Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

**Family Math Night**

On Thursday, November 2nd, Harris School hosted the annual Southeast Delco Family Math Night. The theme for the night was “Power Up Your Math Skills” and staff, students and parents were encouraged to dress up in their favorite superhero costume.

Students and parents were treated to dinner and a night packed full of math games and activities. Organized by grade, the activities were arranged into two sessions of thirty minutes each. For each session, students and parents had a variety of activities from which to choose. Throughout the evening, raffles were held and several lucky winners were able to take home exciting math games.

Students enjoyed collaborating with their parents in celebrating their math knowledge and participating in fun math games. With increased participation each year, Family Math Night has begun to build a bridge between school and home in the development of students’ math skills across grade levels.

**The Start of the Fall Afterschool Program**

The opening day of the 2017 / 2018 afterschool program was October 2nd. Funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, the program runs from October to September and targets students in grades 4 - 8. Each school is allotted 60 student slots and currently all four of the grades 1 – 8 schools have a waiting list. At the end of each week, the lead teacher at each school checks the attendance of students enrolled in the program. Parents of students who are not attending regularly will be contacted regarding the status of their child’s participation in the program. When a student is dropped from the program, a student from the waiting list is invited into the program.
Open houses were held at all participating schools during the week of October 16th. Also, each school in the afterschool program participated in the “Say No to Drugs” program presented by Holcombe Behavior Services.

“Lights On” for Afterschool Programs

Lights On Afterschool is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, Lights On Afterschool highlights the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things and discover new skills.

This year, Darby Township, Delcroft, Harris, and Sharon Hill Schools developed and participated in a Pen Pal partnership with the Good Neighbor Senior Citizen Center in Sharon Hill. The students wrote comments about their afterschool activities on a drawing of a light bulb and will visit the Good Neighbor Senior Center, have lunch, and distribute the notes and handmade gifts to the members of the center on December 13th.

Throughout the school year, the students and seniors from the center will exchange notes. At the end of May, the afterschool students will return to the center for a special celebration of their Pen Pal friendships.

Mathematics Curriculum

The district is working this year to recommend a new kindergarten – 5th grade math program. The district has utilized its current “Go Math” program for the past six years and is now looking at the newest editions of a number of textbook series. One major component to consider in the potential adoption is the opportunities for remediation and enrichment activities layered throughout the program. How technology can assist students in mastering their mathematical concepts will also be considered. Parents should look for opportunities to provide feedback to their child’s teacher or school in what they would like to see in a kindergarten – 5th grade math program.
**New Report Cards for K – 2 Students**

The district is moving to a new standards referenced report card for kindergarten, first and second grade students. Teachers have worked over the past year to revise the current report cards for these grades to reflect a move towards standards-based teaching and learning. The report cards, which focus on reading and math skills, as well as other core content areas such as science, social studies, specials areas, and qualities of a learner, will be piloted this year.

To gather valuable input from parents, part of the piloting will be discussions with parents during report card conferences. Parents that have a child in grades K - 2, should look for this initiative and provide feedback to their child’s teacher. We hope to reach full implementation of the new report cards for the 2018 / 2019 school year, including making them available electronically for teachers and parents.

**District Professional Development Day**

The keynote speaker for the district-wide professional development day on November 7th was Thom Stecher. Mr. Stecher is a nationally-recognized motivational speaker and educational consultant with over 40 years of experience in the field of education. His work centers on the whole child, resiliency, self-care, trusting relationships, and healthy communities, among other topics that are current and relevant to our school district.

Stecher started the day with an empowering and inspiring address to Southeast Delco educational staff and administrators at Academy Park High School. The staff then returned to their respective buildings where Stecher’s associates led workshop style sessions focused on team building, trust, communication, and respect. Teachers and administrators were fully engaged in this professional development opportunity and provided positive feedback on the day. The expectation is for teachers and administrators to transfer the knowledge, skills and practices they received to their classrooms.

**Special Education Child Count**

District staff is in the process of completing the special education child count report for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Due annually, child count refers to the number of district students, between the ages of 6 – 21, who have disabilities and a valid Individualized Education Program (IEP) as of December 1, 2017. The data collected is required by the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), section 618.

**Annual Audit**

Barbacane, Thornton & Company, the district’s local auditors, completed the fieldwork portion of the annual audit of the school district on October 20, 2017. Ms. Pam Baker, Partner at Barbacane, Thornton & Company will present the 2016 / 2017 audit to the board at either the December or January board business meeting.
2018 / 2019 Budget Timeframe

Tentative Timeframe Dates:

- December 21, 2017: Adopt Resolution to Not Exceed Index
- January 18, 2018: Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
- February 15, 2018: Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
- March 15, 2018: Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
- April 19, 2018: Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
- April 26, 2018: Board Meeting – Adopt Proposed Final Budget
- May 17, 2018: Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session
- May 24, 2018: Board Meeting – Adopt Final Budget

Future Board Meetings

- Board Business Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 – 7:00 PM
- Board Organization: Monday, December 4, 2017 – 6:00 PM
- Board Business Meeting: Thursday, December 21, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Winter Concerts

- Harris School Winter Concert – Thursday, December 7th – 7 PM – Harris School
- Delcroft Winter Concert – Wednesday, December 13th – 6:30 PM – APHS
- DTS Winter Concert – Thursday, December 14th – 6 PM – APHS
- Sharon Hill School Winter Concert – Tuesday, December 19th – 6:15 – APHS
- APHS Knight of the Arts – Wednesday, December 20th – 6 PM - APHS

School Events

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Night – Tuesday, November 14th – 6 PM – APHS
- Parent / Teacher Evening Conferences – Grades 9 – 12 - Thursday, November 16th
- Early Dismissal – November 20th, 21st & 22nd – Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM
- Parent / Teacher Afternoon Conferences – Grades K – 8 – Monday, November 20th
- Parent / Teacher Afternoon & Evening Conferences – Grades K – 8 - Tuesday, November 21st
- APHS Fall Day Dance – Wednesday, November 22nd
- Thanksgiving Holiday – November 23rd & 24th – No School for Students or Staff
- Me and My Guy Dance – Friday, December 1st - APHS
- Early Dismissal – Wednesday, December 6th – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM
- Winter Festival / Family Night – Friday, December 8th – 6 PM – APHS Library
- APHS Faculty vs Students Dodgeball Tournament – Wednesday, December 13th – 6 PM – APHS
- APHS Winter Dance – Friday, December 15 – 7:30 PM – APHS
- Knight of the Arts – Wednesday, December 20 – 7 PM – APHS
- APHS Winter Day Dance – Friday, December 22nd – APHS
- Winter Break – December 25th – January 2nd – No School for Students or Staff