

## Superintendent's Report - February 2019

While we annually celebrate Valentine's Day and President's Day during the month of February, this year we have had to deal with quite a bit of inclement weather. The storms that have come our way this year have been of the "not so easy to predict" kind. I have been committed to communicating early and often regarding our decisions to delay opening, dismiss early, or close as possible so families can plan accordingly. Personally, I have had enough of the bad weather this year, but want to take an opportunity to say thank you to our families for their perseverance and understanding.

On Thursday, February 21, and Friday, February 22, all middle school and high school students participated in a training on Safe 2 Say Something, the new statewide anonymous tip line mandated by Act 44. A trainer from Sandy Hook Promise explained the new system and encouraged students to notice warning signs, take it seriously, and to say something, by talking to a trusted adult or by submitting an anonymous tip via mobile app, website, or hotline. The 24/7 crisis center contacts school district personnel to assist with resolution.

Friday, February 15 was a full day of professional development and professional learning for teachers. Teachers rotated through sessions that included training on our new Science materials, AIMSweb assessment and progress monitoring, Trauma Informed Care, Immigration, and other content specific topics.

Our annual District Science Showcase is scheduled for this Wednesday, February 27, at Norristown Area High School beginning at 5:00 pm. The night highlights the individual, group, and classroom based scientific investigations of our students. We also will spotlight the schoolwide efforts to expose students to science, technology, engineering, math, and inquiry based learning opportunities. This night is open to all members of our community and we cordially invite everyone to attend.

We are proud to announce the first annual District Choral Concert on March 20. This day-long event will be an opportunity for students at all levels to perform for each other and with each other in a showcase of the amazing musical talent in Norristown Area School District as well as demonstrate our commitment to the importance of music and fine arts education. More information will be forthcoming shortly. I want to thank the entire K-12 Music Staff for their vision and leadership to bring this day to fruition.

Most people know February 14 as Valentine's Day. You may not know it is also International Book Giving Day. NASD was fortunate to partner with local author Daniel Sean Kaye, who graciously donated one copy of his book "Never Underestimate a Hermit Crab" to each Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classroom in the entire district. Mr. Kaye also donated a copy of his second book to each elementary school library. Mr. Kaye visited Whitehall Elementary School and read his book to Mrs. Mulligan's 2nd grade classroom. Special thanks

to Board Members Turea Hutson and Shae Ashe and Montgomery County Commissioner Val Arkoosh for attending.

There is a wonderful night planned to showcase and highlight four NAHS alumni. On Saturday, March 23, the Norristown Men of Excellence will be hosting the third annual TEDx Norristown at Stewart Middle School beginning at 6:00 pm. Admission is free, but guests are asked to register on the ted.com website. Please come hear their stories and be inspired by the outstanding things you can do with a Norristown Area School District education.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates:

Wed 2/27 - District Science Showcase

Thu 2/28 - District Cultural Proficiency Committee

Tue 3/5 - Education and Technology Committee

Mon 3/11 - Policy Committee

Tue 3/12 - Pupil Services Committee

Wed 3/13 - Facilities and Finance Committee

Fri 3/15 - District Math 24 Competition

Wed 3/20 - District Choral Concert and the PCC Meet and Greet night with Administration

Finally, our cafeterias will be celebrating National School Breakfast Week from March 4 through March 8. This year's theme is "Start Your Engines." There will be activity sheets and raffles throughout the week. Most importantly, we will feature locally sourced fruit during breakfast each day that week. Many thanks to our dedicated Food Services staff for planning this wonderful week for our children.

This concludes the Superintendent's Report for the month of February.