

# Southeast Delco School District

## *Board & Community Update*

### *Congratulations Delcroft School*

Delcroft School has been named by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) as a *Title I Reward School* for making *High Progress* in closing the achievement gap in reading and math on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) during the spring 2015 testing. Delcroft School was in the highest five percent of Title I schools in the state to make progress closing the achievement gap for this *Historically Underperforming Student* group (approximately 75% of Delcroft's students).



*Historically Underperforming Students* are defined by PDE as students who have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged, or are English Language Learners and have been enrolled in the district for a full academic year.

The students and staff of Delcroft should be extremely proud of this accomplishment.

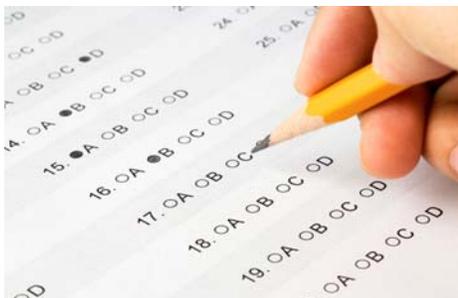
### *Adequate, Equitable and Fair Funding for Pennsylvania Public Schools*

At the March 17<sup>th</sup> board business meeting, the Southeast Delco Board of School Directors voted to approve a resolution submitted by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) supporting school districts serving as plaintiffs in a school funding lawsuit seeking adequate, equitable and fair funding for Pennsylvania public schools.

A copy of the resolution is available on the district website at [www.sedelco.org](http://www.sedelco.org).

### *Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)*

Students in grades 3 through 8 are currently sitting for the 2015 / 2016 school year PSSA. The English Language Arts assessment began on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and testing continued with Mathematics on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Testing will conclude after Science assessments of students in grades 4 and 8 on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.



According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the state “adopted more rigorous PA Core Standards in late 2013 and the 2015 PSSA marks the first time the assessment was fully-aligned to the standards. These new, more rigorous standards aim to better prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century work force”.

We wish all students good luck as they have worked extremely hard preparing for this yearly assessment.

## *National School Boards Association Annual Leadership Conference*

Members of the Southeast Delco Board of School Directors attended the National School Boards Association's annual leadership conference in Boston on April 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>.



The National School Boards Association (NSBA) represents state school boards associations and their more than 90,000 local school board members. NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board governance and works closely with state associations. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for school board members to hone their leadership skills, gain knowledge and develop strategies to help move the district forward.

Educational sessions offered at the conference focused on advocacy; governance and leadership; board / administration partnerships; student achievement; and technology. General session speakers included award-winning broadcast journalist, Dan Rather; co-anchor of ABC's *Good Morning America*, Robin Roberts; and Expert in Residence at Harvard University's Innovation Lab, Tony Wagner. Board members who attended the conference will share what they have learned with administration, as well as their colleagues on the board who did not attend the conference.

### *Data Drives Instruction and Student Achievement*

Data collection and analysis has become an integral part of the operation of the Southeast Delco School District. Information from individual student data to district-wide data that provides feedback on how the district is progressing compared to past years is critical to the district's success. The individual student information that is collected and analyzed includes achievement, attendance, and discipline data. The school or district information that is collected looks at the achievement data of a specific group of students, enrollment projections, and school-wide discipline as it relates to maintaining safe schools.



The district utilizes eSchool database software to house all of its student information. This allows teachers and administrators to have easy, one stop access for information pertaining to the students they serve. Achievement data is stored in a program entitled Performance Tracker. Performance Tracker lists every standardized assessment that a student has taken while in our school system. It also shows a student's schedule and any Benchmark assessments the student has taken. Teachers can also choose to input progress monitoring data that details how a student is progressing towards a particular academic goal. Other student data that is analyzed includes attendance data to ensure students are coming to school and discipline data to manage how students are faring behaviorally while in class and in school.

District-wide data is useful to compare schools and to compare the district to itself by utilizing prior year's data. Proficiency data for schools and across grade levels allows us to identify where best practices are resulting in high student achievement and to share those practices with teachers in other buildings. Comparing current year data to previous year's data allows the district to project where specific data points will be at the end of the year, providing an early look at improvement or providing the time needed to make adjustments in instruction and operation practices.

The district will continue to use data-driven decision making to promote the best possible experience for students, parents, and staff in Southeast Delco School District.

## *Substitute Teacher Incentives*

There has been a significant decrease in the number of substitute teachers available for assignment throughout the state. This has certainly been true of Delaware County, especially late in the school year. With that in mind, the Southeast Delco School District has taken a creative approach to increasing our per-diem substitute teacher participation fill rate throughout the remainder of the year. Substitute



teachers will continue to receive the agreed upon compensation depending on their elementary / secondary assignments. As an additional incentive, for every five assignments worked for the district, substitutes will receive a \$250 bonus, with the potential of up to \$1,000 per month.

Many of the teachers currently registering with sub services are middle of the year graduates from local universities and colleges. We are hopeful that our new strategy will increase the number of assignments accepted within our district, as well as provide an opportunity for our principals to observe the substitutes who may become potential applicants for permanent teaching positions in the district.

## *2016 / 2017 School Year Kindergarten Registration*

Kindergarten registration and testing appointments are currently being scheduled for children who are 5 years old on or before September 1, 2016, and are residents of Southeast Delco School District. Early kindergarten registration applications will be accepted for the 2016 / 2017 school year at the Kindergarten Center at 1 School Lane in Glenolden on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parents can schedule an appointment by calling the Kindergarten Center at 610-522-4365, extension 7230.

Registration packets are available at the Kindergarten Center, all four district elementary schools, and the Southeast Delco Education Services Center at 1560 Delmar Drive in Folcroft. Completed registration packets and all required documents must be submitted at the registration appointment. School locations and a printable list of registration requirements are available on the district website at [www.sedelco.org](http://www.sedelco.org).

## *District Musical*

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Southeast Delco District Musical presentation of Disney's and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins* will be held at Academy Park High School on the following dates and times:

- Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7:30 PM
- Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:30 PM
- Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 PM
- Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM
- Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM
- Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – 1:30 PM



Advance tickets are \$8 for adults and \$7 for students. All tickets purchased at the door for all shows and ages are \$10. Tickets for Sunday matinee performances for children aged 2 through 12 are \$6 or \$10 if they attend the *Tea Party with Mary, Bert and Friends* at noon, immediately prior to the show. Along with *Poppin* snacks, tea party attendees will play games and meet Mary, Bert, the Banks family, and some other interesting characters. Be sure to bring your camera to capture the memories.

### ***Annual District Family Literacy Night***

Harris School is hosting a *Fairytale Ball*, this year's Family Literacy Night, on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. This annual event promotes literacy outside the classroom by encouraging students to engage with their teachers and materials through a variety of hands-on activities and games. Family Literacy Night provides an alternate environment where parents, teachers and students can connect and allows parents to see teachers modeling effective reading techniques and instructional strategies.

In keeping with the event theme, students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite fairytale character. A photographer will be available upon arrival to help parents capture pictures of this fun evening!

The event will open with a free dinner, funded by Title I. Following dinner, participants will have the opportunity to interact with the talented cast of Academy Park's 2016 District Musical: *Mary Poppins!* Students and parents will participate in fairytale-themed activities, games, and crafts that utilize reading comprehension and vocabulary skills. Every student who participates in the event will receive a fairytale book to take home! After the workshops, instructors from the Cathie Collins School of Dance will lead participants onto the dance floor for the Fairytale Ball.

#### ***Event Schedule***

- Free Dinner: 5:30 PM
- Performance: 6:15 PM
- Workshop Session: 6:40 PM
- Fairytale Ball: 7:15 PM
- Closing: 7:45 PM



#### ***Future Board Meetings***

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, April 21, 2016	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, April 28, 2016	7:00 PM

#### ***Upcoming School Events***

Mark your calendars! Students and staff have been working hard to prepare for the following upcoming events:

#### ***Junior Science Fairs – Grades 4 & 5***

- Darby Township School – Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 AM

- Delcroft School – Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 AM
- Sharon Hill School – Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 AM
- Harris School – Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM
- District-wide Junior Science Fair – Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Darby Township School – Time TBD

### *Spring Concerts*

- Sharon Hill School Spring Concert – Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM – APHS
- APHS Spring Concert and Art Show – Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM – APHS
- Harris School Spring Concert – Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM – Harris School
- Darby Township School Spring Concert – Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM – DTS
- Delcroft School Spring Concert – Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 PM – APHS

### *School Events*

- PSSA – Math – Grades 3 through 8 – Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Dodge Ball Night – Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – 6 PM – APHS
- ***Teacher In-service – District-wide – No School for Students – Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>***
- PSSA – Science – Grades 4 and 8 – Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>
- ***Early Dismissal – District-wide – Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 - 12:45 PM***
- Progress Notices – Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>
- District Family Literacy Night – Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 PM – Harris School
- Keystone Exams – Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – APHS
- APHS Senior Prom – Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Arts Ballroom – Philadelphia
- APHS Senior Awards Night – Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM – APHS
- ***Memorial Day Holiday – District-wide – No School for Students and Staff – Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>***
- Senior Final Exams – Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- APHS Talent Show – Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7 PM – APHS
- Senior Luncheon – Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – 1 PM – APHS Cafeteria
- Underclassman Final Exams – Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>
- ***Graduation – Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM – Neumann University***
- End of 4<sup>th</sup> Marking Period – Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Last Day of School for Students – Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Teacher In-service – Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>
- Last Day of School for Teachers – Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>