The Great Escape

Seven Southeast Delco administrators joined together on July 7th to test their ability to work cohesively to gather information and find solutions. The “team” traveled to Project Escape in Conshohocken and took up the challenge of the Diamond Heist Room. They were charged with finding and solving puzzles and clues that would lead them to the location of the Millennium Diamond, and subsequently, escape from the room.

With only one hour to complete their task, the team entered the first room and quickly realized that everyone’s input was needed and would play an integral part in a successful outcome. Collaboration and communication were key to a successful experience.

Clues were scattered throughout the room and team members had to work collectively to develop logical answers to solve each puzzle. They formed mini-groups to work on clues; which once solved were shared with the group. Some clues had them moving to other rooms or returning to a room to get another clue. The process was intriguing and offered excitement at every turn and in every room.

There was much laughter and high fives with many surprises along the way. The group located and retrieved the diamond, then returned to the reception area with 16 minutes to spare. SUCCESS! The group nicknamed the encounter “The Get-Out Experience”.

Summer Tutoring

The district’s 2017 summer tutoring program began on June 22nd. Four-hundred and thirty students in grades pre-k through 8 attend classes Monday to Thursday at Darby Township School. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon and will conclude on July 27th.

Thirty-three teachers and 18 classroom aides provide instruction in reading, math, library, and physical education. The reading program is science-based and contains a writing component. The students also get an opportunity to explore their creativity during arts and crafts, an activity greatly enhanced by $400 in school supplies gifted to the program by Kelly’s Farmers Insurance of Springfield, PA.

Students also receive free breakfast and lunch. Sponsored by the federal government food program, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia delivers free healthy breakfast and lunch for every student enrolled in the program. Participation in the federal program also allows us to serve breakfast and lunch to any district child from age 1 to 18.
Policy Review and Update

The district is updating a few key policy areas this summer. Two polices that are in various stages of adoption by the school board include Immunizations and attendance. The new immunization policy aims to ensure that parents / guardians are informed of the requirements for immunization and the requisite proof of immunization prior to a student’s admission to school. Designated school personnel review student medical certificates in accordance with law and regulations to confirm compliance with full immunization requirements.

The new attendance policy aims to outline the benefits of compulsory school attendance and details the responsibilities of the school district for students who are truant, including referral to a school-or agency based attendance improvement program. All approved policies are available for review on the district website.

Student Re-registration

Throughout the summer, the district has been re-registering students who will be entering the 4th and 9th grades in the 2017 / 2018 school year. To date, approximately half of the families with children in these grades have completed the process. In order for parents / guardians to receive all pertinent mailings from their child’s school - homeroom assignments, schedules, classroom supply lists - re-registration must be completed by the first week in August. Families who do not re-register will not receive information for the upcoming school year and may risk not starting school on time.

The district has utilized this practice for the past few years in an effort to ensure that only district residents attend Southeast Delco schools. We thank residents for their cooperation in completing this process.

State Audit Update

The Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General began their performance audit of the district on April 10, 2017. This state audit covers the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2016. The state audit is different from the annual local audit. The purpose of the state audit is to determine the district’s
compliance with state laws, regulations, contracts and administrative procedures. The state audit also addresses the efficiency and effectiveness of certain areas in the district. The audit was primarily focused on contract monitoring, transportation, safe schools, and child accounting.

The auditors are currently working to finalize the audit. Their last day, in district, was be July 19th. Any additional questions or requests will be handled via email. Once all reviews are completed, the district will be contacted with possible dates for the audit review conference (ARC). In the past, the Department of the Auditor General has sent invites to all board members to attend the audit review conference.

**Local Audit**

The school district is required to have an audit of district finances on a yearly basis. The local audit is conducted by the firm of Barbacane, Thornton & Company LLP. The local district auditors were in the district on May 22nd to conduct preliminary audit work.

During the months of August and September, the business office staff will be preparing the financial records for the audit. Fieldwork for the yearly audit is scheduled for October 9th through October 20th.

**Future Board Meetings**

| Board Business Meeting | Thursday, July 27, 2017 | 7:00 PM |
| Committee of the Whole | Thursday, August 17, 2017 | 6:00 PM |
| Board Business Meeting | Thursday, August 24, 2017 | 7:00 PM |

**School Events**

- New Teacher Induction – August 28th and August 29th
- **Teacher In-service – No School for Students – August 30th and August 31st**
- **Labor Day Holiday – No School for Students or Staff – September 1st and 4th**
- First Day for Students – September 5th