



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Dr. Leah M. Christman

Date: September 22, 2014

- Jack Pfunder and Karen Buck from our Lehigh Valley Manufacturing group and ***Skill-Up*** and ***Dream It Do It PA*** (<http://dreamitdoitpa.com>) recently attended our Lehigh County superintendents meeting at LCTI to discuss plans for this year's manufacturing video competition. Once again our eighth graders will be forming a team to highlight one of our local manufacturing firms. Last year our team was assigned to create a video for Lutron. We have not yet learned which company the students will be working with this year. The manufacturing group is also planning a K'NEX STEM robotics competition, possibly for sixth graders, next spring. October 3 is Manufacturing Day, a national event. Regionally, schools will be recognizing and partnering with local manufacturers throughout October. Mr. Pfunder reported that enrollment in manufacturing trades at LCTI has increased 58% in the past four years and encouraged schools to continue educating students about the viable options for high paying careers in the technical manufacturing companies located throughout the Lehigh Valley. Mr. Pfunder also indicated that a "dream team" of young professionals working in manufacturing has been trained and is available to visit schools to help students understand this career path. One of the videos features a recent LCTI graduate who is working at Lutron. The videos show the connections between STEM education and manufacturing. The superintendents group will be touring several local manufacturing companies later in October to learn more about these potential career pathways for our students.
- I want to remind everyone to sign up for automatic updates to our school district newsletter, the Laconian. Buildings and all departments are adding news often as part of the new challenge to spread the great things going on throughout the school district.
- The science TV shows that were filmed in our Intermediate School will debut October 24 on Channel 39 and will include either seven 30-minute installments or 15 15-minute segments. According to producer and WLVT on-air host Laura McHugh, "The concept is that the kids are in an after-school club called *Science Time*. Each week a mystery man will come to them with a challenge that typically involves topics such as sound, color, electricity, motion, states of matter, plants and animals and other science-based ideas." We are pleased to have showcased our science labs at the Intermediate School for the show and hope students will enjoy watching.

- Mrs. Miller, Coordinator of Athletic Services has indicated that Family ID will soon be available for Winter Sports registration. She will send information to parents when this is available. This season, the athletic department will be adding 20-minute intervals for parents to select appointments for physical examinations to hopefully reduce the wait time for school-sponsored physicals. The athletic department is also going to make multiple dates for scheduling Impact testing. (Done for 7, 9, 11th and students who are new to our school/sports- Baseline testing for all SLSD PIAA recognized sports)
- You may have heard that Lower Milford elementary had a special guest last week. Sabrina Carpenter, star of the Disney channel "Girl Meets World" series visited the school and met the students for an assembly and visits to their classes. Sabrina started her education at lower Milford but now is homeschooled so she can pursue her acting career. Sabrina performed her new single, "Can't Blame a Girl for Trying" for the students.
- A reminder that information on the Triathlon can be found online at <http://www.triathlon.com/>
- Congratulations to Mr. Melber for being named a finalist in the Lehigh Valley Business 2nd annual Chief Financial Officer of the Year Award for 2014 - a repeat of last year! Mr. Melber was in a category of non-profit organizations with more than 25 employees, along with CFO's from Cedar Crest College, Lehigh & Northampton Transportation Authority, Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, Inc., Alvernia University, and Borough of Wyomissing, Bethlehem Moravians. He was honored at a breakfast at DeSales University on September 17. Congratulations, Jeremy, and thank you for continuing to keep our finances in order.

Jeremy Melber, SLSD Director of Business Services with his CFO award.

