



## ***Superintendent's Report***

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: April 27, 2015

- The **"Every 15 Minute"** assemblies were held at the HS on 4/23 and 4/24 thanks to Marilyn Pysher, HS Nurse and Officer Brian McLaughlin, School Resource Officer. The program offers real-life experiences without the real-life risks. This emotionally charged program is an event designed to dramatically instill teenagers with the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking alcohol and texting while driving. A simulated traffic collision was held in the HS parking lot with the assistance of Upper Saucon Township and Coopersburg police, ambulance and fire personnel, Grants Towing, Stephens Funeral Home, Lehigh Valley Hospital Network, the Lehigh County Coroner and Lehigh County District Attorney's Office. This program was underwritten by grants from the Southern Lehigh Education Foundation, district mini grants and Lehigh Valley Educator's Credit Union.
- **Graduation projects** were presented by 10 grade students on April 16. Teams of adults assessed the comprehensive research projects that revolve around career exploration.
- The HS has developed a list of approved programs for enrichment and acceleration courses over the summer. Students who are interested can consult with their guidance counselors.
- The Debate Team hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Spartan Invitational** debate competition on Saturday at the High School. Schools from throughout central and eastern Pennsylvania and into New Jersey attended.
- The **Southern Lehigh Education Foundation** held a **"Spring Clean-up"** day on Saturday, thanks to the help of Mrs. Kim Halloran and the MS Student Council. Proceeds will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Foundation. A "Fall Clean-up" is in the works and will be added to calendar of events next year.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students Alyssa K. and Ryan K. participated in the **Chinese Language Team Competition** at Montgomery County IU. Alyssa K. earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place while competing against regional high school students. Congratulations to our students and their Chinese Guest Teacher, Bai Lu!

- Although eliminated in the early rounds, three 6<sup>th</sup> grade students competed in the **Pennsylvania State “You be the Chemist” challenge** at Penn State main campus on 4/25. The competition is for 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and this year included the most state finalists since the challenge began. JPLIS is very proud of Evan W, Lucas Z, and Alan Z.
- JPLIS teachers and administration will attend the **Google Apps for Education (GAFE)** summit on 4/28 and 4/29 in preparation for 1:1 chrome book rollout and to learn how to maximize the free resources available through our Spartan Apps.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter **paperless report cards** were issued to the majority of JPLIS, MS, and HS parents with less than 10% requesting paper report cards.
- **Earth Day** celebrations included a visit with a beekeeper at Liberty Bell to learn about honey bees and their importance in our daily lives and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in an interactive webinar with Dr. Jane Goodall, renowned chimpanzee researcher and conservationist.
- A District Facebook page and Twitter account has been launched. We are testing the sites to ensure set up and security and will alert our community of these additions very soon. Without promoting, 197 people have found the Fb page and almost 3700 posts have been accessed in the first week.
- We are building a Parent /School Mobile App through School Info Apps. Parents and students will be able to access info by downloading the app on their phone or other mobile device. In addition to a one-stop shop for school information and common forms, there is a built-in assignment planner, and tip line for reporting safety or bullying concerns. The App should be ready to launch very soon.
- Today, I joined local business and education leaders at Lehigh University to hear from our new Acting Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera. Mr. Rivera shared details on the Governor’s vision and focus on public education and some additional information on his proposed State budget. Mr. Rivera was one of 10 superintendents honored by President Obama last year for his work in urban education to make positive changes and is the former superintendent on Lancaster School District. While the challenges are great, Mr. Rivera is a great advocate of public education and is very student-centered. Two of their main agendas include expanding early childhood and career education. He noted that public education is an investment in our future and that doing so will cost our communities far less for children than the costs of uneducated adults.