Announcements for the 2.9.16 Committee of the Whole Meeting

High School

1. Congratulations to the High School Science Olympiad Team who placed first at the County competition held at Kutztown University the week of January 5th. This is the 9th year in a row Fleetwood has taken first place against its county competitors! The team earned two 1st place, three 2nd place, and two 3rd place medals. Good luck at Regionals in March!

   Winning events:
   - 1st place Experimental Design
   - 1st place Wright Stuff
   - 2nd place Dynamic Planet
   - 2nd place It's About Time
   - 2nd place Protein Modeling
   - 3rd place Bridge Building
   - 3rd place Wind Power

2. Congratulations to two of our students for an outstanding performance with the PA Music Educators Association District 10 Orchestra! Both girls qualified to participate in Region Orchestra at Twin Valley High School at the end of February!
3. *Misa's Fugue*, the student created documentary film about Holocaust survivor Frank Grunwald, recently released a German subtitled version on DVD in Austria.
4. The Fleetwood FBLA Chapter will be holding a competition between 1st period classes next week. The goal is to collect as many aluminum tabs as possible. All tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Hershey. The Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home and keeps families together while a child is hospitalized at no cost. The house runs primarily on donations and the tabs are converted to cash. The class bringing in the most tabs will receive a prize.
5. Student Council is hosting a HOOPS FOR HEARTS 3 on 3 basketball tournament on February 11th from 2:30 to 4:30 in the main gym all proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association.
6. The Art Event will be held in the High School on Saturday, February 27th from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
7. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 25th
8. A *FAFSA Assistance Night* will be held at the Muhlenberg Township Building hosted by Senator Judy Schwank on Saturday, February 13th beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be experts from PHEAA and Kutztown University to help students and parents fill out their financial aid applications. It is a free event.

Andrew Maier Elementary

See their area of the district website

Richmond Elementary

See their area of the district website

Willow Creek Elementary

See their area of the district website

From the desk of Dr. Eaken

Fleetwood Area School District Report: Considering options for post-secondary education

Kutztown Patriot article by Dr. Paul Eaken, Superintendent

The Fleetwood Area School District Guidance Department is working, along with guidance departments across the state, to revise its career education program in light of the changing career opportunities in our country. Last month, some of our guidance counselors and I attended a Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) program that provided up-to-date information on the skills needed for various careers. This information will help students as they decide their post-secondary education options.

We have known for a number of years that there is a need for more individuals to receive specialized training to be eligible for competitive jobs following high school. In 2007, the Workforce Alliance completed a review of jobs available in the next decade (America's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs: Education and Training Requirements in the Next Decade and Beyond, Holzer & Lerman, 2007). The study concluded that nearly half of the employment available in the United States will involve middle-skill occupations. This compares with 33 percent of the anticipated job openings in high-skill occupations and 22 percent in service occupations.

Middle-skill occupations require specific training and education beyond high school but do not require a four-year college degree. Examples of these jobs include health care technicians, clerical workers, construction, transportation, production and mechanical technicians. Over the past few years, many middle-skill occupations, particularly in the health care field, experienced significant increases in the number of employees needed.

At the PDE program, we learned that seven two-year degree careers have job growth rates above 20 percent with starting annual salaries ranging from $37,000 to $57,000. These careers included physical therapy assistant, web designer, electronic engineering assistant, registered nurse, computer support specialist, administrative assistant and dental hygienist (payscale.com, 2015).

A four-year college degree does not always provide what employers are seeking. There are increasing numbers of students who attend community college to learn a specific skill or job related certificate after graduating with a four-year college degree. More than half (56 percent from the publication Success in the New Economy) of all college graduates are underemployed, meaning that the jobs they secured did not require the degree that they earned.

The US News and World Report identified the top 18 jobs in the United States in 2015 based on growth in the profession, salary, the balance between the time required in the job and time for other activities (known as the work/life balance) and job security. Five of these jobs required a two-year college degree or less. These were software developer, dental hygienist, registered nurse, web developer and diagnostic medical sonographer. The top profession on their list was dentist, followed by nurse practitioner. The third profession was the software developer.

As evidenced by the information above, there are good careers that do not require a traditional bachelor's degree that students and their families should consider as they weigh options for post-secondary education.

Fleetwood Area School District has several upcoming events. On Feb. 12, there is a teacher in-service and no school for students. Feb. 15 will be a snow make-up day for closure on Jan. 25. Finally, the Board of School Directors will hold meetings on Feb. 9 and 16, both at 7 p.m. in the high school board room.