



Message from the Superintendent—Mr. Jonathan J. Cleaver

Over the last four years the economy has had a devastating effect on school districts operations and budgets. When you add this to a list of unfunded mandates, changes in curriculum and new evaluations for teachers and administrators, one could only imagine how difficult negotiating contracts would be during this time.

While the State of Pennsylvania is in the midst of the greatest educational change we have seen over the last 15-20 years and the economic downturn, the Lehigh Area School District and both Professional and Support Unions have been able to reach a contract agreement that has both the Student and Taxpayer in mind. The groups worked together and came up with a contract that they felt was fair to everyone involved. With the heightened awareness of economy and the increase in accountability for school districts the need for a positive and professional learning environment is greater than ever. With having the contract settled it will enable us to focus our attentions on what is most important "OUR STUDENTS".

I would like to take this time publically and thank both the Professional and Support Negotiating Teams for all their hard work and efforts to make this process as successful as possible.

Message from the Board—Mr. Rocky Abner, President

Throughout the entire district you can see the character of our students from the excellent reading skills in the elementary schools to student's passion to help others outside the schools with volunteering for blood banks, cancer societies, etc.

We as the board would like to thank the entire staff for the many things you do for our students, you are a very elite group that any district would be proud to have.

Even with the uncertainties of the State Budget the board is working diligently to provide the highest standard of education and preserve after-school programs that are essential to the education, safety and welfare of our students.

AMAZING POSITIVE DIRECTION—This is what I see in the Indians winter sports and heading into the spring sports. Congrats & Good Luck!

As the school year is winding down I'm sure the students are preparing for summer vacation. There are many great things happening, such as a middle school summer camp. This was a program we had in the past; hopefully it will spread throughout the district in the future.

See you at the Lehigh School and Community Education /Safety Program June 13th

"Commitment to Excellence"

Curriculum & Instruction—Mr. Timothy M. Tkach, Coordinator of Curriculum

Common Core State Standards

For the past two decades, American Public Education has been highly scrutinized and criticized for not adequately preparing our students to compete on international exams. The media and politicians have perseverated on this point, insisting that more testing would bring all of our students to a level of expected proficiency. In this context it is presumed that the essential ingredient to keep America ahead of other nations is increased test scores. Our competitiveness as a nation as well as the sum total of our students' success cannot be measured by standardized testing alone there is so much more to successfully competing in life.

Pennsylvania's Public Education is on the threshold of considerable changes in curriculum, instruction and assessment. In 2014, all students will be assessed according to new standards known as the Common Core State Standards. The assessments will require higher expectations for performance and instructional practices. We must prepare our students with the skills to enter into a job market that currently doesn't exist. Just twenty years ago, the teacher was the primary source of information and knowledge in their content area. Now our students have access to unlimited information at their fingertips. They do not need to rely on the teacher for information because then can merely Google it. The past methods of preparing students for information recall must be enhanced with the ability to discern and apply information for problem solving and to create new ideas and innovations. Now more than ever, our students must learn to work effectively together, to collaborate and to discover the leader within. We are in the business of teaching student and not just subjects. As we develop their skills to be successful in life, we must also emphasize and reinforce the values that teach them how to live.

In the context of teaching students rather than subjects, our effectiveness is measured by what our students have learned rather than what we say we have taught. We need to assure that all of our students obtain the skills necessary to compete successfully in life and encourage them to embrace the characteristics that will give them a better understanding about how to live. They can be fully competitive in life by discovering their uniqueness, understanding their worth and tapping into the leader within. As we transition to the Common Core Standards with the added rigor and heightened expectations, we will assure that our students have the necessary competencies to be successful.

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

Lehigh Area School District will start PSSA testing, grades 3-8, from April 8-19 for Math & Reading and April 22-26 for Science, grades 4-8.

Technology News—Mr. Marcus A. Statham, I.T. Director

Alert Now is the automated calling system used by the Lehigh Area School District. This system can notify all households in the district with a regular call within 20 minutes and an emergency call within 35 minutes.

For a regular call, Alert Now calls the two (2) primary telephone numbers given by the parents/guardians for their children. Most people give one (1) home telephone number and one (1) cell phone number as their primary telephone numbers.

For an emergency call, Alert Now calls the two (2) primary telephone numbers **AND** up to seven (7) other telephone numbers that parents/guardians have given us as an emergency contact. If you have listed neighbors, grandparents, friends, childcare businesses as an emergency contact, they will be called if the call is deemed an emergency call. Lehigh is fortunate that only two (2) emergency calls have ever been made district-wide. Parents/guardians must choose their emergency contacts carefully and tell the emergency contact that they are listed and what they should do in case they get an emergency call from the district.

Technology News—continued

When Alert Now dials and a person answers, Alert Now waits for COMPLETE silence to deliver its message. If Alert Now hears anything (a TV in the background, barking dog, static on the line, etc.) it will wait 40 seconds to get silence. If within the 40 seconds, there is no silence, the system gives up. In a case of intermittent silence, the system will keep trying to deliver the message from the beginning when it gets silence and then stop when it hears noise again and on the next occurrence of silence start at the beginning again. It is important, especially if you are using a cellular telephone, to make sure you have a short introduction on your answering machine and no extra noise on the recording. In addition, messages may **NOT** be delivered when the cellular telephone is in a poor reception area and/or there is static on the line (every carrier has poor and/or dead spots). If you are on the telephone when Alert Now calls, it will try three (3) more times to contact you before it stops dialing your telephone number. If you wish to re-listen to an Alert Now message, at the end of the message you have the option of selecting 1 and the message will replay from the beginning. You can also listen/read all the telephone/e-mail messages sent over the last 15 days by going to <http://www.alertnowmessage.com> and type in a telephone number or an e-mail address.

Alert Now can also send out e-mails. It takes the e-mail address of the mother and father and sends the message to those e-mail addresses. Because of the mass e-mailings sometimes the e-mail might be put in the parent's SPAM box so everyone should make sure that e-mails coming from lehighton.org is on their NOT SPAM list.

At this point, you might be wondering how all these telephone numbers and e-mail addresses get into Alert Now. Once a day, everyday (including Saturday and Sunday), a file is created by our student management system, Power School, and automatically feeds it into Alert Now. All a parent has to do is notify their child's school(s) of their primary telephone numbers, emergency telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Once that is entered by the school secretary that information is ported over to Alert Now as well as the district's library system, and the cafeteria system in the early morning hours. This was done to increase the efficiency of the staff and reduce the number of mistakes that can be made inputting data in several systems. Because of our systems dependence on data from Power School, it is important for parents/guardians to keep the schools updated with not only changes to telephone numbers at home, but also addresses, new/updated cellular telephone numbers, emergency contacts, a child's medical status, employment telephone numbers (especially if given as a contact telephone number). Please remember when you get a new telephone number, your old telephone number is given to someone else, and it is that old number that will be called until the school is informed of the new number and updated.

While Alert Now and the infrastructure of the telephone network (both landline and cellular) are good, they are not perfect. People still experience missed called, dropped calls, and connects via a bad line (excessive static). Missed/dropped calls made to cell phones can be caused by changes in service areas, terrain, location (for example, interior rooms have weaker reception than rooms with windows), or low battery (not enough power to sustain a call). Telephone service (both cellular and landline) has even been down for days (as during Superstorm Sandy). For this reason, the district supplements Alert Now with the listing of closings and other urgent items with television and radio stations (listed at the end of the article) and postings on our web site, <http://www.lehighton.org>. No one should depend on just one system, as no one system is perfect.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at mstatham@lehighton.org if you have any further questions about the Alert Now system.

TV stations the Lehigh Area School District notifies for important announcements: TV 69 (WFMZ), TV 16 , (WNEP), TV28/22 (WBRE), TV13 (Blue Ridge)

Radio stations the Lehigh Area School District notifies for important announcements: WAEB – 790 AM, WCTO – 96.1 FM, WLEV – 100.7 FM

Athletics—*Kyle Spotts, Director of Student Services*

Winter Season

The winter season has come to an end with many exciting memories and a number of individual and team accolades. We had a number of winter student-athletes selected to Mountain Valley Conference (MVC) All-Star teams. To date the selections are as follows: Two student-athletes were selected to the MVC Boys Basketball All-Star team. Junior **Anthony Rossino** was selected to the second team and Sophomore **Tyler Crum** was selected as an honorable mention. We had one student-athlete selected to the MVC Girls Basketball All-Star Team. Junior **Tiffany Thompson** was selected as an honorable mention. In Wrestling, we had three individuals selected to the MVC Wrestling All-Star Team. Freshman **Connor Frey** was selected as a member of the first team and freshmen **Tegan Durishin** and **Zach Kemmerer** were selected as members of the second team. In addition to their selection to the All-star teams, Connor and Zach qualified for the AA Regional where Connor finished 6th.

Our Winter Scholar-Athletes were: Boys Basketball – Jacen Nalesnik; Girls Basketball – Emily Shelly and Cheerleading – Lauren Sherry. In addition to his selection as Lehigh Valley's scholar-athlete, Jacen Nalesnik was selected as the MVC Scholar-Athlete for Boys Basketball.

Along with these individual awards, the Boys Basketball team qualified for the District XI playoffs for the first time since 2007 and defeated Southern Lehigh in the first round. In their first year as a PIAA sport, our Cheerleading squad placed and medaled in numerous events throughout the winter season.

Lehighton Athletics

I want to thank everyone for supporting the winter teams. Many exciting games are ahead for our Spring sports! Please join us and share in the INDIAN school spirit and support our teams. Our student-athletes and coaches work very hard to achieve success. Let's cheer them on! Remember always cheer for the Indians and never against the opposing team or officials! Go Indians!

Mark your Calendar:

May 21st – 7pm Winter/Spring Athletic Awards Assembly – H.S. Auditorium

Athletic Information

Lehigh Valley Athletics Website: <http://www.lehighvalleyathletics.com>

The Lehigh Valley athletics website is your hub for all Lehigh Valley athletics information. Team schedules are accessible on the district athletic website.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or inquiries. My door is always open.

I hope to see each one of you at a contest supporting our wonderful student-athletes and coaches. Good luck to the spring sports teams and have a great year!

Elementary—Mr. Aaron Sebelin, Principal & Mrs. Suzanne Howland, Principal

IT'S PSSA TIME AGAIN!

We need your help! The Pennsylvania State System Assessment (PSSA) tests in reading and math will be given to our 3rd and 4th grade students starting April 8. The tests will be completed by April 16. By now, I'm sure you realize how important these days are to all of us. We need your help in getting the children ready to test. Here are some things you can do at home:

- Get them to bed on time
- Feed them a good, healthy breakfast
- Note the importance of this test, but don't put added pressure on them
- Emphasize that each child should put forth their best effort
- Attendance is VERY important; make sure to have them to school on time

To assist our students in doing their best with the testing schedule for April 8 thru April 16, our school will provide 3rd and 4th grade students with a complimentary breakfast. Breakfast schedule will be as follows:

Grade 4 -4/8 - 4/15

Grade 3 -4/9 - 4/16

Grade 4 only 4/22 – 4/23 will take the Science PSSA tests

If you have any questions, please free feel to contact me at 610-377-7880. As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

A Free Summer Camp at the Middle School for current 4th graders

How would you like your son or daughter to start an activity that could have a positive affect on the rest of their lives?

How would you like your son or daughter to get accustomed to the middle school and make new friends?

How would you like your son or daughter to attend a camp that is educational, fun, and the instruction is free of charge. Well, the Lehigh Area Middle School Summer Band program just may be for you!

The LAMS Summer Band program is **tentatively** set to begin the week of June 17 and will conclude with a concert on Thursday, July 11. The primary focus of this program is to have 4th graders begin to learn a band instrument during the summer so they are ready to be a full member of the band once 5th grade begins. However, this program is open to any 5th, 6th, or 7th grader who would like to learn a band instrument. The program only takes place 2 or 3 days a week for four weeks. Furthermore, students are permitted to miss a few sessions due to day trips, camps, or vacations.

Tentatively, parent information meetings will take place in the morning and evening of **Wednesday, May 8 (subject to change)**. More information, and a definitive meeting date, will be sent home in early May. However, feel free to contact Mr. Weidner at tweidner@lehigh.org if you have any questions.

A summer band program is also **tentatively** available for current 5th, 6th, and 7th graders who are already a member of the band. This program spans from June 17 to July 11. More information will be forthcoming in May 2013.

The Middle School Is Looking For 4th Graders Interested In Learning Brass Instruments

The 5th and 6th grade band is looking for a bunch of 4th graders to try learning a trumpet, trombone, or baritone horn this summer. Although all the band instruments are important, the 5th and 6th grade band **desperately needs brass players!** Often, playing a brass instrument is more economical than playing a woodwind instrument. If your child cannot decide to try the saxophone or trombone, please encourage them to give the trombone a shot. More information regarding brass instruments will be forthcoming in May.

Middle School News—Dr. Mark McGalla, Principal

Jazz Ensemble

The Lehigh Area Middle School jazz ensemble participated in a jazz festival on Friday, March 15. The festival took place at Nitschmann Middle School in the Bethlehem Area School District. All four Bethlehem middle schools performed as well as Saucon Valley middle school and Bridgewater-Raritan middle school from New Jersey. Lehigh was the only district from Carbon County to be represented at the festival!

Although Lehigh was the smallest middle school participating in the festival by a large margin; the jazz ensemble received very positive reviews and judge's comments. In fact, the judges rated the band as **superior**. A **superior** is the highest possible rating. Cera Gaston, Samantha Smalley, and Dane Frantz performed solos while Eliza Asmann received special recognition for her solo work on the trumpet.

The LAMS Jazz Ensemble will conclude its season with a performance at the LAMS Spring concert on May 9.

Lehigh Area Middle School goes "Into The Woods"

Lehigh Area Middle School was proud to present the musical, "Into the Woods, Jr." on March 25 and March 26, 2013. The musical presents a funny and engaging look at some beloved fairy tale characters, and twists the traditional tales together in an entertaining way. The show, with book by James Lapine and music by Stephen Sondheim, was on Broadway in the 1980s and revived in the 1990s.

The junior version is adapted for students 9th grade and under, and was directed by Mrs. Laura Welkey, a music teacher at the middle school. The cast and crew consisted of students in grades 5 through 8. Scenery and costumes were designed and built by Mrs. Welkey and members of the cast.



Zach Lettich and Madison DeLuca as the Baker and His Wife.



Grace Shanton as Rapunzel and Kira Williams as the Witch.

High School News—Mr. Craig Reichl, Principal

On March 21, high school student, Tempist Carl was presented with a Celebration Award through ARC. This award recognizes individuals who have made great strides in reaching personal goals and have enriched their own capabilities. Tempist had been nominated by her teacher, Mrs. Marianne Slaby, as she has demonstrated the ability to be an inspiration to others.

Tempist is an 11th grade student who can best be described as a survivor. Tempist endured many hardships in her young life, but has made tremendous strides in overcoming her adversities. Tempist possesses humanitarian and nurturing personality traits. Several times in her life, she has assumed the responsibility of care-giver to family, friends, and animals.

Tempist has become a leader among her classmates, and often serves as a peer mentor. She is conscientious of her work and puts forth great effort to maintain positive behaviors and grades. Other students have looked to her for guidance and direction. Her ability to be able to make such strides behaviorally and academically has opened the door for others to achieve, as well.

We are very proud of Tempest and all that she has accomplished!



LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 Union Street
Lehigh, Pennsylvania 18235
610-377-4490 (telephone)
610-577-0032 (fax)

Newsletter information:
mwagner1@lehighton.org

Important Dates

5/10/13	-	Act 80 Day (Tentative)—Early Dismissal for Students
5/27/13	-	Memorial Day Holiday
6/4,5,6,7,10/13	-	Early Dismissal for Students
6/4/13	-	Baccalaureate - 6:30 p.m.— Zion U.C.C.
6/7/13	-	Graduation - 7:00 p.m. - LAHS

East Penn Elementary

610-377-6094
610-577-1008 (fax)

Franklin Elementary

610-377-6163
610-577-0067 (fax)

Mahoning Elementary

570-386-4678
610-577-1009 (fax)

Shull David Elementary

610-377-7880
610-377-0908 (fax)

Lehighton Middle School

610-377-6535
610-377-6503 (fax)

Lehighton High School

610-377-6180 (main office)
610-377-0303 (fax)
610-377-7600 (guidance)
610-377-1852 (fax)

School Hours:

Elem. 8:30 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
M.S. 7:45 a.m.-2:13 p.m.
H.S. 7:45 a.m.-2:18 p.m.
Adm. 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**George's Bus
Transportation**
610-377-5511

2013-14 School Year

9/2/13	-	Labor Day Holiday
9/3/13	-	Students' First Day
10/14/13	-	In-Service—Early Dismissal for Students
11/25,26,27/13	-	Parent/Teacher Conferences—Early Dismissal for Students
11/28,29,& 12/2	-	Thanksgiving Holiday— No School
12/20/13	-	Early Dismissal
12/23-31, 1/1/14	-	Winter Holiday—No School
1/20/14	-	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—No School

Administrators

Jonathan J. Cleaver, Superintendent
J. Michael Malay, Business Administrator
Tina Holmes, Asst. Business Administrator
Timothy M. Tkach, Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Grants
Sean LeDonne, Supervisor of Special Services
Sandra Michalik, Asst. Supervisor of Special Services
Joseph Hauser, Supervisor of Plant Operations
Craig Reichl, High School Principal
Daniel Repsher, Asst. High School Principal
Mark McGalla, Middle School Principal
Michael DeAngelo, Asst. Middle School Principal
Aaron Sebelin, Mahoning & Shull David Elementary Principal
Suzanne Howland, East Penn & Franklin Elementary Principal
Kyle Spotts, Director of Student Services and Facilities Planning

Board of Directors

Rocky Ahner, President
Hal Resh, Vice President
Andrew Yenser, Treasurer
John Finnegan
William Hill, Jr.
Dave Krause
Larry Stern
Wayne Wentz
Thomas Zimmerman, IV
Atty. William Schwab, Solicitor

