College and Career Fair @APHS

Academy Park will host a college and career fair on Thursday, October 25th. Representatives from over 30 post-secondary institutions, including colleges, universities, trade, and technical schools will be present to assist students. Recruiters from the army, navy and air force will also be in attendance. All juniors and seniors will be encouraged to attend. The fair will be held in the Academy Park gymnasium at 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM.

One Down, One to Go

Phase I of the rain garden project has concluded. As announced in the October newsletter, the project is being sponsored by the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative and the Pennsylvania Resource Council Watershed Initiative and is funded through a grant.

Working with specialists from the sponsoring agencies and enrichment teacher, Colleen DiMaggio, students from the district’s gifted and life skills programs installed a rain garden at Academy Park High School. A second garden is planned for Darby Township School and will be installed on Tuesday, October 23rd.

The full story of the rain garden installations, and more importantly, the impact and reactions of the students involved, will be provided in the November district newsletter. With pictures - lots and lots of pictures.

A BIG thank you goes out to the district’s facilities director, Harry Young, and his staff for all their help. This project would not have been possible without their support.
**Strengthening the Parent / School Connection**

As you may be aware, Southeast Delco School District has moved to a new student information system for the 2018 / 2019 school year called PowerSchool. PowerSchool allows the district to maintain all of its student records in a safe, secure environment that is easily accessible to staff.

One of the main reasons the district decided to switch to PowerSchool was the quality of PowerSchool’s parent portal. Parents may sign up for access to their child’s progress, view assignments and grades in real time, and communicate with their child’s teacher in a user friendly format. Parents can register by utilizing one of the following:

If you prefer to use your mobile device, please download the PowerSchool app. The district code for registration is FRGF. Parents will use their child’s credentials, which were provided at the start of the school year, to login. The information needed to register is located at the bottom of the paper below the dotted line. Parents that do not have the credentials, can contact their child’s school for another copy.

If you prefer to login on a computer, parents will need to set up an account using their child’s credentials, which were provided at the start of the school year. Visit sedelco.powerschool.com and scroll down to the “create account” link. Enter your first and last name, an email address (this will be your ID), and a password of your choosing.

Once an account is set up, parents may login and link their child to their account. When entering the account code, parents should use the ID and password in the middle of the paper. Do not use the ID and password at the bottom unless you are setting up a separate account for your child. Parents that do not have the credentials, can contact their child’s school for another copy.

It is the district’s hope that keeping parents informed of their child’s progress will be beneficial to everyone. If you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Ryan at 610 522 4300 x5315.

**Human Resources**

The following labor contracts / agreements will end on June 30, 2018:

1. Southeast Delco Federation of Support Staff 2015-2019
2. Confidential Employees 2015-2019

Key issues are salary / pay rate and health care benefits. These two issues are of greater or lesser importance depending on the employee group and their number of full-time vs. part-time employees. The district will be working on developing new agreements with each of these employee groups over the next several months.
**Staffing:**
The Southeast Delco School District is fully staffed at this time with regards to certified professionals. We maintain an open posting on our website for aides, food services, and transportation positions.

**Professional Development:**
Human resources has partnered with Vector Solutions to provide school district employees access to the safe-school training platform. This resource contains a large library of online courses, primarily focused on state mandated trainings, school safety and athletics.

This resource will help school district employees remain in compliance with all requirements, as well as provide on-demand professional development on everyday issues that impact our schools.

**School Safety**
During September, the district conducted a district-wide safety and security audit with the assistance of SafePlans, LLC. Initial findings obtained from the audit were included in the application for a multi-tiered competitive grant request to the State of Pennsylvania. The final written audit report is expected at the end of the month.

Building Emergency Response Teams (BERTs) have continued monthly group meetings. Each school has a BERT and the team is responsible for keeping their school’s emergency response plan up to date and communicating the plan to all staff in the building.

There are a number of safety/security positions available at Academy Park High School. One safety officer was recently hired and is currently in training. Interviews for two openings will be conducted this week with the expectation of quickly filling all vacancies.

**21st Century Community Learning Centers**
To date, there are 60 students each in attendance at DTS, Delcroft, Harris, and Sharon Hill Schools. In total, 240 students in grades 4 – 8 receive after-school services; and there is a waiting list at every school. If a student fails to attend the program for 2 days, a call is made to the student’s parent to determine if the student is going to continue attending the program. If not, then the parent of a student on the waiting list is contacted and services are extended to that child. A total of 14 students have been dropped from the program for non-attendance and 14 students have been added to the program in their place.

The students receive 90 minutes of the academic programming daily. The students rotate with 30 minutes of computer training, 30 minutes of independent reading and 30 minutes of teacher
conferencing. After 5:00 pm, students are supervised by the YMCA workers. All YMCA workers have met the PA Department of Education’s clearance guidelines. Every student receives a snack in the afternoon that is provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Nutritional Development Services. At 5:15 p.m. students engage in educational board games, physical activities and art and crafts. Students can also opt to do homework.

An Open House was held at each of the schools, as follows:

- October 15, 2018 – **Harris School**
- October 16, 2018 – **Sharon Hill School**
- October 17, 2018 – **Darby Township School**
- October 18, 2018 – **Delcroft School**

Students will again participate in the “Senior Citizen / Student Pen Pal” program at the Good Neighbor Senior Center in Sharon Hill. Each month, 20 students will visit the senior center. The students will be assigned a senior to spend time with.

The first visit this school year is scheduled for October 24th. Five 4th grade students from each school will travel along with Ms. Pelka and Mrs. Alford to the center. This month, students will present each senior with a light-up pumpkin necklace. Each month a different grade will take part in the program.

**Yearly Audit and Fund Balance**

The local audit of the 2017 / 2018 year will begin on October 22, 2018. Preliminary audit reports show that there was a significant decrease in the fund balance in the last school year. Factors that led to the decrease include charter school tuition, special education expenses, healthcare costs, and tax assessment appeals, along with budgeted use of fund balance and capital projects. Administration will be closely monitoring current year expenditures.

**2019 / 2020 Budget**

The administration will soon begin preparation of the 2019 / 2020 general fund budget. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has calculated the index for fiscal year 2019 / 2020. The base index is 2.3%. The adjusted index for Southeast Delco is 3.4%.

**Facilities Update**

Delcroft and Harris Schools have received 2 new boilers in each building. The boilers are high efficient condensing boilers. The projects have progressed well and all new boilers are operational at this time with only minor adjustments needed.

The Harris School project has been inspected by the Department of Labor and Industry and all
inspection points are in compliance. There are some plumbing and general contractor work still outstanding, but the work needed does not impact the operation of the boilers.

The Delcroft School boilers have been tested and are operational. State inspection reports are pending but there has been no indication of any deficiencies. Some minor tweaks are still needed for completion, but again, the work does not impact the operation of the boilers. Any remaining work needed to satisfy the contract will be monitored through completion.

The Delcroft School also received new gymnasium rooftop air handlers. Installation was completed with no discrepancies. The gym has now been outfitted with dehumidifiers, which provides some cooling for that space.

**Transportation Department Compliance Review**

The US Department of Transportation will conduct a compliance review of the district’s transportation department on Wednesday, October 24th. The review should take one business day to complete. The safety investigator will review driver records, insurance documentation and other compliance documents. The results of the compliance review will be provided once the review is complete.

**Future Board Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Business Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday, October 25, 2018</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>Thursday, November 8, 2018</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Business Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday, November 15, 2018</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Events**

- **District Math Night** – October 23rd – 6 PM – Delcroft School
- **College and Career Fair** – October 25th – 9 AM – 10:30 AM – APHS
- **End of 1st Marking Period** – November 2nd
- **Teacher In-service – No School for Students – November 6th**
- **Faculty vs Students Volleyball Tournament** – November 7th – 6 PM – APHS
- **Parent / Teacher Evening Conferences** – Grades 9 – 12 – November 15th
- **Early Dismissal – November 19th – 21st – Grades 1 – 8 – 12:45 PM**
- **Parent / Teacher Conferences** – Grades K – 8 – November 19th
- **Parent / Teacher Evening Conferences** – Grades K – 8 – November 20th
- **Thanksgiving Holiday – November 22nd & 23rd – No School for Students or Staff**
- **Early Dismissal – December 5th – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM**
- **Progress Notices – December 6th**
- **Winter Recess – December 24th – January 1st – No School for Students or Staff**
- End of 2nd Marking Period – January 18th
- **MLK Holiday – January 21st – No School for Students or Staff**