Announcements for the 4.14.15 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Pasta & Presto will be held in the high school on Saturday, April 18th from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. All tickets are pre-sale only and can be purchased through the high school.

High School

1. Congratulations to four of our students for entering the Rotary Club's Speech Contest and coming in first, second, third, and fourth, respectively.
2. Congratulations to the High School Science Olympiad team which placed 3rd out of 30 schools yesterday at the Regional Competition. This qualifies the team for their 18th straight State Competition. Congratulations and good luck at States!
3. Congratulations to our students who earned awards at the Berks County Art Show held at the Goggleworks in Reading. Each of the Berks County schools submitted work in several categories. Congratulations for placing in the following categories:

1st Place	Ink; Watercolor; Printmaking; and Colored Pencil
2nd Place	Paper Book Arts
3rd Place	2-D Mixed Media; Non-Loom Fibers
Hon Mention	Loom Fibers; Mosaic

4. National Honor Society participated in a day of service at the Habitat for Humanity Re-store in Muhlenberg on Sunday, March 15th. We stacked the store, did some major clean-up, and organized materials. It was a great day and the students were amazing! Thanks to all who participated.
5. Congratulations to one of our student for placing first on trombone in Region Orchestra and for being selected to perform in the All-State Orchestra in Hershey next week!
6. Congratulations to twelve students who have qualified for the Economics Challenge State-Level Competition. Good luck!
7. A big thank you and congratulations to the AP World History students who took the time to stay after school and participate in the College Board Field Study Test for AP World History. They are to be commended!
8. Congratulations to the students who attended the State Leadership conference in March and earned the following:
   2 Gold; 1 Silver; and 2 Bronze
9. Each quarter, BCTC instructors select a student from their program whose attitude, skills, and knowledge gained during that particular quarter is above and beyond the standard. The student shows initiative and integrity in performing their tasks and is, overall, the best student for that quarter. Congratulations to the students who earned this recognition in the following shops:

   - Automotive Collision Repair Technology
   - Early Childhood Education
   - Engineering Technology I
   - Health Occupations II
   - Information Technology - Programming

Middle School

1. On Wednesday, March 11th, nine 8th graders attended the 18th annual ***New Generations Youth Leadership Conference*** held at PSU-Berks. Sponsored by the Rotary, the conference was an opportunity to explore the topics of leadership, character, teamwork, and communication and how each can be developed. Middle School students from across Berks County were in attendance. Each FAMS representative was nominated by multiple 8th grade teachers based on their leadership qualities, academic performance, and social integrity. Congratulations to these students!
2. April 13 through April 17 – PSSA English Language Arts – Gr. 5 & 8
3. April 17 – Student Council Dance 7- 9:30 p.m.
4. April 20 through April 24 – PSSA Mathematics – Grade 5-8
5. April 23 – Motivational Speaker – Scott Backovich will speak to our students

6. April 27 through May 1 – PSSA – Science Grade 8
7. April 28 – 5th Grade Spring Concert – 7:00 PM
8. April 29 – 6th Basketball Tourney –5/6 gym
9. April 30 – 5th Grade Basketball Tourney – 5/6 gym

Richmond Elementary

1. April 8 –Kindergarten registration (by appointment)
2. April 8 – Family Fun night at Fantasy Skating Center (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
3. April 14 & April 15 – PTA Days at Fiore's Restaurant
4. April 16 – PTA Meeting
5. April 17 – Spirit Day (Kindergarten – wear green; 1st – wear blue; 2nd – wear red; 3rd – wear orange; 4th – wear yellow)
6. April 27 – 4th Grade concert at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium
7. April 30 – PTA Chick-fil-A Night from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
8. May 1 – Kindergarten class will be going to the Crayola Factory

Willow Creek Elementary

1. April 10 – Twin Day
2. April 15 – PTA Meeting
3. April 16 – PTA Dine & Donate Event at Panera Bread from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
4. April 24 – School Spirit Day – wear green to support Earth Day
5. April 24 – Spring Near and Dear Dance – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
6. April 27 – 4th Grade concert at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium
7. April 29 – Kindergarten registration

Athletic Office

1. This year the Fleetwood Activity Booster Club and FASD will be honoring all spring senior athletes. Recognition Nights will be as follows:

Boys' Tennis	Wednesday	4/15/15	3:15 PM
Track & Field	Tuesday	4/28/15	3:30 PM
Softball	Wednesday	4/29/15	6:45 PM (Lyons Field)
Baseball	Friday	5/1/15	4:00 PM
Boys' Volleyball	Tuesday	5/5/15	5:45 PM

From the desk of Dr. Eaken

Gov. Wolf's state budget proposes increased educational funding: Fleetwood could receive additional $321,244 in basic education funding and $171,262 in special education funding

By Dr. Paul Eaken, Fleetwood Superintendent (posted in the Kutztown Patriot)

On March 3, Governor Tom Wolf presented his state budget proposal to the Legislature. Governor Wolf highlighted the importance of a strong public education system to our future. The funding of public education was a focus of the speech. He seeks to restore the cuts in education funding that have occurred in recent years. He also recognized the burden of funding schools primarily through property taxes. Governor Wolf proposed significantly reducing the school property tax and replacing it with a combination of other taxes.

The proposed budget includes an increase of $400 million in basic education subsidy, $100 million in special education subsidy, and a property tax relief package that includes $3.8 billion effective for the 2016 tax year. The proposal includes the state assuming responsibility for 50% of the funding of public education; a funding rate not provided since the 1970s. In addition, the Governor proposed a property tax reduction of roughly 50% for the average homeowner. This would be achieved through an increase in the personal income tax, the sales tax, and a new natural gas extraction tax. The plan also calls for reforms in the funding of Cyber Charter Schools that would save school districts $160 million. Cyber Charter Schools would no longer be funded based on the cost to educate a student in a traditional school but instead based on an established statewide tuition rate.

Based on the Governor's proposal, the Fleetwood Area School District would receive an additional $321,244 in basic education funding and an additional $171,262 in special education funding. The proposal also includes a property tax relief that would be distributed in 2016-2017 in the amount $6,873,411.48 which, based on the total approved homestead/farmstead properties for 2014-2015, would equate to a property tax reduction of approximately $1,580.00 per approved homeowner.

School districts would be required to submit a plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on how additional funds would be used to improve student achievement. Districts would have a choice of selecting one of fourteen different options, each of which has demonstrated (through research) their positive impact on student achievement. Student performance would then be measured in the area where the additional funds were used.

Governor Wolf is also proposing Social Impact Bonds that would be focused on supporting early childhood education and school-to-work initiatives. He proposed a $120 million increase in early childhood education that would enroll more than 14,000 additional children (a 75% increase).

Finally, the Governor presented a new funding plan to address the increasing costs of the state pension. The plan includes a dedicated restricted pension account, debt refinancing, and a reduction in management fees that reportedly would result in savings of $370 million for school districts.

The legislature has just begun its review and discussion of the Governor's proposed budget. We will not know for months the specific state funding that we will receive. In the interim, each district must decide whether to budget the increased funds in the Governor's budget or not.

Upcoming Events in the Fleetwood Area School District:

April 2, 3, 6 – Spring Break, No School for Students
April 18 – Pasta and Presto, 3 – 9 p.m.
April 27 – 4th Grade Concert, 7 p.m. HS Auditorium
April 28 – 5th Grade Concert, 7 p.m. HS Auditorium
May 5 – Intermediate Spring Concert, 7 p.m. MS Auditorium
May 7 – HS Jazz and Choral Spring Concert, 7 p.m. HS Auditorium

The Board of School Directors will hold meetings on April 14 and 21, both at 7 p.m. in the high school board room.