



## *Superintendent's Report*

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: April 14, 2014

- Congratulation to our Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Technology Students of America (TSA) who recently qualified for national competition this summer.

- FBLA:

- Nikos M. placed 1st in Health Care Administration and Fiona B. placed 3rd in Public Speaking I. This earns them the right to compete at the national level in Nashville, TN at the end of June.
- Previously Nikos M. and Brycen H. had already placed first in the national qualifier for the LifeSmarts competition. Since Nikos cannot compete in both events, he has conceded his Health Care Admin spot so the 4th place state qualifier can go, and chosen LifeSmarts so Brycen is not excluded from the opportunity.
- Although not in attendance, Somanpreet S. was recognized for admission into the National Business Honor Society. Our chapter received recognition for the second highest per capita contribution to the state project (Donate Life) and the 9th highest overall contribution.

- TSA:



The Technology Student Association state leadership conference went very well this past week. Before arriving at Seven Springs, Mr. Colelli drove the students to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA. They found this experience to be "Very educational and humbling". Freshman, Garrett D. placed first overall out of 55 other students throughout the state in the 2D Architectural CAD event. Garrett's father, Brian, took a day off from Olympus to travel to Seven Springs to support his son. As Garrett walked off the stage with his trophy, his father placed his arms around his son and walked him back to his seat. Garrett qualifies for the national leadership conference, this summer, in Washington D.C.

- I recently learned that five of our educators were selected to attend the Hebei Chinese Provincial Summer Camp. They have until April 5th to notify the organizer of their plans to either accept the offer or decline it. If there are people who decline the offer, others will be selected from the remaining applicants, so there's still potential for one or more SL applicants to be accepted.

- On Monday, April 6, Mr. Bergey, Mr. McKenna, and I attended the Kick-off event for the Continuous Energy Improvement Program through the Strategic Energy Group and PPL. We have been approved to receive \$25,000 for year two and \$25,000 for year three for their participation in the CEI Program and are one of 9 schools out of 130 in the local PPL region selected to participate. The program focuses on education and changing human behaviors to save energy. We will be creating an Energy 'Green Team' to help guide our rollout which will begin at the High School and then move to other buildings. We are counting on a lot of student participation to make this successful.
- I attended a PASA Technology Committee meeting last week in Harrisburg to learn about a new free initiative in PA. The PA Dept. of Education is partnering with Apple and PASA to bring expert PA Teachers together to develop Keystone / PA Core Standard aligned courses on iTunes University. These courses will be resource rich, textbook free, and available to all PA teachers and students by next school year. This is an example of how educators are leveraging best practices, sharing expertise and open-source resources that tap into technologies available for 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning.
- We are planning another round of Clarity® surveys between April 22- May 4 to teachers, students, and parents to measure our technology throughout the district. We administered to questionnaire in October 2012 and again only to high school teachers and students in May 2013. The questionnaire is based on the CASE model that measures access, classroom use, skills, and the environment. The dashboard allows us to see growth over time. This data will also aid us in strategic planning.
- On Thursday morning, April 17, our Chinese Guest teachers have planned a Chinese speaking and performance competition for our Middle and High School students beginning at 8:00 AM in the Auditorium. 137 students will be participating in the contest. A local resident will help with the judging, along with Sue Calvin, our liaison for the Chinese program from BCLI, and another guest teacher Li Ying. The guest teachers are also planning 2 weeks of Chinese summer camp for our younger students for July, We will keep everyone informed as these plans come together.
- We have 22 student teams from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through high school, 6 businesses confirmed, and 13 more expressing interest (so far) in participating in the SLEF/ SLSD/ SL Chamber Film Festival – *My Community...My Business* on June 4. Students are raring to start their process of demonstrating their 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and will be selecting their business and genre later this week. We are excited to see the students demonstrate their creativity while learning about businesses in their community.