They will be mentored by district Kindergarten teachers.

On the October 3<sup>rd</sup> half day, Cathy Feldman of REACH, worked with our middle school language arts teachers on the Literacy Design Collaborative. This is a Common Core expectation where teachers will create modules from their existing curriculum, which would be infused with argumentative writing. Mary Quadrini from Holt, trained the middle school math teachers on their new pilot. Also on that day,

teachers discussed data from Benchmark, DIBELS, and GATES and other progress monitoring data to ensure struggling students are placed in appropriate intervention groups.

The district held its first full day of professional development on October 8<sup>th</sup>. In the morning, grades K-5 teachers worked with presenters from Harcourt's *Go Math* program, which gave them an opportunity to view all of the features of the program, including technology. Middle school teachers, worked on their new websites, attended *Responsive Classroom*, and held grade level meetings. The afternoon for all grades K-8 teachers had them return to their schools to their grade level teams to view the new Danielson *Framework and Teacher Effectiveness Online Training* from the PA Department of Education.

District assistant principals met with Dr. Watson on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Topics included: *Working with Difficult People*, and *Problem-Solving Protocol*, which is a process by which principals could share an issue with colleagues and receive support to solve the issue.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Watson and several reading interventionists attended the Delaware Valley Minority Consortium at Penn. The topic was: *How Explicit Thinking Instruction Can Bridge the Achievement Gap and Implement the Common Core Standards*.

### *The Business Side of Education*

The district business office is hard at work on the year-end close of the 2011-2012 financial records. Local auditors will be in the office the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The PA Department of Education recently released the Act 1 index for the 2013-2014 budget year. The base index is 1.7%. The index for Southeast Delco is 2.5%. There was no change from the 2012-2013 index for Southeast Delco.



### *Labor Relations*

The district and the teachers' association have been meeting to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement since January. The existing contract has expired and teachers are currently working under the terms of the expired contract. All parties met again on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in a workshop format to discuss the financial realities of the district, as well as ideas for a salary proposal.

### *Facilities Management, Renovation, and Maintenance*

The Academy Park High School renovation continues with over two thirds of the project complete. The auditorium is scheduled to be available for use by the end of October. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors in the "C" wing are undergoing renovations, which will be completed by December, 2012, with the entire renovation scheduled for completion in the summer of 2013.

Harris School has replaced the asphalt along the southeast side of the building with concrete and extended the work to include a new walkway adjacent to the building and along the front of the building. New curbing and sidewalk have also been installed along the back of the building.

Installation of an additional card reader and security entrance keypad for the Felton Avenue entrance at Harris School is in progress. Some installation information has been requested from the vendor and completion of this installation will require vendor programming.



The installation of cameras at Delcroft is in progress. The physical labor can be accomplished by the district’s maintenance staff but the vendor will be needed for programming the system to include the additional cameras.

A new backflow preventer will be installed in the sprinkler system piping in the sprinkler meter pit in front of Sharon Hill School. The work should begin on November 6, 2012. The new boiler installation is winding down. The boilers, piping, pumps, and expansion tanks have been installed. Some piping support work is continuing and the boiler inspection and startup is scheduled to begin Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

The district maintenance department is participating in the PECO energy conservation rebate program (Act 129). Systems usage was curtailed during specific times indicated by PECO. The final tally has not been completed as yet but it has been indicated that Southeast Delco School District did achieve energy reduction qualifications, which will yield some additional revenue.

### *Future Board Meetings*

Board Meeting	Thursday, October 23, 2012	7:00 PM	ESC
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, November 8, 2012	6:00 PM	ESC
Board Meeting	Thursday, November 15, 2012	7:00 PM	ESC

### *School Events*

- Homecoming – APHS vs. Chichester, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM
- PSSA 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Retests – October 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>
- **Professional Development Day – No School for Students - November 6<sup>th</sup>**
- End of Marking Period 1 – November 9<sup>th</sup>
- Report Cards – November 16<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Teacher Conferences – Report Cards – November 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Thanksgiving Holiday – No School for Students or Staff – November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- District-wide Middle School Science Fair – November 28<sup>th</sup>