



Message from the Superintendent—Mr. Jonathan J. Cleaver

Finally, spring is here! Well, maybe, it certainly depends on the day and the week. After the long winter we have had, any sign of spring is a positive one. As the saying goes “April Showers Bring May Flowers”. It also brings budget talks for public schools. In light of these economic times and financial hardships, the Lehigh Area School District remains committed to providing a quality education in a safe environment for every child.

As we move forward with our budgeting process our board and administration have been committed to making every “Good Faith” effort to not only keep the current programs we offer here at Lehigh Area, but to increase the number of opportunities our students are afforded. As the superintendent of Lehigh Area School District, it is an honor and a privilege to work with a board that is so committed to ensuring the students are given every opportunity for success.

This community is fortunate to have a team of dedicated men and women on the Lehigh Area School Board who are champions both of fiscal responsibility and student progress. In addition to their volunteer work, they have spent countless hours reading educational research, school policies, attending legislative forums, reviewing complex budgets and/or building proposals. They have gone through ongoing training, professional development, workshops, seminars and conferences every year. They have visited our schools, schools in other districts, and continue to make every effort to ensure the students of Lehigh are prepared for life’s journey. For these and many other reasons, they deserve our support and appreciation as they continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of our students and to move our district forward.

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

School Performance Profile

The PA School Performance Profile serves several purposes:

- Provide a building level academic score for educators as part of the Educator Effectiveness System as required by 24 P.S. § 11-123 – Act 82 - 2012
- Provide information used in determining federal accountability status for Title I schools as required by the Federal Elementary and Secondary Act, section 111(h)(1) and (h)(2)
- Inform the public of the academic performance measures of each school, comprehensive career and technical center, cyber charter and charter school in Pennsylvania
- Offer a resource for LEAs to communicate and compare performance, analyze performance indicators as related to achievement, and encourage best practice.
 - ◇ Employ as an analysis tool to inform goal setting, planning, and allocating resources to improve student achievement
 - ◇ Compare performance to local schools
 - ◇ Compare performance to schools with similar demographics
 - ◇ Communicate performance to various constituencies

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

PA School Performance Profile—*continued from page 2*

The Educator Effectiveness System (Act 82 of 2012) is designed to evaluate both principals and teachers. Teacher evaluations are based upon classroom observations, teacher specific data, elective data, and building level data. The building level data is the school academic performance score derived from the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile. The academic performance score comprises 15% of each teacher and principal's evaluation and will be a part of the Educator Effectiveness system starting with 2013-14 school year for classroom teachers and 2014-2015 for non-teaching professional educators and principals.

The Lehighton Area School District announced during November that the LEA will use data from Pennsylvania's School Performance Profile (SPP) to more comprehensively assess the academic performance of each of its schools. Public schools will now receive an academic performance score. In the past our schools previously received a No Child Left Behind designation. An online public portal, the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile will now provide demographic data, academic data, and an academic performance score for public schools in the state.

Unlike previous measures of our schools, the School Performance Profile utilizes many data points to measure our schools' academic strength. While we receive a score for our schools, the more important aspect of this resource is that it allows us to acknowledge our strengths and use the profile as a tool for student improvement.

The School Performance Profile academic performance score is based not only on test scores but many other factors that signal student achievement. A student growth factor measures how well students are progressing toward proficiency in state assessments. Also measured are graduation and attendance rates, degree of rigorous course offerings at the secondary level.

Many data elements come together to create the academic performance score. A score is reported for each school and is based upon indicators that define a high performing school in Pennsylvania. These elements are categorized into five areas.

Using the data through the PA School Performance Profile, it provides us with a broader lens to view the academic performance in our schools. Our staff is using this data along with other information to more fully evaluate the program and services provided to students.

Our schools welcome an additional view of academic performance. We as a district, administrators, and teachers are always open to new tools and strategies to further enhance data-informed decision making in our schools.

Access to the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile is available at www.pde.state.pa.us or through the district portal at www.lehighton.org. If you have any questions, regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at ttkach@lehighton.org or call me at 610-377-4490, ext. 1540.

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Curriculum & Instruction—continued

New Chapter 4 Regulations for Academic Standards and Assessment

The State Board of Education's revisions to its Chapter 4 regulations for academic standards and assessment are final and effective as of Saturday, March 1, when they were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

The following is a summary of the key provisions under the newly revised Chapter 4 regulations:

Pennsylvania Core Standards – References to the Common Core Standards and Pennsylvania Common Core Standards are deleted and now referred to as the Pennsylvania Core Standards. These standards for English language arts and mathematics are based upon components of the national Common Core standards. In addition, the chapter includes Common Core Standards in Reading and Writing in Science and Technology (as an appendix to the state standards for science and technology), and Reading and Writing in History and Social Studies (as an appendix to the state standards for history). The state standards are applicable only to public schools and do not apply to private, religious or homeschooled students. The regulations apply to school districts, charter and cyber charter schools, area vocational technical schools (AVTS) and intermediate units.

Clarifications –The regulations clarify that the state will not require school entities to utilize a statewide curriculum or statewide reading lists. The rules also clarify that Pennsylvania will not participate as a governing state in any consortium for the development of a national assessment, except if one is deemed necessary for special education students and then only in consultation with parents, teachers and other interested parties. In addition, Chapter 4 states that PDE will not expand the collection of student data and will not collect personal family data due to implementation of the standards.

Strategic plan – The requirement for districts to complete state-prescribed strategic planning every six years is removed. However, when a district's current strategic plan is expired it will have to complete plans as currently required under other regulations in these areas: teacher induction (Ch. 49), student services Ch. 12), gifted education (Ch. 16), professional development (Ch. 49), and special education (Ch. 14) and pre-kindergarten if the school offers it (Ch. 4). A 28- day public comment period is required prior to school board adoption for the remaining six required plans. According to clarification from PDE, if school entities complete the Comprehensive Planning process and associated web application, they will meet all revised Chapter 4 planning requirements. In addition, the web application is also the required tool for schools (school level, not district level) to submit a School Level Plan. This used to be called the School Improvement Plan under NCLB. With the new requirements under the state's NCLB waiver, Title I schools who are designated as Priority or Focus schools OR Title I schools who implement a Title I School wide Program, are required to submit a School Level Plan to PDE using the web application.

Keystone Exams –Keystone Exams will be developed in five content areas for graduation purposes: Literature, Algebra I, Biology, Composition, and Civics and Government. Keystone Exams in Literature, Algebra I, and Biology will serve a dual purpose as both graduation requirements and for state accountability as required under federal law. The Keystone Exam scores do not count as one-third of the student's final course grade. Therefore, the use of the Keystone Exams will be as a stand-alone requirement for graduation.

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Curriculum & Instruction—continued

New Chapter 4 Regulations for Academic Standards and Assessment—*Continued from page 3*

High school graduation requirements – Effective with the graduating **Class of 2017**, graduation requirements include the following: 1) Course completion and grades; 2) Demonstration of proficiency as determined by the school district, charter or cyber school or AVTS if applicable in each of the state academic standards not assessed by a state assessment; and 3) Require proficiency in Algebra I, Biology and Literature Keystone Exams or project-based assessment if applicable.

(Beginning with the **Class of 2019**, students will also have to pass a Composition Keystone Exam. Beginning with the **Class of 2020**, students will also have to pass a Keystone Exam in Civics and Government. The composition and civics and government exams are subject to available state funding for development and implementation of each assessment.

Districts will retain the option for independently-validated local assessments or completion of an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Exam to replace the Keystone Exams.

Elimination of graduation project -- The proposal also eliminates the requirement for students to complete a culminating project in order to graduate, beginning with the Class of 2017.

Special education students -- Special education students are required to satisfactorily complete the program developed by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team in order to graduate from the school district, charter school or AVTS, if applicable.

School board approval/public notification of graduation requirements – Within six months of the final and effective date of these new Chapter 4 revisions, school boards are required to adopt new high school graduation requirements if they are not aligned with the regulations. The school must provide a copy of the requirements to students, parents and guardians, and make copies available in each school building or post them on the school's website.

Other Keystone Exams for voluntary use -- Five additional Keystone Exams will be developed by PDE for *voluntary* use by districts, subject to funding by the state. The tests and schedule is as follows: Geometry in 2016-17; U.S. History in 2017-18; Algebra II; in 2018-19; Chemistry in 2019-20; and World History in 2020-21. There will be no related project-based assessments or validation of local assessments for these exams. *continued*

Alternate pathways for CTC students – There are two alternate pathways for graduation for students enrolled in a career and technical education program. First, these students may demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone Exams or a Pennsylvania Skills Assessment (NOCTI exam) to meet the requirement for testing in Composition, and Civics and Government. Second, CTC students who did not demonstrate proficiency on the Biology Keystone Exam may participate in a project-based assessment without having to take the Keystone twice. These pathways relate only to graduation requirements; students would still be required to take Keystone Exams for state accountability purposes.

Parental opt-out – The regulation gives parents/guardians the right to review any state assessment to determine whether the assessment conflicts with their religious beliefs. In asserting a religious objection to the assessment, a parent/guardian must explain the objection in their written request for excusal. *continued*

Curriculum & Instruction—continued

New Chapter 4 Regulations for Academic Standards and Assessment—*Continued from page 4*

Project required for opt-out students – Students who are not taking Keystone Exams under the parental opt-out provision must take the project-based assessment for each subject area required for graduation.

Student transcripts – PSSA scores will continue to be included on student transcripts, and beginning in 2016-17, the performance level demonstrated, *not* the score, for each Keystone Exam will be on the transcript.

Supplemental instruction -- Students who did not score proficient on a Keystone Exam must participate in supplemental instruction prior to re-taking the Keystone/module. The supplemental instructional support must be consistent with the student's educational program. The school must continue providing supplemental instruction either until the student demonstrates proficiency in the subject area or until the student begins participating in a project-based assessment.

Re-taking Keystone Exams -- A student may re-take an exam or exam module in which he or she did not score proficient or above, so long as the student received supplemental instruction. There is no limit on the number of times a student who did not score proficient on a Keystone Exam can retake the test.

Project-based assessment – Students not able to demonstrate proficiency on an exam or whose parents opted them out of taking a Keystone Exam will participate in a project-based assessment. The project-based assessment will be administered by schools and scored by statewide panels. Successful completion of the project will satisfy the requirements for graduation. Students below grade 12 are eligible to take the project if they have taken the course related to the Keystone Exam, met the district's attendance requirements and have at least two unsuccessful attempts at demonstrating proficiency. Seniors must also meet those requirements, except that they are eligible for the project after just one unsuccessful attempt to score proficient.

Waivers for 12th grade students – The chief school administrator may waive the graduation requirements on a case-by-case basis for good cause in two instances. First, a waiver may be granted for a senior who was not successful in completing a project-based assessment. Second, the secretary may grant a waiver to accommodate a student who experiences certain extenuating circumstances. Such circumstances include serious illness, death in the immediate family, family emergency, frequent transfers in schools or transfer from an out-of-state school in grade 12.

Waiver process/action plan – A chief school administrator that is considering granting waivers for more than 10% of students in the graduating class who were not successful in completing a project-based assessment must submit an action plan for approval to the secretary no later than 10 calendar days prior to graduation. (The 10% does not include the number of waivers to be granted for extenuating circumstances.) The plan must identify improvements that schools will implement to each course associated with the Keystone Exam content for which the waivers were requested. The chief school administrator must annually report to the Department of Education the number of waivers granted. The department will compile the information and provide a report to the State Board of Education on number of waivers issued.

The waiver process does not confer any individual rights to a student and the decision made by a chief school administrator concerning a waiver request is not an adjudication or subject to an appeals process. Disapproval of the action plan by the secretary of education does not confer an individual right on any student regarding a waiver decision made by a chief school administration.

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. Senior's Anthony **Rossino** and **James Farano** were selected as honorable mentions. We had one student-athlete selected to the MVC Girls' Basketball All-Star Team. Senior **Tiffany Thompson** was selected as an honorable mention. In Wrestling, we had four individuals selected to the MVC Wrestling All-Star Team. Sophomore's **Connor Frey**, **Tegan Durishin** and **Zach Kemmerer** were selected as members of the second team and Freshman **Ezra Neff** was a second team selection as well. In addition to his selection to the All-star teams, Connor Frey qualified for the AA State Championship in Hershey.

Our Winter Scholar-Athletes were: Wrestling – Anthony Farano; Boys' Basketball – James Farano; Girls' Basketball – Atasha Rehrig and Cheerleading – Catrina Strubinger. In addition to his selection as Lehighton's scholar-athlete, James Farano was selected as the MVC Scholar-Athlete for Boys Basketball.

Along with these individual awards, the Boys' Basketball team and Wrestling team qualified for the District XI Playoffs.

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 27th – 7:00 p.m. Winter/Spring Athletic Awards Assembly – H.S. Auditorium

Athletic Information

Lehighton Athletics Website: <http://www.lehighton.org/athletics.cfm>

The Lehighton athletics website is your hub for all Lehighton 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!



East Penn & Franklin Elementary—Mrs. Suzanne Howland, Principal

Spring is Here

Signs of spring are popping up all over our elementary schools. From landscaping to curriculum our students minds are in bloom.

I would like to commend all our students and staff for their hard work during the third and fourth grade PSSA time. All of our students put forth a valiant effort. Fourth graders will be taking the PSSA Science exam on Tuesday, April 29th at East Penn and Franklin.

In the upcoming weeks our elementary students will be attending some fun, engaging sights for their annual field trips. Some of the locations are: the Philadelphia Zoo, the Camden Aquarium, Lancaster, the Da Vinci Center, the Lehigh Valley Zoo, Lake Tobias and the Crayola Factory.

Both East Penn and Franklin schools will be observing Earth Day on Friday, April 25th. The day is filled with centers and rotations themed around taking care of our natural environment.

Franklin will be holding their first Science Family night on Friday, May 2nd. The evening will be filled with hands-on science centers and an experiment from Dr. Keith Peterman, a science professor from York College.

Both schools will be observing Memorial Day this year on Friday, May 23rd. The annual programs are open to the public. Franklin's program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and East Penn will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The year will end with our annual spring concerts, and the traditional "Big Kahuna" race and field day at both elementary buildings. These events are lead by our creative and dedicated music and health & physical education teachers, Mrs. Susan Stufflet and Mr. Larry Koons.

As you can see the students and staff will be sprinting to the finish line of the 2013-14 school year.

East Penn Elementary Calendar of Events

4/29/14—4th Grade Science PSSA Testing
 4/30/14—Student of the Month Lunch/Program
 5/5/14—3rd Grade Envirothon
 5/6/14—PTO Meeting—6:30 p.m.
 5/16/14—Kindergarten & 1st Grade Field Trip - Philadelphia Zoo
 5/20/14—4th Grade Spelling Bee @ Middle School
 5/23/14—Memorial Day Program-1:00 p.m.
 5/28/14—Big Kahuna/Field Day (Rain date 5/29/14)
 5/30/14—Student of the Month Lunch/Program
 6/5/14—Spring Concert-3rd & 4th Grade-1:30 p.m.

Franklin Elementary Calendar of Events

4/23/14—Spring Photos
 4/24/14—Student of the Month Lunch/Distribution
 4/25/14—School-Wide Celebration—Earth Day

4/29/14—4th Grade Science PSSA Testing
 5/1/14—4th Grade Spelling Bee @ Middle School
 5/2/14—Family Science Night - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 5/5/14—3rd Grade Envirothon
 5/12/14—PTO Meeting—6:00 p.m.
 5/16/14—1st Grade field Trip—Lake Tobias
 5/20/14—4th Grade Spelling Bee @ Middle School
 5/24/14—Memorial Day Program-9:00 a.m.
 5/27/14—Big Kahuna/Field Day (Rain date 6/2/14)
 5/28/14—Student of the Month Lunch/Distribution
 5/29/14—4th Grade Field Trip-Lancaster
 5/30/14—2nd Grade Field Trip-Lehigh Valley Zoo
 6/3/14—Kindergarten Field Trip-Crayola
 6/4/14—Spring Concert-3rd & 4th Grade-1:30 p.m.
 6/6/14—End-of-Year Celebration-Lehigh Pool
 6/10/14—3rd Grade Field Trip-DaVinci Center

Mahoning & Shull David Elementary—Mr. Aaron Sebelin, Principal

Art Show

My name is Adrienne Fedor (Miss Fedor), I am the Art Teacher at Mahoning Elementary and Shull-David Elementary School. When I first arrived to the Lehigh Area School District a year ago I had a goal for myself and for both Shull-David Elementary School and Mahoning Elementary School; to have their own art shows where every student can be recognized for their artistic talent.

I was pleased to see that students' musical talents were celebrated through their winter and spring music concerts, students' athletic talents were celebrated through Olympic Day, and students celebrated their love of reading through the fall and spring book fair. However, after seeing how talented my students are in art I felt that we needed to celebrate their wonderful talent!

The artwork in the art shows ranged from Kindergarten to Fourth grade. Every student was able to select their favorite art project to be in the art show. I felt that it was important to let the students choose their artwork because it reflected themselves as an artist and gave them a sense of ownership as well. Various types of artwork were selected, such as paintings, drawings, weavings, pottery, and sculptures. Students and their families were able to not only walk around the school and enjoy the student artwork, but they were able to enjoy baked goods, take a chance on an art and craft basket raffle, and show their creative side by drawing and coloring in the art room. Both art shows turned out to be a success and I am more than pleased to see how proud my students were to show their family and friends their selected artwork!



Welcome

We are welcoming Mrs. Karen Shaffer to Shull-David Elementary school as the Secretary to the Principal. Karen is very excited to get started in her new position. She looks forward to working with parents, students, and staff in the Lehigh Area School District.

Karen's educational background includes an MBA from Marywood University, BS (Communication) from IUP, and AAS (Graphic Arts) from Williamsport Area Community College.

Professionally, Mrs. Shaffer has been an LASD substitute for Secretaries, Paraprofessionals, & Lunch Aides. Her other experiences include: part time HR/Office Assistant at Fabri-Kal Corporation, 15 years in Marketing and Human Resources at American Red Cross Blood Services, 3 years as Photographer for PCA & Olan Mills, and a stay at home mom.

Karen is busy in her personal life volunteering in activities with The American Cancer Society Relay for Life Team (Captain for the Cheery Cheeks team) and Online Chair for the Relay for Life of Lower Carbon County, Girl Scout Daisy Troop 33 Leader, Secretary for the Lehigh Area Pool Pals, and a Mahoning PTO member.

Mrs. Shaffer's family includes her husband Forrest and daughter Morgan who is a kindergarten student in our district. Karen enjoys spending time with family, going to the beach, fishing in Canada, outdoor activities, and reading. Welcome Karen!

Mahoning & Shull David Elementary—continued

Read the Most Coast to Coast

Students at Mahoning Elementary help set a new national record as participants in third annual ‘Read the Most Coast to Coast’ while also shattering their own goal for most words read.

Students at Mahoning Elementary School took part in a nationwide effort to “Read the Most Coast to Coast” on Friday, February 28. Students joined Renaissance Learning’s challenge to break the national record set last school year for the number of Accelerated Reader Quizzes taken in one day. The new one-day record is an amazing 4,987,949 quizzes taken nationally! The Mahoning Elementary students totaled an amazing 1,040,459 words read!!

Students in grades 1-4 took part in this shared effort. Students won Dr. Seuss-themed bookmarks and pencils, took part in a 100% club raffle, and received a Certificate of National Participation from Renaissance Learning.

Accelerated Reader, the nation’s most widely used reading management program for K12 schools, helps educators generate excitement for reading and monitor students’ personalized practice.

Second graders Michael Citro and Riley Fritz earned “Bookworm Awards”. Michael Citro read the most words at 57, 371 for the day, while Riley Fritz passed the most quizzes.

The 100% club raffle winners were Callie Hayman (4th grade), Caden Kresge (2nd grade), Cora Fretz (first grade) and April Masters (3rd grade)



Mahoning Elementary Calendar of Events

4/17/14—School-Wide Celebration
4/28/14-5/2/14—4th Grade Science PSSA Testing
4/29/14—School-Wide Field Trip
5/5/14—3rd Grade Envirothon
5/12/14—PTO Meeting—6:45 p.m.
5/14/14—4th Grade Field Trip—Quiet Valley
5/19/14—Spring Concert-3rd & 4th Grade-1:00 p.m.
5/20/14—4th Grade Spelling Bee @ Middle School
6/6/14—4th Grade Moving Up Program

Shull David Elementary Calendar of Events

4/28/14—Field Hockey Clinic
4/28/14-5/2/14—4th Grade Science PSSA Testing
4/29/14—Student of the Month Program - 2:20 p.m.
4/30/14—Student of the Month Luncheon
5/5/14—3rd Grade Envirothon
5/5/14—PTO Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
5/19/14—Olympic Day (Rain date: 5/21/14)
5/20/14—4th Grade Spelling Bee @ Middle School
5/22/14—Spring Concert-3rd & 4th Grade-1:00 p.m.

Middle School News—Dr. Mark McGalla, Principal

Middle School Drama Club

Leighton Area Middle School Drama Students presented *Once Upon A Mattress* on Tuesday, February 11 and Wednesday, February 12. The show was under the direction of Mrs. Laura Welkey, and featured students from grade levels 5 through 8. The lead rolls included:

Madison DeLuca, grade 7, as Winnifred the Woebegone
 Xander Karpowicz, grade 8, as Prince Dauntless the Drab
 Emily Haberman, grade 8, as Queen Aggravain
 Michelle Bozilesky, grade 8, as Lady Larken
 Tyler Beck, grade 8, as Sir Harry
 Alexander Keck, grade 8, as the Jester
 Alison Miller, grade 6, as the Minstrel
 John DeMatte, grade 6, as the Silent King
 Hailie Brosky, grade 8, as the Wizard



Music Express, Jr. to Participate in *America Sings!* Festival April 3-5

Twenty 7th and 8th grade members of the Middle School Music Express traveled with their director Mrs. Laura Welkey to Washington D.C. from April 3-5, 2014, to take part in the 25 Year Celebration of *America Sings!* Festivals, founded by composer and show choir director, John Jacobson. Approximately 1500 participants from across the country met on the National Mall for a mass music and choreography rehearsal, community service, and finale concert. Guest artists from around the country performed for participants. During the Finale, inspiring motivational speakers encouraged the participants to keep singing and to find ways to use their skills to serve others.

LAMS students were a part of the *America Sings!* Spirit of America Choir, which is a unique opportunity for participants to rehearse intensively with John Jacobson in preparation for a fabulous performance of two songs in the *America Sings!* Friday Evening Opening Rehearsal and Entertainment.



Singers from all fifty states have attended *America Sings!* events and have completed community service projects to help charities in the cities where the events are held as well as in their hometowns. LAMS students have collected and donated 36 boxes of goods collected for the Capital Area food banks, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, programs for children who are sick, hospitalized or in child care centers. They also made sandwiches for the homeless, and helped to create "kits for kids" to give to the D.C. area's After School Playtime Project.

The singers learned that they, along with hundreds of other young people who love music, have the power to make a difference — singing and serving! It's an artistic growing experience!

Middle School News—continued

L.A.M.S. Student Advisory Council Raises Money for the Fight Against Cancer

On Friday, March 14, 2014, the Student Advisory Council of the Lehigh Area Middle School held a Volleyball Tournament and on Friday, March 28, 2014, held their 15th Annual Talent Show to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The student advisory council advisor is Mr. John J. Lopata who helped the students organize both functions along with faculty members Ken Eck, Jennifer Lopata, and John Stemler.

The Volleyball Tournament was divided into two divisions; one for 8th grade students and one for the 7th grade students. The tournament had a double elimination format with the winners in each division playing games against teams of middle school faculty members.

The winner of the 7th grade tournament was the team known as the Hot Shots which consisted of Addison Howland, Isabella Baka, Olivia Frendt, Alexandra Hydro, Elizabeth Eckhart, Samantha Banning, Mason Barndt and Alexander Potts. The team lost its first game and then fought through to win the tournament over the Ninjas.

The 8th grade winners were the team of Patrick Lawler, Jake Petit-Clair, Tyler Steigerwalt, Nate Petit-Clair, Josh Stoffey, Nica Devlin, Elena Beckett and Emily Haberman known as the SWAT Team. They lost their opening game to the Flying Ninjas and then fought their way back winning five straight including two over the Flying Ninjas to win the tournament. However in the game against the faculty, the Swat Team was defeated by a score of 21-16.

Overall 80 students participated in the tournament and there were 20 faculty members. The faculty members that made up the two faculty teams were Jessica Corliss, Jessica Gasper, Rachel Quinn, Sharon Focht, Jennifer Tracy, Elizabeth Yescavage, Sarah Devitt, Courtney Schleicher, Jennifer Lopata, Ron Rabenold, Ken Eck, Jake Molchany, Tim Sharrow, Joseph Yescavage, John Stemler, Terry Haberman and Dr. Mark McGalla. Also Charlie Bachert, Diane Schnell and Yvette Sharrow helped keep score and collected at the door.





Middle School News—continued

L.A.M.S. Student Advisory Council Raises Money for the Fight Against Cancer—cont.

During the Talent Show, twenty-two students provided 15 acts for the crowd of people who attended. Students performed dance routines, and instrumental and vocal renditions to popular songs. The students were judged by Middle School Assistant Principal Charlie Bachert, and teachers Mrs. Terri Kokinda and Mr. Ken Eck.

The overall winner of the Talent Show was 7th Grade student---Evan Beers who played his electric guitar and sang the song “Bad to the Bone”.

There was a tie for Second place between 7th grader Madison DeLuca who sang the song “I got the Sun in the Morning” from Annie Get Your Gun and 6th grader Jenna Kroboth who did a lyrical dance number to “Swimming” by Florence and the Machine.

In a third place tie, were 8th grader Grace Obert who did an instrumental flute rendition of “Know What You Did in the Dark” by the Fall Out Boys and 6th grader Aleah Nothstein performed a piano/vocal solo of “Say Something” from A Great Big World.

And in a fourth place tie, we had 8th grader Amy Williamson playing a piano medley and 8th graders Jennifer Dobrowski, Samantha Smalley and 7th grader Madison DeLuca singing “Just Give Me A Reason” by Pink and accompanied themselves on the piano.

The Student Advisory Council would like to thank everyone who made donations to and participated in these events.



ATTENTION Parents of 6th Grade Students

Pennsylvania requires 2 immunizations for entry into seventh grade. All students must receive the Adacel (Tdap) and the Menactra (MCV or Medimmune) vaccines. Parents should bring proof of their child’s vaccine to the School Nurse at Leighton Area Middle School. For more information, please call Kathryn Lloyd, School Nurse, at 610-377-3720.

Middle School News—continued

STEM

The STEM (**Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**) Design Challenge, which has grown in the last 5 years, is now expanding statewide. This challenge which started in the Pittsburgh Allegheny Area of Pennsylvania is now going to include the eastern half of the state. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 agreed to host this exciting new and developing STEM program. Thermo Fisher Scientific Company sponsored the event. Thermo Fisher Scientific had their employees judge the competition and talk with the students about their designs.

Lehigh Area Middle School had 2 teams compete in this exciting program on April 11, 2014. The 4-5th grade team consisted of Lyle Cordes, Andrew Danilovitz, Matthew Hahn and Carter Strauss. The second team consisted of 5th and 6th graders; Dylan Coffin, John DeMatte and Jade Scheicher. The team advisor was Diane Schnell, Title 1 Math and gifted teacher at the Middle School. They competed against teams from the Lehigh Valley and the surrounding Carbon County area.

Teams were challenged to create an environmentally friendly people mover made out of K'Nex. This vehicle had to be able to travel at least 4 feet across the table and had to overcome at least one obstacle (hill, curves, landforms, etc.). Obstacles had to be chosen and designed by the team. Teams needed to create blueprints of their people mover. The teams made a presentation explaining how their vehicle was environmentally friendly, how many people could fit in their people mover, describe their obstacle and how their vehicle will overcome the obstacle they created.

The day of the competition the students had 2 hours to work together to put their vehicle together. Students were judged on design, blueprint, teamwork, creativity and presentation. The students also had to answer questions from the judges as they worked. Judges wanted to see how students could problem solve, work together, and explain their creation. Both of our teams had a great day at the competition. The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 announced that the competition was such a huge success they will again host the STEM Design Challenge and the set the date for March 13th, 2015.



High School News—Mr. Craig Reichl, Principal

Message from Mr. Reichl

NO MORE SNOW! Spring is finally here, so it's time to finalize plans for our school play, choral, band concerts, senior outing, banquets, the prom and graduation. The next two months will go by quickly, so make sure you take time to see the baseball, softball, tennis and track and field teams as they compete for titles in our last year as members of the Mountain Valley Conference. Well wishes to all of our spring co-curricular participants and we thank them for their dedication. Please see the list of activities listed below and follow us on Twitter for the most recent updates to our calendar.

Student course selection has been completed for all 8th through 11th graders for fall 2014. Here at Lehigh, we try to do our best to meet the educational needs of all our students through various educational offerings at the high school and dual enrollment classes at the new Jim Thorpe Carbon County Campus. If you have questions regarding course offerings or the course selection process please see our guidance webpage or contact Mrs. Costenbader or Ms. Ebbert.

As the end of the school year draws near, we know our students will continue to *Strive for Success* in all areas of their schooling. Continue to push yourself and have the expectation that you will be successful. If you need assistance in any of your classes please see your teacher or a guidance counselor and set-up tutoring during enrichment. Hard work will define you in the tough times, so work hard and enjoy everyday and continue to build great memories for your future.

Environmental Club- Advisor Mrs. Steigerwalt

The high school environmental club plans to lead a celebration of earth day that will raise awareness of conscientious living. Monday the 21st, students and community are invited to a high school campus clean up. All are welcome to meet in the student parking lot at 1:00 and join faculty members in picking up litter that has accumulated over this long winter. Tuesday April 22, students will be encouraged to wear green, take the bus, carpool, walk or ride a bike to school. Tuesday at 2:20, students will meet in the native plant garden to weed and cultivate the garden in preparation for spring buds and blossoms. We will also turn our compost pile to use as fertilizer for this year. Our blue bird house is occupied and will need to be re-sealed. A walk on the cross country course will follow these chores. Throughout the week prior to earth day students from the environmental club will be making an appearance on Tribal Vision offering tips that students can use for reusing, conserving, recycling, composting, etc. All students who participate in clean up of litter or the garden will be receiving a small recycled gift made by students and faculty in collaboration with the technical education department and crafted from sustainable resources.

Though a donation from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, arranged by Mrs. Daubert, 25 white pine and 25 silky dogwood trees will be available for distribution to students to plant at home. The Lehigh Area High School is excited to honor the planet we call home and do what we can to foster earth friendly habits. Please join us!



High School News—continued

High School Scholastic Scrimmage – Advisors Mrs. Leitzel and Mrs. Volcskai

The Scholastic Scrimmage team is proud to report recent success in this year's Scholastic Scrimmage Season aired on WLVT, PBS Channel 39 in Bethlehem. In the first round, the varsity team scored a solid victory against Pen Argyl. Undeterred by many snow days, we were finally able to meet and defeat Northampton.

Lehigh Valley's strength is in the areas of math and science, and many questions were asked in these disciplines. This is the first year we made it to the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, we lost to top-seeded Emmaus.

The team also recently travelled to the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit in Schnecksville for a competition against other high schools in Carbon and Lehigh counties. We played against Catasauqua, Salisbury, Emmaus, and Southern Lehigh.



We are looking forward to playing the other Carbon county schools in the Academic Bowl held at Weatherly on April 16th. Overall, the team has been successful. TV Team members include: Peter Phelan (Captain), Hunter McCabe, Kirk Breiner, Kyle Collins and Brianna Karpowicz. League members include: Daniel Edmunds, Devin Frantz, Kyle Higgins, Alyssa Huntington, Michelle Pomposello, Kelsey Andrews, Brandon Cressley, Michaela Petrucci, Kane Zerbe, Lacie McCabe, and Thomas Phelan.

Students Against Destructive Decisions – Advisor Mrs. Volcskai

Spring is an exciting time of year for Students Against Destructive Decisions. This spring, SADD was given the opportunity to apply for a grant by implementing four teen driving safety initiatives. SADD members decided on having a door decorating contest with the theme of seat belt safety, creating a safety flyer about Pennsylvania teen driving facts and tips, a sidewalk chalk initiative about distracted and impaired driving, and lastly having an information table set up for Prom Promise. Prom Promise is one of SADD's major initiatives each year.



SADD members will have a table at all lunches during the week of Prom, and students will have an opportunity to pledge to be drug and alcohol free on the night of prom. Students who pledge to be drug and alcohol free will be entered into a drawing to win tickets to the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs. We also just had Lehigh Valley Health Network visit the high school with three DUI simulators which allowed the students to understand the dangers of impaired driving. Students going to prom were allowed to sign-up to participate in the simulators. Unfortunately, spring is the time of year where

many teen driving accidents occur. As a school and community we want to make sure all of our young drivers arrive safely at their destinations.

High School News—continued

Lehighton High School Chorus - Teacher/Advisor Mr. Perkins

"Lehighton Chorus Has Something to Sing About"

Last month was "Music In Our Schools Month" and the Concert Choir was selected to perform at our State Capitol. Our high school choir met with Rep. Doyle Heffley and received a tour of our beautiful capitol building. The students performed on March 17th in the rotunda of our capitol for visitors, Representative Heffley, and other dignitaries. The choir performed a variety of music from traditional music, multi-cultural, and gospels. The choir also sang "Why We Sing" so they could express the importance of music in their lives.

Last month, Ellen Perkins, was selected to Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Chorus 2014! Earlier this year she was selected to represent Lehighton in District Band and District Chorus. She was also then selected to Regional Band and Regional Chorus. She is the first Lehighton student to advance in PMEA Band and Chorus Festivals for decades. All-State Chorus performed at the Forum in Harrisburg and Ellen ranked 4th in the state. Congratulations!

LAHS Spring Choral Concert May 18, 3:00 p.m.

The choruses will present their 97th Annual Spring Choral Concert on Sunday, May 18, at 3:00 p.m. This years program, "POP music!", will feature popular music from recent hits to some great standards from our recent past. Songs by the Adele, Doobie Brothers, Eric Clapton, One Direction, Fleetwood Mac, Imagine Dragons, Lady Gaga, Three Dog Night, Carrie Underwood, are just a few of the hits being performed. The concert features our Concert Choir, Show Choir, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and select small groups. A donation will be accepted at the door.



Music Express performing in Music In The Parks, Friday, May 2

Music Express Senior and Varsity Voices will be performing in an adjudication festival May 2 at Lebanon Valley Bible Church and Hershey Park. The students will have the opportunity to hear other performing ensembles as well as receive a rating on their performance.

A Concert of Hope and Remembrance

The Concert Choir is currently planning a formal concert for this spring that will feature a variety of repertoire and will feature the "Holocaust Cantata, Songs from the Camps". Music by Donald McCullough and lyrics by Denny Clark. Originally this was scheduled for the winter but due to this year's weather it was postponed. A new date has not yet been set but will be updated on our schools website. This moving cantata will contain readings and song reflecting the life of the camps during this tragic time in our history.

All of the songs in the cantata, originally in Polish, were found in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum archives and were written by prisoners while incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps. The readings are based on interview transcripts, historical data, and the story of Irene Augustynska Kafka. A portion of the proceeds from the music has been donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

District News

Lehigh Area Schools Support the American Red Cross

When disaster strikes, the American Red Cross provides shelter, food, clothing and mental health services in order to help families take the first steps towards recovery. On average, your Red Cross responds to one disaster every three days.

Red Cross Clubs are youth service groups that help the organization fulfill its humanitarian mission of preventing, preparing for and responding to emergencies. Working closely with our local chapter and a school advisor, club members participate in Red Cross service projects that help their schools, their communities and the world.

The Lehigh High School and the Lehigh Middle School both have Red Cross Clubs. We are two out of eight total clubs in the Greater Lehigh Valley area that support the American Red Cross.



The Lehigh Middle School Red Cross Club participated in this year's annual Holiday Mail for Heroes program organized by the Red Cross. Club members and students collected and sent encouraging messages to soldiers, military hospitals and local nursing homes prior to the Christmas Holiday Season. Over 860 cards were sent for distribution by the Red Cross, 75 cards were provided to local nursing homes and 20 were sent to a local soldier deployed to Afghanistan.

The Middle School Club also learns about emergency services in the local area and stresses the importance of our local volunteer emergency responders. In the past they have visited the Carbon County Telecommunications center, had presentations by both the Lehigh Paramedic Unit and Mahoning Valley Ambulance. Members were taught CPR and basic first aid practices. The Lehigh Police Department and Fire Department cooperate with the club by providing information about their equipment and the services that they provide.

In addition to the clubs helping to raise money and support the Red Cross efforts they visit elementary schools to pass on important lessons and help to promote the goals of the Red Cross. One of those efforts is to promote personal hygiene and how germs spread. The Red Cross Scrubby Bear Program teaches children to how to prevent the spread of disease by properly washing their hands. The club members enjoy presenting this program to Kindergarten students who are always excited to have a visit from Scrubby Bear.

Several club members have gone on to join our local volunteer emergency response organizations. They have also continued to be active in the American Red Cross organization making our schools proud of the commitment that they have shown to helping others.

District News

10th Annual Book Swap

The 10th Annual Book Swap is “in the books.” This signature Lehighton event was once again successful on many levels. It achieved the goal of stimulating a reading culture in our community attested by the scores of people who formed a line as long as a city-block an hour before the event began. Another measure of its success was in the volume of books donated and distributed back to the community. As always, it was a school-wide effort that culminated from the efforts of many teachers and staff that put it all together. These same people are also the ones who help stimulate interest for the students with “Read Across America” activities starting on March 2nd. Because of its wide-spread appeal and support, the plentiful donations of books allowed teachers to give extra book vouchers to children who otherwise would not have attended. Likewise, the monetary generosity of the staff allowed 337 brand-new books (many were hardcovers) to be mixed into the used books. The weeks of putting this event together are hectic and somewhat stressful for those who help organize this event. But like any job worth doing, the satisfaction and reward are returned many-fold just moments after the crowd arrives and the smiles of book-hungry students and community members appear on faces in every corner of the gym.

The 10th Annual Book Swap says a bittersweet good-bye to two integral volunteers who served the committee all ten years. Kaye “Thing One” Miller and Faye “Thing Two” Hlavaty are retiring this year. Their enthusiasm and presence will be missed but not forgotten.

Other faculty who volunteered their time: Diane Brownmiller, Jim Cunfer, Patti Ebbert, Matt Fisher, Faye Hlavaty, Sherry Hoffman, Colleen Hoppes, Lindsey Houser, Terri Kokinda, Ashley Lichtenwalner, Marsha Long, Deb McKain, Amy Meixsell, Kaye Miller, Jacob Molchany, Missy Petit-Clair, Ron Rabenold, Amanda Rex, Allison Rheinhardt, Elyse Roman, Matt Schaeffer, Diane Schnell, John Stemler, Lauren Strohl, Drewann Troutman, Melissa Wagner and Wendy Jo Bussey-Williams.



District News

Chartwells and Lehigh Area School District Introduces Chefs 2 Schools Program

Guest Chefs at Lehigh Area School District Emphasize Health and Nutrition in Food Preparation

Leveraging the First Lady's concept that chefs have a unique ability to deliver healthy nutrition messages in a fun and appealing way to children by creating healthy dishes that taste good, Chartwells and Lehigh Area School District, introduces the Chefs 2 Schools program. Under the Chefs 2 Schools program, guest chefs 'adopt' a local school district. The Chef will then make occasional planned visits to designated schools, for the purpose of creating a focus on healthy meals and helping to educate students about sound eating habits and food preparation.



In May 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama called on chefs to get involved by adopting a school and working with teachers, parents, school nutritionists and administrators to help educate children about food and nutrition. The resulting "Chefs Move to Schools" program, run through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, paired chefs with schools to create healthy meals that meet dietary guidelines and budgets, while teaching young people about nutrition and making balanced and healthy choices. Chartwells continues to build on this momentum with the introduction of their Chefs 2 Schools program.

As host school, Lehigh Area School District will welcome the chef and shares ideas on how the Chef can assist them at the district. Guest chefs can then interact with the host school in a variety of ways, such as:

- ◆ Planning and preparing a healthy meal that meets the necessary standards to be featured on the school menu
- ◆ Providing food demonstrations which feature recipes and foods that highlight local produce and good nutrition, such as whole grains, fruits, salads, vegetables with low-fat dips
- ◆ Hosting an exhibition cooking demonstration or classroom visits

The program allows for future adaptation to incorporate food promotional or nutritional classrooms activities, local farm events, hands-on cooking classes, family food and fun night, student council, wellness or youth advisory committee involvement.



Our first visit was held on Monday, April 7, 2014, at Shull David Elementary with Chef Doug Kulp. Chef Doug is the Regional chef for Chartwells based out of Lancaster, Pa. The students enjoyed freshly made vegetable stir-fry.

LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Newsletter information:
mwagner1@lehigh.org

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)

Lehigh Middle School

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

Lehigh 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. 7:25 a.m.-2:14 p.m.
H.S. 7:35 a.m.-2:20 p.m.
Adm. 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

George's Bus

Transportation
610-377-5511

Important Dates

4/17/14	-	Early Dismissal
4/18/14	-	Act 80 Day (No School for Students)
4/21/14	-	Act 80 Day (No School for Students)
5/5/14-5/8/14	-	Kindergarten Screening Test at Administration Building
5/9/14	-	Act 80 Day (Early Dismissal for Students and Teachers)
5/26/14	-	Memorial Day (No School)
6/13/14	-	Graduation
6/16/14	-	Last Student Day
6/16/14	-	Last Teacher Day
6/19/14	-	Community Pool Event—Lehigh Pool—5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Administrators

Jonathan J. Cleaver, Superintendent
Tina Holmes, Asst. Business Administrator
Timothy M. Tkach, Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Grants
Sean LeDonne, Supervisor of Special Services
Floyd Brown, Assistant 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
Charles Bachert, Asst. Middle School Principal
Aaron Sebelin, Mahoning & Shull David Elementary Principal
Suzanne Howland, East Penn & Franklin Elementary Principal

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