



## ***Superintendent's Report***

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: December 6, 2012

- Thanks to the high school students, Mr. Wehr and all involved for a very enjoyable play! The performance was stellar!
- We have received official approval for Middle States Accreditation for all buildings. (Certificates will be hung in each location.) Accreditation is good through 2019, with a mid-point review in 2015.
- The Project RED management team attended a Project RED Institute in Riverdell, New Jersey this week. Schools from throughout the country attended and collaborated on best practices with 1:1 environments. Riverdell HS has been featured in Newsweek and has received awards for their school based on the 1:1 environment which has been in place for 6 years. After visiting and sharing with others, administrative team feels VERY positive regarding all of the decisions we have made and how we are doing with the early stages of implementation. I also completed a mini-qualitative research study at the high school and I have provided some quotes from teachers regarding project. Mr. Jordan and I also attended the first Cohort 3 webinar yesterday. We have been teamed with 6 other schools from throughout the country that range from 8 years with 1:1 to planning stages. Project RED is creating an environment that encourages collaboration. The portal has over 1200 schools engaged so far.
- The High School Guidance Office has launched a newsletter that contains important information for deadlines and parent/student workshops. Topics include financial aid and college planning, freshman college experience, course section for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders, Naviance workshop, college planning and college jump start. See <http://www.slsd.org/HighSchool.cfm?subpage=1621256> for details.
- The Curriculum Office is holding 5 workshops for Parents regarding Keystones, Testing and Grad requirement changes and common core standards:
  - *Winter Wave Keystone Test: for MS and HS parents- December 11, 2012 from 7:00-8:00 in the High School Board Room*
  - *Changes in State Testing and Graduation Requirements: for all K-12 parents and Community Members - January 24, 2013 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. Snow date is January 29, 2013 in the Middle School Auditorium and*

January 24, 2013 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room. Snow date is January 29, 2013 at JPL Intermediate School Room 261.

- *Changes to our PA State Standards–The PA Common Core Standards: for all K-12 parents and Community Members -January 31, 2013 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.* in the Middle School Auditorium. Snow date is February 5, 2013 in the Middle School Auditorium and *February 1, 2013 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.* in the High School Board Room. Snow date is February 4, 2013 in the High School Board Room.
- Ms. Janet Miltenberger, LB Reading Specialist was honored by PDE as one of the top twelve PA Teachers of the Year and attended a reception hosted by Mrs. Corbett at the Governor's home this week. Congratulations Janet for representing Southern Lehigh so well and for all you do for our students!
- The Faculty of LIBERTY BELL will be performing their musical tonight and tomorrow to benefit the construction of the new playground under the direction of Mr. Phil Markley- *GOOD MANNERS: A Medieval Quest For Polite Behavior*, Dec. 6 and 7 & PM – Break a leg, staff!
- Mr McGinty, leading the Bullying Taskforce met with his team on 11/30 and will meet again on 12/18. They are putting finishing touches on a student survey and then plan to create a parent survey to gather data so they can plan next steps. We will report on their progress throughout the school year.
- There are many activities in the next few weeks and lots of excitement in the buildings! The greatest part is that I am hearing about so many activities planned that benefit others in need! Our students and staff are engaging in things that truly represent the spirit of the holiday season- a spirit of *giving*. These are the things that make us **Southern Lehigh Proud!** Since we will not be meeting again until 2014- I want to wish everyone a very peaceful holiday!

## **A Sampling of Teacher comments regarding Implementation of 1:1**

*“I think it's going well, for the most part. The kids are handling it responsibly, and I think most teachers have embraced it. Personally, I love being able to tell kids to open and close their lids whenever appropriate, and not have to deal with the logistics of signing out, loading, unloading, and charging in carts. Also, when we were working off of laptops carts 1) there were a lot more tech problems with numerous kids using the same computers during the day, and 2) I always felt like I had to have them use the computers for the entire class period to make it worthwhile. Now I can have them use the laptops whenever I want, even if it's only for a few minutes here and there. The kids definitely like having the same laptop to use every day.”*

*“It's going great for me. I love every part of it. I don't remember what it was like to not have it. I think that the implementation has gone really smoothly and I am very impressed with the students and the tech support apparatus. I'm not sure that all teachers are taking full advantage of the technology, but I don't think that hurts the overall "success" of the 1:1 program.”*

*“I think that implementation went really smoothly. Students do a great job picking them up and dropping them off. Tech support is prompt with helping and the Hub seems to be a really smart way to locate localized help when it is needed. I think that my feelings about how it is going in my classroom are due to my natural tendency towards using the Internet in the courses I teach. I also love that it lends itself naturally to inquiry based learning. We have a problem, the world is full of answers, we just have to find them and make sense of them. Like I said, I don't know what I did before. I also think that it is much more natural for students to type their notes and to collaborate using Spartadocs and this has helped TREMENDOUSLY in group projects.”*

*“Even though there were times when we may have "over-thought" a few things, I think a key piece of the success was really thinking through what we needed to be successful, especially in paying attention to the needs of our faculty and addressing those needs with professional development opportunities. I've also seen a lot of cooperation among the faculty beyond professional development, in the name of many teachers with expertise in particular areas demonstrating a willingness and open door policy to help teachers who needed it or who had questions about how to do something. Equally important would be the permission granted by our administration to our faculty to try things and make mistakes, as long as we're trying things! It seems that more teachers are willing to try new things and take baby steps toward the ultimate goal, instead of feeling like they have to do it all right now.”*

*“I love it! It allows for more spontaneity in my classroom, and definitely contributes to more of a 21st century environment. It works very well with my teaching style, and I've found ways to incorporate it with reading strategies I'm implementing. Overall, it's nice to know that every student has the technology available at any time, and we don't have to scramble for resources. It feels more relaxed and at the same time more productive.”*

*“I feel great about it. It has enhanced my classroom, my teaching style, and my strategies. I wish that I could work with more teachers to show them the ways it could also help them.”*

*“I think that [the implementation] has gone better than anybody could have imagined [it] could go and the questions that were brought up about things that might go wrong, the obstacles for this to succeed, for instance the kids charging their laptops, the kids losing them, the kids breaking them... I haven't seen any of that so far”*

*“...The implementation- it was definitely good to have everyone involved. It was definitely beneficial to get people who were going to be affected by this to be involved in the process”*

*“You know, I think a lot of us are starting to look ahead to next year with block scheduling and starting to envision how are we going to try to expand on that and use it within that format as well”*