

Superintendent's Report - March 2019

There is a saying that the month of March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. In Norristown Area School District, it has been a month of having the accelerator on the floor and us not letting up. Spring sports are entering their fourth week. Elementary schools are two weeks into the 3rd trimester with our middle and high schools one week away from the 4th quarter. Though the finish line for the 18-19 school year is coming into view, we have accomplished much, but still have lots to do.

The District Cultural Proficiency Committee will be hosting a Community Event and World Cafe this Wednesday, March 27, at Eisenhower Science and Technology Leadership Academy beginning at 6:00 pm. All community members are invited to learn about the district's Cultural Proficiency and Diversity Plan and to share your thoughts and input to help us move this work forward. We will begin in the auditorium with an overview of the plan, then will break into small groups so that everyone can interact and participate.

The District's annual Art Show officially kicks off this Thursday, March 28, at the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library with our "Gallery Night Celebration" beginning at 6:00 pm. The incredible artwork from all 12 schools demonstrating the talents of all of our K-12 students will be on display at the library through April. Please join us for the wonderful kickoff event this Thursday.

We are pleased to announce that both Eisenhower and Stewart Middle School were selected to receive the 2019-2020 Artist in Residence program from Arts Montco, Musicopia, and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The ten-week program will feature an opening assembly with musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra, an eight week afterschool ensemble for students to learn and play music, and a closing assembly highlight continued opportunities for art and music in the community. Last week, our students, families, and staff had the opportunity to attend a concert at the historic Keswick Theater as part of this program.

Our second round of parent-teacher conferences are afternoon conferences and are scheduled for Thursday, April 11, and Friday, April 12. We will follow our normal early dismissal schedule both days in all schools. Students will be served lunch before dismissal. A schedule of available times will be published later this week. We look forward to partnering with our parents and guardians to ensure a successful conclusion to the school year.

Though I think it is the latest it can possibly be this year, Spring Break is finally right around the corner. All schools and offices will be closed Monday, April 15, through Monday, April 22. Please note that we are closed the Monday after Easter this year. Classes will resume with full days of school on Tuesday, April 23.

The Norristown Area Education Foundation will be hosting its biggest fundraiser of the year on Friday, April 5, when we welcome the Harlem Wizards back to town. This year, the Wizards will

take on a team of district staff and community leaders on a night that is always filled with fun and laughter. Tickets can be purchased in advance and at the door. All proceeds directly benefit teachers and students in our district.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates:

Wed 3/27 - Cultural Proficiency Community Event and World Cafe

Thu 3/28 - District Art Show

Thu 4/11 - Afternoon Conferences

Fri 4/12 - Afternoon Conferences

4/15-4/22 - Spring Break

4/23-4/26 - PSSA Testing - English Language Arts - Grades 3-8

4/29-5/3 - PSSA Testing - Math - Grades 3-8 and Science Grades 4 and 8

Finally, March 25-29 is recognized as Public Schools Week. Please celebrate our public schools as the backbone of our democracy and the places we inspire our children to learn and to lead.

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