Harris School Dedicates New Playground

Students, staff and community members attended a dedication ceremony for Harris School’s beautiful new playground. Also in attendance were the Superintendent and board member, Dorothy Gallagher.

The playground looks amazing. The new equipment is all shiny and brightly painted and features a host of activities, including swings, slides, jungle gym, spring riders and a climbing wall. Not only for fun and exercise, the equipment is designed to help children develop physical coordination, strength, and flexibility, as well as providing recreation that supports social and emotional development.

The students were very excited to try out the new equipment and we know it will give them many hours of enjoyment during their time at Harris School.

Monitoring Student Achievement

In addition to report cards, the district is continuing to monitor student progress. Students in district schools may be taking a Benchmark assessment, DIBELs test, or Classroom Diagnostic Test (CDT), depending on their grade level and / or subject they are enrolled in. These assessments allow the district and school administration to gauge how students are progressing and how they may perform on state assessments. Doing so early in the school year and continuing throughout allows teachers and administrators to adjust instructional practices to best meet the needs of students.

While these assessments may not contribute to a report card grade, they do provide valuable information on how schools are teaching and how students are learning.
First Marking Period Closing
The end of the first marking period is quickly approaching. Students will complete their work for the period on November 3rd. Progress notices were sent out earlier this month. These notices are provided to parents so they can continue to monitor their child’s progress in school. If a parent wants to scrutinize their child’s progress more closely, they can visit the district website at www.sedelco.org and sign up for the Home Access Center, which allows parents to receive information such as grades, attendance, and discipline on a daily basis.

With the marking period closing, report card conferences will be held in November for all schools. Parents should watch for information from their child's school for the scheduling of these conferences. For those who require a meeting before then, please contact the school.

Professional Development
The district hosted a district-wide professional development day on Monday, October 9th. Dr. Ryan opened the day with a presentation on the Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation Model that is utilized by administrators to evaluate teacher performance. This model is based on the work of Charlotte Danielson and is illustrated by the attached graphic.

Dr. Ryan spoke to teachers about the different measures that administrators use to determine their final evaluation for the school year. Teachers have to create an SLO (Student Learning Objective) as part of this evaluation model and part of the day was spent writing their SLOs in grade level or content level PLCs (Professional Learning Communities). In PLCs, teachers also discussed Benchmark tests and shared ideas about instructional strategies pertaining to the programs they are using in their classrooms.
In the afternoon, teachers were able to pick two professional development sessions from a comprehensive list of topics, including book studies, yoga in the classroom, fostering resiliency in students to Google Classroom, Study Island, and de-escalating strategies, among others. Most of these sessions were led by Southeast Delco teachers and all of the topics that were made available are current and relevant to our teachers and students.

Plans are also set for future professional development days. On November 7th, Thom Stecher, a professor from Neumann University, and his representatives will be in district all day to work with teachers and administrators. He will give a whole group presentation to the faculty to open the agenda at APHS. Teachers and administrators will then work in their buildings with his representatives on building classroom and school community and keeping students physically and emotionally safe.

On December 6th, three trainings are scheduled for specific groups of teachers as selected by building principals, including CDT training (Classroom Diagnostic Test) for high school math teachers, Google Classroom, and Wellness and Resiliency by Thom Stecher. The teachers that attend the trainings are expected to do turn around trainings in their respective buildings.

**ELL Night**

In partnership with the DCIU, Southeast Delco will host an English Language Learner (ELL) Night at Darby Township School on October 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to bring together parents and children who are categorized as ELL so they can experience and develop a sense of community. In addition to learning English, these students, and more often than not their parents, are also getting acclimated to living in a new environment. This event gives the families an opportunity to interact with professionals who are teaching their children communication skills in a new country.

**Yearly Audit**

The local audit for the 2016 / 2017 year began on October 9th. The local auditors from the auditing firm of Barbacane, Thornton & Company are in the district for approximately two weeks. The auditors last day of fieldwork will be October 20th.

The draft version of the 2016 / 2017 audit should be completed within the next few weeks. The final version of the audit will be presented to the board for review and approval at an upcoming board business meeting.

**2018-2019 Budget**

The administration will soon begin preparation of the 2018 / 2019 General Fund Budget. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has calculated the index for fiscal year 2018 / 2019. The base index is 2.4%; the adjusted index for Southeast Delco is 3.6%.
### 2018 / 2019 Budget Timeframe

**Tentative Timeframe Dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 21, 2017</td>
<td>Adopt Resolution to Not Exceed Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18, 2018</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15, 2018</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15, 2018</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2018</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 2018</td>
<td>Board Meeting – Adopt Proposed Final Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2018</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole – Budget Work Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24, 2018</td>
<td>Board Meeting – Adopt Final Budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 26, 2017</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>Thursday, November 9, 2017</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Business Meeting</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong>, November 15, 2017</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Organization</td>
<td>Monday, December 4, 2017</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Business Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday, December 21, 2017</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 – 7 PM - APHS

### School Events

- Junior Class Ring Ceremony – Wednesday, October 25th – 6 PM – APHS Auditorium
- College and Career Fair – Thursday, October 26th – 9 AM – 10:30 AM – APHS
- End of 1st Marking Period – Wednesday, November 1st
- Academy Park High School Fall Play – November 2nd & 4th – 7 PM
- **Teacher In-service – No School for Students – Tuesday, November 7th**
- Faculty vs Students Volleyball Tournament – Wednesday, November 8th – 6 PM – APHS
- 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**