

Lion's Pride

DR. LENTZ'S MONTHLY UPDATE

School News

What's happening @ our schools

LES/UES

- The LES and UES raised \$4,100 for the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury through the annual community Read-A-Thon. The funds raised will help the library to continue to offer excellent services to our students and their families as well as the entire New Hope-Solebury Community.
- Our local fire department New Hope Eagle Fire Company, joined the LES on March 27, 2019, to present about fire safety to each of the grades. We are excited about the partnership with the fire company and their interest in teaching the students about how to react in case of a fire emergency. This was an excellent visit and the students learned a great deal from the training.
- On Friday, March 29, 2019, State Representative Wendi Thomas met with our fourth grade students at the UES to talk about Pennsylvania State Government. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to hear about the role of a state representative in the functioning of the state government and to make some of their studies in social studies about state government come alive. The students very much enjoyed Representative Thomas's visit, and engaged her in a thoughtful dialogue about state government.

MS

- The New Hope-Solebury Middle School sent three Vex robotics teams to the Great Valley State Qualifier on Saturday, February 9, 2019. Each of our three robots battled for seven rounds and performed well, ranking 3rd, 8th and 11th out of the 28 teams competing. One of our teams qualified for the March 2, 2019 State Final where they placed seventh overall out of 39 teams. They earned the Judge's Choice Award for demonstrating what they learned during the interview process and exemplifying the spirit of the Vex competition, teamwork, design and perseverance. We congratulate these teams on this outstanding performance.
- Our seventh grade Social Studies classes participated in a contest sponsored by National Geographic to reduce the amount of plastics in our oceans. This real-world problem has given all students a chance to think like an explorer, brainstorm, create a solution, make a sea map, and have their story heard. We have had two teams advance to the Regional Competition under the leadership of Ms. Lori Balmer. The competition is taking place in Harrisburg on Friday, March 29, 2019. We are very proud of all of our students who have qualified for this distinction including Gavin Cibelli, Logan Griffith, Grace Fitzgerald, Sofia Tasoluk, Caroline Berman, Jane Atkinson, Alannah Carter, and Ashley Alterman.

HS

- From February 10 through February 17, 2019, our high school music students in the band, orchestra and choral programs traveled to Venice, Florence and Rome to perform in a variety of historic venues under the direction of Mr. Bachart, Mr. Bateman and Mr. Wehr. Their performances were extremely well received and they were excellent ambassadors of the New Hope-Solebury School District. One of the highlights of this trip was their performance at the Vatican.
- Our boys high school basketball team successfully progressed to the second round of the state tournament at Bensalem High School on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. They won this game against Science Leadership Academy by a score of 51-42. They progressed to the Elite 8 in the state and headed to the Quarterfinals of the State Tournament on Saturday, March 16, 2019 where they completed their season. In addition, Topher Taylor achieved his 1000 career points at Saturday's game against Dobbins High School. We are very proud of the boys basketball team and all of their accomplishments this season!
- On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, March 7, 8, and 9 at 7:30 PM, the New Hope-Solebury School Theater Club performed their spring musical, Cole Porter's masterpiece, *Anything Goes!* The show was incredibly well received and very well attended. We are very proud of all of the students who made this such a successful production for the high school.

Points of Pride

Best Communities for Music Education Award

The NAMM Foundation established the Best Communities for Music Education Award program to celebrate and recognize innovative and resourceful music education programs in the United States and those schools and communities that support them. This is a very prestigious award in that it recognizes music programs and communities which sustain comprehensive and valuable music programs which are a part of the fabric of the school community. This year for the fifth year, the New Hope-Solebury School District was recognized as one of the 2019 Best Communities for Music Education. We would like to commend our music team on this accomplishment comprised of Mr. Bateman, Mr. Bachart, Mr. Wehr, Ms. VanPraag and Mr. Sasala. This award speaks volumes for the work they are doing in promoting music throughout our school district community.

National Art Education Association Award

The National Art Education Association chose Ms. Karen Rosenburg, of New Hope-Solebury School District to receive the 2019 NAEA, The Council for Exceptional Children, VSA Peter J. Geisser Special Needs Art Educator Award. This award recognizes an NAEA member who has made distinguished professional contributions to art education for students with special needs through scholarly writing, research, professional leadership, teaching, and/or community service. The award was presented to Ms. Rosenburg at the NAEA National Convention in Boston, MA, March 14-16, 2019.

All-BAL Team

The All-BAL team is selected by the coaches in the league to recognize the season's top performers. At the post season meeting coaches nominate their players who they feel are worthy of recognition and present their case about their nominated students. The coaches then vote to select the teams. This season the following students from New Hope-Solebury School District were selected for this distinguished Honor:

- Topher Taylor – Boys Basketball – Senior – 1st Team
- Rachel Saxton – Girls Basketball – Sophomore – 1st Team
- Zoe Palau – Girls Basketball – Senior – 2nd Team
- Kate Dougherty – Girls Basketball – Sophomore – 2nd Team
- Jordyn Sherman – Girls Basketball – Senior – Honorable Mention

Military Service Nomination

New Hope-Solebury School District student, Blake Doherty, has received a military service recommendation from Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. This nomination was announced during an event on January 25, 2019. Blake was nominated for the United States Naval Academy. This is an incredible honor and we are very proud of this accomplishment of one of our students.

St. Baldrick's Event

The New Hope-Solebury annual St. Baldrick's event was held Saturday, March 23rd from 11-3 PM at the Upper Elementary School. Participants raised money to either shave their heads or donate hair in solidarity of kids in treatment. Many of our students and staff participated in this annual tradition by agreeing to "Brave the Shave," in support of pediatric cancer research. Over the past four years, we have had over 500 kids and adults (both male and female) Brave the Shave and the newest event the "donate 8" hair team, is gaining popularity! The day included other festivities such as: carnival games, 3 v 3 basketball, face painting, Lego station, silent auction, raffle baskets, shopping vendors, food and MC running throughout the day. The proceeds raised from this event go directly to the St. Baldrick's Foundation. This year the district raised \$175,000 for Pediatric Cancer Research thanks to the support of the community! We would like to take this opportunity to commend our students, faculty, staff, parents and community members for their contributions to making this an outstanding event for our community!

2019 Student Art Gallery Reception

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit hosted its 2019 Student Art Gallery Reception which features one student artist from each of the public school districts and private schools in Bucks County. This year one of our sixth grade students, Anthony Erdemir, was recognized for his work. We are very proud of Anthony and his accomplishment representing the school district in this art exhibit.

School District News and Updates

Safe2Say Something

The New Hope-Solebury School District initiated the Attorney General's Safe2Say Something tip line in January for students in grades 6-12. This tip line has been helpful in allowing students to anonymously provide information about issues and concerns which they are informed about which they are not comfortable reporting to staff directly. Through this reporting system we have been able to address concerns for many of our students which would otherwise have been unreported. Through our school administration and guidance departments we have been able to provide support and assistance for our students who have been reported through this system. We would, however, caution students about false reporting as this can result in severe consequences through the school district and/or police departments.

Website Update

We are in the process of updating our webpage and are planning to have it revised in April to increase its effectiveness in communicating key information to our community and enhance our ability to share the accomplishments in the school district. Mr. Scott Radaszkiewicz and his team have been working on this transition and we look forward to bringing this to you soon.

2018-2019 Calendar Updates

As of this date we have had a total of five days in which we have had to close school:

- Friday, November 16, 2018
- Friday, December 21, 2018
- Tuesday, February 12, 2019
- Wednesday, February 20, 2019
- Monday, March 4, 2019

As a result we are going to have to make up three of the dates as we only had two dates built into the school calendar for these types of emergencies. The dates which will now be utilized to make up these days are:

- Monday, April 22, 2019 which will be a full day of school
- Thursday, June 13, 2019 will become a full day of school
- Friday, June 14, 2019 will become a full day of school
- Monday, June 17, 2019 will be half day of school

Graduation will now take place on Friday, June 14, 2019.

No Place for Hate

The school district is going to be participating in the No Place for Hate initiative through the Anti-Defamation League in the 2019-2020 school year. This program will allow the school district to be more proactive in providing a welcoming school environment for all of our students and will provide an opportunity to provide programming at all school levels which will enhance our ability to develop student understanding of diversity and foster a No Place for Hate school district community. A committee is being formed at each school which will plan for the programs which will be utilized in our schools next year.

PSSA Assessments

Our UES and Middle School will be administering the PSSA assessment to students in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 beginning the week of April 22, 2019. Each school has identified their own schedule for the test administration. Please make sure your children have plenty of rest the evening before the assessments and take them seriously as the results are used to provide additional support for students who need it based upon their test results and the assessments help to inform the ranking of our schools in the state. The assessments will be administered as follows:

- English Language Arts (Grades 3-8)
- Mathematics (Grades 3-8)
- Science (Grade 4 and 8 only)

School Board & Committee Updates

At the March 28, 2019, Board of School Directors Meeting the following items were approved:

- Facility Use Fee Schedule
- Finance Matters including Treasurer's Report, payment of bills, and budget transfers
- Resolution to approve certificate to terminate New Hope-Solebury School Authority
- Human Resources Matters including position transfers, extra duty responsibilities, leaves of absence and Board Committee Member appointment
- Revised 2018-2019 School Year Calendar
- Policy Matters including approval of the following Policies:
 - 121 Field Trips
 - 138 Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners
 - 222 Tobacco Use
 - 323 Tobacco
 - 903 Participation in Board Meetings
 - 906 Public Complaints
 - Non-substantive changes to Board Operating Guideline, 100, 101, 102, 105, 105.1, 105.2, 105.3, 105.4, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 133.1, 113.2, 113.3, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 127, 130, 137, 137.1, 140, 140.1, 142, 143, 144, 146, 160.
- Resolution to support Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526
- Early Childhood Programs Memorandum of Understanding with Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22

Board members presented their Committee Reports and Liaison Reports regarding the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

April 2019 Meeting Schedule

Committee Meetings are held at the District Office Conference Room

Thursday, April 4, 2019	Special Education at 6:00 PM & Curriculum Advisory at 7:15 PM
Thursday, April 11, 2019	Policy and Human Resources at 6:30 PM
Tuesday, April 16, 2019	Finance at 6:00 PM and Facilities at 7:15 PM
Thursday, April 25, 2019	School Board Meeting at 6:30 PM at UES in the LGI Room

