



## **Smile!**

This year our students participated in “picture day” on August 31<sup>st</sup>. This represented the earliest date thus far. Our intention was to be able to distribute student IDs early in the year to allow for additional time devoted to physical activity in the fresh air during lunch periods

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## **Track-Walks**

After lunches have been served, weather permitting, students are invited to participate in track-walks to allow for some fresh air and exercise.

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## **“Open House “**

This year Open House was transformed on September 8<sup>th</sup>, into a “Meet and Greet” due to the mitigation requirements of the COVID pandemic. Refreshments were served first in the Cafeteria, followed by parents and guardians visiting their student’s teacher at their own pace. The “meet and greet” model was developed to avoid overcrowding and to maintain social-distancing as proscribed by Federal, State, and Local Health experts.

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## **Color Coded Lanyards**

The students of the Middle School were gifted with color-coded lanyards and clear plastic ID holders in recognition of their cooperation and support of our alternative lunch location model. Extra time that was gained by the use of IDs was added to the lunch-time mask break walks on the school track.

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## **Veterans' Day**

Our annual Veteran's Day Ceremony, honoring members of the Armed Services was enhanced by the performances of our Instrumental students, who performed patriotic selections including our National Anthem. The students were addressed by Captains Angel and Brad Hankee USAF who spoke to the students on the topic of "Women and Leadership in the Military" and "The Military Experience" respectively. The focal point of the ceremony was the montage created by our Builder's Club students demonstrating the evolution of Armistice Day as exemplified by the poem "In Flanders Fields" and the placement of a wreath of poppies, the flower of the first Armistice Day, before the portrait of President Washington in the Main Lobby of the Middle School.

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## **Ducks!**

In September, SLMS conducted the Club's Choice fundraiser. It is an online fundraiser that sells various items to raise money. Many students came out and participated! In total, this fundraiser raised 6,000 dollars. The famous "ducks" were used as motivation for students to participate. This is an incredible amount of money that is used for various student projects, and we wanted to thank the students who participated; we appreciate you!

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## **Citizenship!**

Mrs. Xiao Rong Zhu Sears, our teacher of the Chinese language, became a Naturalized Citizen of the United States in a ceremony in Philadelphia on the afternoon of October 8, 2021. Congratulations Mrs. Zhu-Sears!

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## **Study Skills**

This year a weekly study skills class was offered to all students thru SOAR (**S**etting **G**oals, **O**rganize, **A**sk Questions, **R**ecord your Progress) curriculum. The SOAR curriculum is intended to prepare the students for college and career readiness.

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### **New!**

The Middle School is fortunate to have added for one year's time two new teachers, Mrs. Sarah Cappella and Mr. Nicholas Lambert, teaching Mathematics and English Language Arts respectively. These great additions meant the need for the creation of instruction space. The Middle School now houses a temporary classroom in the area of the Library, an additional instruction space created out of the former teachers' lunchroom, and a private single-service lavatory usable by both males and females to ease the crowding of the single lavatory in the Nurse's Office.

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### **Tutorial for Math**

On Mondays and Wednesdays a tutorial for Mathematics has been put into place for students who feel they need or want extra instruction in Mathematics. Students are asked to use the "Sign-Up Genius" application and to state the mathematical area of concern to assist the teacher in preparing to best serve their needs.

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### **"Shake-Out"**

On October 21 at 10:21 AM the Middle School in cooperation with Lehigh County Emergency Management participated in an earthquake drill called "Shake-Out". The students were instructed in the appropriate actions to take during an earthquake or severe weather in which physical dangers are often presented by falling debris. The students had demonstrated for them acceptable "Shakeout" drill techniques, through the use of student and staff made videos.

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### **Critical Incident Drill:**

The students of the Middle School participated in a Critical Incident Drill on September 21. The Critical Incident Drill is a component part of the overall A.L.I.C.E. model (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront, Evacuate) adopted by the Southern Lehigh School District. The focus of the Critical Incident drill is for students to become accustomed to reaching logical, rational, decisions about their safety and that of others using on-the-spot information. It is the hope of the model developer that these techniques will prove useful throughout life.

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### **Parade:**

The Southern Lehigh Middle School Band put its best foot forward, musically and literally, in the Coopersburg Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 17. It is an annual tradition for the SLMS Band to participate in the parade, which was canceled last year due to the pandemic. Preparations for the parade began the first week of school, when Mr. Loda selected a parade tune that best matches the mix of instruments and abilities of this year's Band, and this time around the Bruno Mars hit song, *Grenade* was selected. The 63 Band musicians at SLMS meet for small group lessons every third school day for 46 minutes, and also have one weekly, full rehearsal every Thursday for 37 minutes.

The first 3 weeks were devoted to learning the music; they also had to learn ~10 additional tunes for our annual Band in the Stands collaboration with the High School Band, and our percussion students also learned a drum cadence, which is a short piece that only features the percussion section. Once the parade tune and drum cadence were learned, they started to head outside to take their first steps together. Since we are only a 7th and 8th grade building, nobody in the Middle School Band had ever marched while playing. Taking that into consideration, the students did their first few marching lessons in their lesson groups in the rear parking lot, and eventually the track. These lessons focused on learning basic marching commands and technique, staying in formation as they moved while playing, and perhaps most importantly, building up their endurance.

The full Band then had just 4 rehearsals to assemble its parade block and practice on the track. The students did a phenomenal job finding their "land legs" while moving and playing as one unit in their short time together. The SLMS band led the 3rd section on the day of the parade, and Mr. Loda was filled with

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pride as the SLMS Band represented our school and its instrumental music program once again to our community. It is great to be back!

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### SLMS Greenpower Activity

SLMS Greenpower Activity is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics based program that provides students with a hands-on, project-based learning experience that engages students academically and builds critical employability skills.

During our activity period, we are providing students in this activity with an opportunity to finalize the build of the battery-powered vehicle and identify ways to create an aerodynamic body.

On the flipside of Greenpower, their marketing team is working to develop school fundraisers to raise money for the team. The team is looking to raise money to buy aluminum or sheet metal for the body, but also we would love to buy another car for future teams.

Our ultimate long-term goal is to get our students to meet with other teams and race their cars. Most teams around the country race in Huntsville, Alabama, but we would love for schools in the Lehigh Valley to pick up this program and start races in the Valley!



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### **Red Ribbon Week**

In October, Red Ribbon week was held during the last week of the month. Red Ribbon Week is the largest drug-abuse prevention campaign in the United States. Every morning, a member of the SAP team gave a fact about drug abuse via Studio 22. We had a week of spirit days, and raffles everyday that gave students a chance to win a prize; thank you to all that participated!

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### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

During the month of November, SLMS was visited by Parents and Guardians during our annual Parent-Teacher Conferences held on November 19, 22, and 23. This year the conferences were held both in person and by way of the Zoom application for the convenience and safety of our Parents and Guardians.

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### **Happy Thanksgiving!**

The Southern Lehigh Middle School extends best wishes to all for a happy holiday!