Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Excellence In Teaching Award

Ms. Cassandra Skursha, learning support teacher at Darby Township School, received the Delaware County Excellence in Teaching Award and will be honored at the annual Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union’s Partners in Learning Celebration on April 19th. Ms. Skursha was nominated by Darby Township School’s principal, Ms. LeAnne Hudson.

Outstanding educators are nominated by peers, students, parents, family and friends. A panel of education professionals then select one teacher from each of the Delaware County School Districts and the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Each awardee receives $500, a commemorative plaque and $1,000 for their school. They are also recognized in an edition of the Delaware County Daily Times.

Ms. Skursha stated, “My greatest teaching moments happen when my learning support students light up when a new strategy clicks and they are able to understand a skill that they have been working so hard to master.” Congratulations Ms. Skursha, and thank you for your commitment to our students.

The Prince is Giving a Ball

The 43rd Annual Southeast Delco District Musical presents Rogers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” The Broadway Edition at the Agnes Patterson Auditorium at Academy Park High School.

Advance reserved tickets (center orchestra section) are $10 for adults and $8 for students / children / senior citizens. General admission tickets in advance are $8 for adults and $6 for students / children / senior citizens. All tickets purchased at the door for all shows and ages are $10.

District employees are entitled to one free ticket. Tickets are available online at www.sedelcomusical.com. Please come out and support these talented, hard-working students with your presence and your applause.
Family Literacy Night
The Southeast Delco annual Family Literacy Night will be held on May 10th at 5:30 p.m. at Darby Township School. Reading interventionists from the K-Center, Darby Township, Delcroft, Harris, and Sharon Hill Schools have collaborated to produce a fun, educational and informative event that will bring teachers, students and families together to celebrate reading.

The theme of the District Literacy Night is “Lights, Camera, Read”, and throughout the evening teachers from across the district will facilitate a variety of activities to promote literacy. Dinner will be served and each child will receive a free book to take home.

National Junior Honor Society
Students in grades 6 and 7 are currently applying to be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). The four school sponsors are Linda Homer (DTS), Maria Toner (Delcroft), Rachel Strunk (Harris School) and Jessica Thomas (SHS).

To be eligible for membership, in addition to having at least a B average, students must demonstrate 5 traits: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. The National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony will be held on May 21st at APHS.

2018 / 2019 School Year Kindergarten Registration
Kindergarten registration appointments are currently being scheduled for children who are 5 years old on or before September 1, 2018, and reside in the Southeast Delco School District. Early kindergarten registration applications will be accepted for the 2018 / 2019 school year at the Kindergarten Center at 1 School Lane in Glenolden on Tuesday, April 24th and Thursday, April 26th. 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.
Special Education Comprehensive Planning

The special education comprehensive planning committee worked to identify the district’s strengths and needs within the special education department. There are several programs running successfully in our buildings. Autistic Support at the Delcroft School is celebrated for being inclusive of the community and parents, strongly supporting a strong string parent support group; students in this program are making progress and are included as integral part of the Delcroft School community.

The community partnerships through transition services are helping students and families prepare for post-secondary life options. We have students receiving academic scholarships to local universities through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as students exploring employment training options. Through continued education and work force options, the Early Reach Program is helping to prepare our students to become successful adults and positive contributors to society. Our full time emotional support program, Delco Academy, continues to grow and educating our students within an educational and therapeutic setting close to home.

As the committee recognizes the many successes of our district, it has also identified areas in need of continued growth. They are focused on growing our district programs to be able to provide additional services for all students throughout the district. The district is looking to expand reading interventions in all buildings by training staff in additional reading intervention options. We are also looking to grow our Autistic program by including additional training for Autistic support teaching staff so that they can incorporate new strategies into classroom instruction and routines.

In order to grow our emotional support program, the district is looking to implement a district-wide social skills curriculum, partnering with our district’s social workers to implement classroom strategies, as well as teach social skills in group and individual counseling settings. We are also looking to partner with local agencies to expand mental health services for our students to include out-patient counseling opportunities and medication management.

The district leadership is committed to providing additional opportunities for the inclusion of our Life Skills population in the general education setting. We will be working with building administration and staff to ensure students have multiple opportunities throughout the day to interact with same aged peers. This inclusion model also provides opportunities for the entire learning community to learn from each other and grow.
The planning committee has worked collaboratively to identify areas they felt had room to grow and could benefit our community and student population most. The committee looks forward to the continued professional growth and dedication of staff, so that they can grow the district’s programs and provide the highest level of educational opportunities to the students of Southeast Delco.

**Junior Science Olympics**
Middle school students are beginning to work on projects for this year’s Junior Science Olympics. Each school will enter two teams of students for each of the five events at the district-level competition. The District Science Olympics will take place on May 31st at APHS.

**Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)**
Students in grades 3 through 8 are completing PSSA, or Pennsylvania State System of Assessment, testing during the month of April. These tests are designed to provide a snapshot of individual student achievement over the course of a year. The PSSA is also designed to provide achievement information on schools in the form of SPP or School Performance Profile. The state will also use this testing to inform the newly created Future Ready PA Index, a comprehensive, public school progress measure that reports on school and student group performance.

All students in third through eighth grades take the ELA and the mathematics assessments, which measures English / language arts (ELA) and math skills. Students in fourth and eighth grades also take the PSSA science test that measure achievement in science. This year the amount of testing has been reduced from previous years with three days of testing devoted to ELA and only two days devoted to math and science, respectively.

High school students, along with select 8th graders, will take the Keystone assessments in May. These assessments are designed as end of course tests for literature, biology, and algebra. Students may take the assessments once they finish their instruction in the course and may take the assessment more than once, if needed. Most Keystone testing is completed in ninth and tenth grade, with some eighth grade students taking the algebra test if they are enrolled in an algebra course. These tests are also used to report on student achievement at the individual and school levels.

We expect to receive individual student scores in early June and school performance scores around mid-July. We will keep the public informed with how our students and schools have fared this year.

**Summer Tutoring Update 2018**
Summer tutoring classes will begin on June 21st at Darby Township School and will be held Monday – Thursday each week until July 26th. Students will be transported by school bus, dropped off by parents or walk.
Applications have been sent to eligible kindergarten to 8th grade students. Pre-k student applications will be mailed the week of April 23rd. Staffing will include 17 classroom aides, 32 teachers and 4 lead teachers.

Each day, 32 classes will be in session, including Read 180, language arts, math, arts and crafts, library and physical education. The language arts program is science-based and when completed will generate individual student writing projects.

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be available from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia will deliver free healthy breakfast and lunch meals that are funded by the federal government food program. Per our contract, breakfast and lunch will be provided to any district child age 1 to 18, at the times stated above.

An open house will be held 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, July 25th.

2018 / 2019 Budget Timeframe

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 19, 2018</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26, 2018</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17, 2018</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24, 2018</td>
<td>Board Meeting – Adopt Proposed Final Budget</td>
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Future Board Meetings

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Spring Concerts

- Harris School Spring Concert and Art Show – Thursday, May 10th – 6:30 PM
- Academy Park Knight of the Arts – Concert, Art Show and Fashion Display – Wednesday, May 16th – 7 PM
- Sharon Hill School Spring Concert – Tuesday, May 22nd – 6:15 PM – APHS
- DTS Spring Concert – Wednesday, May 23rd – 6 PM – APHS
- Delcroft School Spring Concert – Monday, June 4th – 6:30 PM – APHS

School Events

- Math PSSA Window – April 16th – April 20th – Grades 3 – 8
- Science PSSA Window – April 23rd – April 27th – Grades 4 & 8
- APHS Junior Prom – April 20th – 7 PM – Lazaretto Ballroom
- District Musical – April 27th & 28th – APHS – 7:30 PM
- District Musical – April 29th – APHS – 2 PM
- Early Dismissal – May 2nd – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM
- Progress Notices – May 2nd
- District Musical – May 4th & 5th – APHS – 7:30 PM
- District Musical – May 6th – APHS – 2 PM
- APHS Senior Prom – May 11th – 7 PM – DuPont Hotel
- APHS Senior After Prom – May 11th – 11 PM – 3 AM - APHS
- National Honor Society Induction – May 15th – 7 PM - APHS
- Knight of the Arts – May 16th – 7 PM – APHS
- Junior National Honor Society – May 21st – 6:30 PM - APHS
- Senior Awards Night – May 23rd – 7 PM – APHS
- Memorial Day Holiday – May 28th – No School for Students or Staff
- Spring Blood Drive – May 31st – APHS
- APHS Talent Show – June 1st – 6 PM - APHS
- Senior Cass Day – June 8th – 10:30 AM – Heritage Ballroom
- APHS Graduation – June 12th – 11 AM – Neumann University
- Last Day for Students – June 14th
- Teacher In-service – June 15th
- Teacher In-Service – June 18th – 20th
- Last Day for Teachers – June 20th