



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Dr. Leah M. Christman

Date: Oct 27, 2014

- In 2013-14, Global Citizens in Action challenged 520+ young people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the US to work across borders and stereotypes to become Global Nomads. Over the past year, these students collaborated to identify and create solutions to problems in their local and global communities. In September-October 2014, GCA celebrated their work in an online festival (globalcitizensinaction.com) and had a live broadcast from Kabul, Afghanistan. Congratulations to Mrs. Quartuch and her students! Southern Lehigh won the "**Media, Diversity, and Tolerance**" category for ***Fighting Ignorance- A Short Documentary*** video in the Global Citizens in Action Youth Media Festival. Judges rated their film very highly and were thrilled to honor all their hard work from last year's Global Citizens in Action project that was integrated into the 9th grade Honors Civics class. (*More information on the recognition can be found online in the [Laconian](#)*).
- Mrs. Miller, Coordinator of Athletic Services shared the schedule for continued play-off games and Tuesday is a big night for SL! Good luck to all of our SPARTAN teams!
 - 10/28- Field Hockey @ Emmaus HS 5:30 start against Northern Lehigh departure 4:20 pm.
 - 10/28- Girls soccer @ Northern Lehigh HS 5:30 start against Northwestern Lehigh 3:45 pm.
 - 10/28- Volleyball @ Whitehall HS 5:30 start against Emmaus departure 3:50 pm.
 - 10/28- Boys soccer @ J B Crum stadium @ 7:00 against Parkland 7:00 pm departure 5:30 pm.
- The District Comprehensive Plan for 2015-18 is now posted on the website for public comment. The plan is the result of many individuals' input and work over the past year. Parents and community, staff members, Board members and students were invited to complete a SWOT survey last spring to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the district. Students in grades 3-12, parents, and staff members also completed Clarity surveys. Buildings Principals gathered additional input from staff members through surveys and building meetings, and student achievement data (local, PSSA, Keystones, and PVAAS) was reviewed. The Act 48 Professional Development committee also surveyed all teachers for input on

their PD. Data was analyzed and teams worked to use it to identify goals, strategies and actions to guide our work for continuous improvement over the next 3 years. The Plan is a result of that work. It will be brought back to the Board for final approval at the Nov. 24 meeting. Additional edits and/or suggestions will be made to the plan before that time.

- Mrs. Buchman, HS Nurse Mrs. Pysher, and I attended a workshop last week sponsored by PA Economy League- *Heroin's Toll on the LV Region*. Law enforcement and health care professionals shared some alarming statistics regarding the 'costs' of heroin to our communities. The Center for Humanistic Change is delivering workshops for staff and parents regarding this topic and we will be investigating the possibility of arranging some workshops so everyone better understands the issues.
- Buildings and Departments are doing a great job of adding news to the electronic District newsletter, the [Laconian](#) this year. Everyone was challenged to add at least one article each month in order to share the great things happening at Southern Lehigh. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for automatic phone/ email updates to the news to stay abreast of the latest district news.
- New interpretations of the regulations have been shared with administrators from the PA Dept. of Education on the percentages used and categories for Educator Effectiveness and teacher evaluations. A presentation explaining this new information has been created and will be shared with all teachers. There will be six different 'groups' who will have different situations for evaluations depending upon their class makeup and what they teach. While some data points appear to be statistically insignificant and will require a great deal of calculating, we will be following the plan set forth by PDE and the regulations. The graphs below highlight the new program:

