



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members
From: Leah M. Christman
Date: August 12, 2013

- The Administrative Team is finalizing plans to kick off the new school year. We met this morning to plan for opening week including opening day welcome, in-service day which will focus on PA Core Standards, building faculty meetings, new student orientations and building preparation time. Board members are invited to attend the Welcome Back breakfast and assembly next Tuesday, August 20 if available.
- Mrs. Mickley has Induction for new teachers planned. This begins Friday, August 16 and Board Members are invited to lunch on Friday, August 16, to meet our new teachers in the JPLIS cafeteria at 12:00 PM. Please let Diana Millman know if you plan to attend.
- As 2nd graders continue to register, our transportation department has juggled the numbers to limit class sizes at Lower Milford and Hopewell to a maximum of 25 and we've placed the overflow at Liberty Bell. By limiting the larger class sizes to one building we can provide additional support for two classes instead of 7 spaced throughout the district. Additional support at Liberty Bell will allow for class size reductions through flexible groupings and through extra adults in the classrooms. I am asking the Board for support of this plan.
- The Edu-Summit kicks off tomorrow at the high school. Board members are invited to stop by if available. National keynote speakers will begin each day and details on the over 90 workshops can be found at <http://buckslehighedusummit2013.wikispaces.com/>. Keynote sessions will be streamed live by TeacherCast. Information can be found here: www.TeacherCast.tv. The event has come together and we believe will be a valuable experience for the (approximately) 275 registered educators. Southern Lehigh has about one third of our teachers attending. Again, this is a great example of multi-district collaboration at no cost to any schools or participants.
- Calendars are mailed and the electronic version posted on the website. Thanks to our Art teachers for again providing the artwork and to Mrs. Millman for facilitating the final product through LCTI.
- Russ Tucker, our DESIGN 21 teacher at the Intermediate School just returned from a 23 day trip to China where he taught English to Chinese children along with teachers from the UK and China. Russ took part in a partnership program with all expenses paid by the

Hebei Education Department, through a partnership that we established after I participated in the China Exchange program in 2011. Russ plans to share his experiences this year with our teachers and students.



Leah,

Thank you again for making my trip to China possible! It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A truly eye-opening experience! "We need to get more teachers from Southern Lehigh involved {with this program}" was a quote from Eddy Tang to me two days ago and I couldn't agree more! I was thinking about a short introductory power point to the entire staff during an Act 80 day (5 minutes top) and then maybe offering an academy that would allow me to go into more detail for those truly interested. If you have other ideas, that's great, I will do whatever you want me to do to promote the Partnership Program to our staff.

On another note, the picture attached was no accident. The Great Wall (as I know you know) is one of the 7 wonders of the world and I wanted Southern Lehigh to be seen there! Thanks again, the trip was FANTASTIC!

Russ Tucker
DESIGN 21
Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School
Southern Lehigh School District