



# Superintendent's Information Update

A Report  
to the  
Board

2011-2012

No. 23

January 27, 2012

- A. **Network Video Server by Leightronix** - We are planning to suggest purchasing the UltraNEXUS Video Server from Leightronix. This will be an ideal solution for our school district. It will provide automated and remote control of our local cable television channels from Comcast and Verizon.

The UltraNEXUS is a one-unit, television automation solution that provides digital video playback and recording, digital video messaging, and control of other video playback devices, such as DVD players and VCRs.

This will enable us to provide a television schedule of events for district viewers. It will also display lunch menus, school events and accomplishments, school board meetings, emergency messaging, public notices, and advertisements.

- B. **Interactive Video Display Projector** – We purchased a ViewSonic Interactive projector for evaluation, and found that for \$799, it can do the same job as our promethean boards and projectors combined. This is half the cost of the systems we currently have in place. All a teacher would need is one of these projectors and a surface to project on, and it will be like an interactive smart board.

We have been testing this unit with a translucent screen. This enables the unit to behave like a rear projection interactive touch screen. The translucent screen will also eliminate shadows and make the experience more enjoyable.

The ViewSonic is a short throw projector. This means you need very little distance between the screen and the unit to create a very large display.

- C. **Audit Report** – Just a reminder that all questions, suggestions and/or comments regarding the Audit Report should be submitted to the Business Office by Tuesday, January 31, 2012.
- D. **AIU Board Presidents' Dinner** – President Messina, Vice President Driscoll, and I attended the annual AIU Board Presidents' Dinner on Thursday evening. The service and the food were excellent. Dr. Johnson, President of CCAC, made an interesting presentation.
- E. **Department Updates** – The following department reports are included in this Update:
- **Attachment 1** – Special Education
  - **Attachment 2** – Technology
  - **Attachment 3** – Transportation

Walter M. Calinger, Ph.D., Superintendent

OVER

F. **Building Highlights** – The following building highlights are included in this Update:

- **Attachment 4** – Academy
- **Attachment 5** – Dickson Elementary
- **Attachment 6** – Fairless Elementary
- **Attachment 7** – Shaffer Elementary
- **Attachment 8** – Wilkins Elementary
- **Attachment 9** – Jr. High School
- **Attachment 10** – High School



**AGATHA C. LEONARD**  
**DIRECTOR, SPECIAL EDUCATION**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
2430 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
412-731-1300 phone  
412- 256-4904 Fax  
"All Means All"

**SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
Week of 1/27/2012

**MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- Attended several IEP meetings these past two weeks.
- Met with Mr. Johnson to discuss cases.
- Attended a PIL (Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership) class on 1/23/2012 at AIU3. PIL classes allow me to maintain my Principal's License. We work on leadership topics and read and review a lot of educational and business- oriented books.
- Special Education staff including Ms. Colaizzi, Ms. Heinauer and Ms. Sebastian participated in a Webinar "Accommodations Guidelines for Students with IEPs and Students with 504 Plans: PSSA and PSSA-M " on 1/23/2012.
- ACCESS Manager, Ms. Rodgers attended RFP (Request for Proposals for Waterfront Learning at AIU3 on 1/17/2012.
- Attended a Special Education/Pupil Services meeting at WSHH with Ms. Robinson, Ms. Heinauer and Ms. Irwin.
- Attended a Transitional Planning meeting at WSHH with Mr. Johnson, Ms. Werts, Mr. Nepa, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Heinauer on 1/25/2012.
- Attended a parent meeting with Dr. Calinger, Mr. Johnston, parents and student on 1/25/2012.
- Ms. Rodgers, supervisors and I will attend a monthly Special Education Liaison Meeting on 1/27/2012. The main topic will be Legal issues presented by Dr. Perry Zirkel.

**DEPARTMENT WORK SESSIONS**

- Continuing to work on ESY (Extended School Year) planning.
- Continuing work on IEP student rosters.
- Continuing work on outside placements for students whose needs exceed appropriate internal programming.

## LEGAL TIDBIT-Transition Planning

- The purpose of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is "to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living." Section 1400(d)
- The phrase "further education" and the emphasis on effective transition services is new in IDEA 2004. Section 1400(c)(14) describes the need to provide "effective transition services to promote successful post-school employment and/or education.
- Congress also made significant changes in the legal definition of "transition services" in IDEA 2004.

**(34) Transition Services** - The term 'transition services' means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that -

- (A) is designed to be a **results-oriented** process, that is focused on **improving the academic and functional achievement** of the child with a disability **to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities**, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;
- (B) is **based on the individual child's needs**, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests;
- (C) includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the **development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives**, and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and **functional vocational evaluation**.

(See "Definitions" in Section 1401, Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2nd Edition, page 56)

**SOURCE: WRIGHTS LAW**

## Technology Department Report

1-26-12

Brian hosted the monthly Technology Committee meeting and welcomed our new Board Chair Mr. Hanchett. He continues speaking with all Technology vendors regarding the 2012-13 school year purchases and is preparing for this years Erate application process. In addition he replaced another failed UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) at Fairless Elementary.

Brian recorded the January Technology Meeting edited and uploaded it to our website.

Brian, Steve and Keith participated in hands on training by a LightSpeed engineer for two days via remote access. They updated and fine-tuned our new Proxy Server settings to meet CIPA requirements. Today we met with representatives from Ideal Integrations to discuss the possibility of virtualizing our servers.

Steve diagnosed and repaired our 2x server (Artemis). Users were experiencing very slow login times of 5 minutes or more. Login times are now back to 30 seconds or less.

Now login times are around 30 sec or less.

Keith repaired problems with the Video Surveillance server at Jr. High School. He resolved a connection issue with one of the Polycom Video units. He also developed a new server monitoring system and is currently propagating the necessary resources for accurate reporting. In addition he repaired problems with this months Board Tabs.

BJ coordinated the student rollover in ProSoft for next year. She is verifying and correcting the PIMS cohort graduation data and verifying PIMS 2010-2011 Child Accounting data based on the preliminary CAD summary that was published this week. She is also validating ProSoft data for PIMS HQT Course collection that is starting next week. In addition she is developing plans for the 2012-13 Kindergarten Registration.

Keith, Steve and Brian have been working on helpdesk tickets for various IT related issues in all of the District Buildings.



GERALD V. CHESSMAN  
Director, Student Operational Services

GINA DEARDEN  
Administrative Secretary, Student Operational Services

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
2430 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 • 412-731-1300 • 412-731-2974

### STUDENT OPERATIONAL SERVICES

- Attended several meetings during the school day and evening regarding various subjects.
- Followed several buses during their routes and monitored several bus stops during the morning and afternoon transportation.
- Lunch applications continue to come in and are being processed.



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REGINALD HICKMAN, Principal

WOODLAND HILLS ACADEMY  
126 Monroeville Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145 • 412-824-2450

**Board Update  
January 25, 2012**

1. The "Authors of the Academy" program has started on a positive note. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Moreno, Ms. Henieman, and Mrs. Kritikos are teaching about story elements and how to navigate the Storyjumper website. The students are very excited about the project and the teachers are looking forward to seeing their books. This project is funded by the Great Ideas Grant.
2. PIE held the school store on Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup> for students who have earned Paw Cards for being GREAT.



Dickson Elementary School  
January 23 - 27, 2012  
Weekly Positive Highlights

- Last week the Youth Advisory Committee for food service at Dickson met with the assistant director of Nutrition Inc., to give input on the menu selections and quality of food. Each grade level was represented by two students who also got to taste a new product and give feedback. Students and teachers are looking forward to the special Dickson YAC menu chosen by these students.
- The January Dickson Dollar Day on Jan. 20 was a big success. Students almost bought out the store of healthy snacks, school supplies, and special trinkets. The PTO had many parent volunteers for this day – some for the first time. The students are very grateful for these parents giving of their time. They love seeing parents in the school, and they know the Dollar Days could not happen without parent volunteers.
- The special education teachers spent Monday afternoon participating in a special PaTTAN webinar on PSSA accommodations for students with IEPs. The teachers learned many new ideas to assist students -- not just during PSSAs but every day in the classroom. Since two AYP targets Dickson missed involved special education students, we are doing everything we can to make sure they have the best testing environment possible.
- On Thursday, Jan. 26, Ms. Kline held the quarterly Honors Assemblies to recognize and celebrate the academic achievements of the students. Special awards were also given for perfect attendance and Students of the Month.
- On Friday, the December Students of the Month had Lunch with the Principal, sharing a special personal pan pizza lunch, treats, and an enlightening conversation. These students are featured on the Star bulletin in the main hall:
  - Kindergarten – Charles Henderson
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Malichi Simmons
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Frankie Keyes
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Colin Colcombe
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Esther Swaby
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Niajaha Malloy
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Tyki Glenn



Jean Marie Livingston, Principal  
Kelly Berthold, Assistant Principal

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FAIRLESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
531 Jones Avenue, North Braddock, PA 15104 • 412-271-1317 fax 412-271-6657

### Positives from Fairless

On Monday, January 23, 2012 Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium came to Fairless Elementary to present a program on the topic of "Eating Healthy". First grade through fourth grade classrooms were invited to attend this presentation. The zoo presenters discussed how animals have to eat a healthy diet in order to stay healthy and be available for the visitors to come and view daily. Throughout the program the students learned the different layers of a rainforest and viewed a map showing where they are located. The students became aware of how they can help save rainforests from right here in North Braddock, Pennsylvania by recycling the things they use every day and conserving energy within their homes. The students were in awe when the zoo keepers introduced and answered student generated questions about each of three animals! The students were very engaged in this presentation and were able to see how animals have to follow certain diets, just like humans do, in order to stay healthy!

Ms. Rizzi and Mrs. Livingston viewed "The 2012 Accommodations Guidelines for Students with IEP's or Act 504 Plans" webinar on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The information was helpful and will be shared with the special education teachers during our upcoming in-service.



*Dr. Deborah M. Vereen, Principal*  
*Mrs. Lyndsey Love, Assistant Principal*

**SHAFFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

37 Garden Terrace, Pittsburgh, PA 15221

TELEPHONE 412-371-4535 FACIMILE 412-371-4571

[Verede@whsd.net](mailto:Verede@whsd.net) ELECTRONIC MAIL

**A Team Committed To Excellence**

**WEEKLY POSITIVE MESSAGE**

*January 19, 2012 through January 25, 2012*

- The Shaffer PTO sponsored the “Family Fun Night” event on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Woodland Hills School High School student leaders joined several Shaffer children and parents at this wonderful family oriented event.
- The preliminary 2012 – 2013 Shaffer Elementary School Budget was developed and submitted to the Woodland Hills School District. Compared to the current school year, this introductory budget was reduced a little more than ten percent.
- Shaffer is working to encumber all monies in the current school budget within the next few weeks. This includes initiating the process to move monies, pending the approval of the Woodland Hills Board of School Directors, to continue to support the needs of the school.
- As in previous weeks, various parent conferences continued to be facilitated on a regular basis at the school according to the individualized needs of the children involved. These meetings included but were not limited to: Elementary Student Assistance Program Conferences; Student Disciplinary Meetings; IEP Conferences; and meetings to address the mental health needs of children. It must be noted that the relationship between the school and community based resource agencies has strengthened.
- Dr. Vereen has been working to complete the formal observations for the first semester.
- The Shaffer teaching staff continues the process of analyzing, interpreting, and utilizing various sets of student performance data in an effort to grow the children academically.
- The Student Activities Committee met on Friday, January 20, 2012 to refine various child-oriented events through the duration of the school year.
- Several committed volunteers from the Oasis Intergenerational Program continue to support the academic needs of several Shaffer students through tutoring.
- The Shaffer BERT (*Building Emergency Response Team*) continued the meeting process in an effort to complete the Shaffer Plan. Significant progress has been noted in the work of the team relevant to completing the building plan.
- Shaffer anticipates the annual “Bring Your Parent To School Day” and “Beginning Band Concert” event that will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

- As a reminder, the Woodland Hills School District Board of School Directors are invited to attend the quarterly Honor's Assemblies on January 30<sup>th</sup> at: 9:20 am – 10:10 am (*Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2*); 10:15 am – 11:05 am (*Grade 3 and Grade 4*); and 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm (*Grades 5 and 6*).
- Three Student Teachers are working with Shaffer teachers.

*Submitted by Dr. Deborah M. Vereen, Principal  
January 18, 2012*



**Mrs. Karen E. Bloch, Principal**

**WILKINS ELEMENTARY**

**362 Churchill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 • Phone: 412-824-3231 Fax: 412-824-3244**

**WEEKLY NOTABLES  
JANUARY 17 – 20, 2011**

**Pre K – third grade have been learning songs about civil rights, and freedom. Second grade, Having a Dream in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Fourth grade have been working on “Fifty Nifty United States” song to coincide with their project on the United States.**

**Each of the above grade levels is taught by Mr. Paul White. He has integrated his music lessons with social studies and reading.**

**Mr. Erik Meredith’s first grade class is learning two digit addition and subtraction problems. They are then placed on the website for parents to practice with their child at home.**

**Mrs. Bloch attended four IEP meetings this week.**

**Mrs. Bloch participated in the Wilkins Weekly live news encouraging students to practice Dr. King’s philosophy every day.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mrs. Karen E. Bloch  
Principal**



**Mrs. Dawn Golden, Principal**  
Mr. Shawn Brown, Assistant Principal

Week of January 23, 2012

Students in all 7th and 8th grade Reading/Language Arts classes have been busy in the Library researching, writing, and typing their youth violence essays, poems, and plays. The Middle Ages for the 7th grade Social Studies classes and Biomes for an 8th grade Science Class are the hot topics for title searches in the Library.

Woodland Hills Jr. High will once again sponsor a school-wide "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society this year. The students received their own collection box and a letter went home detailing the fundraiser. The students are very excited about this fundraiser! The classroom that raises the most money will have a pasta party courtesy of Olive Garden.

Woodland Hills Jr. High will be selling tickets this week during lunch for "Crazy Hat Day" on Friday. Students will receive a sticker to put on their hat indicating that they are supporting the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip and children with cancer. The fee will go into their homeroom's fund to help with "Pennies for Patients". Staff is encouraged to participate, too!

The Life Skills class at the Junior High has really gotten a taste for helping people! After collecting over 200 cans for families in need during the Thanksgiving canned food drive, the students in Room 226 have willingly taken on a new challenge: helping children with Leukemia. Every homeroom in the Junior High is collecting coins for the Pennies for Patients program. The Life Skills class (consisting of 8 students, 2 paraprofessionals, and 1 teacher) collected an impressive amount of money over the first 3 days of the collection. As part of the Life Skills curriculum, the students set a goal for the total amount of money they hope to donate. They count their daily intake, add it to the past totals, and then subtract the total from the goal to determine what is left. With only a little more than \$9.00 to go after only 3 days, the students have decided to double their original goal. The students made a list of possible change sources, including: the couch, the car, the dryer, the bottom of old purses, piggy banks, and asking a friend/family member for donations. The Life Skills students are donation champs!

We are looking forward to a great year!



MR. DANIEL STEPHENS, Principal  
 MS. LICIA LENTZ, Assistant Principal  
 MR. LaMONT LYONS, Assistant Principal  
 MR. KEVIN MURRAY, Assistant to the Principal  
 MRS. MARLO ROBINSON, Assistant Principal

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WOODLAND HILLS HIGH SCHOOL  
 2550 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 • 412-244-1100 • 412-242-2344 (Fax)

## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dr. Calinger

FROM: Dan Stephens

DATE: January 25, 2012

RE: High School Highlights

The following activities occurred at the high school since last Wednesday, January 18, 2012:

The Woodland Hills Foundation is pleased to announce that Woodland Hills High School teacher Barb Amick will be the recipient of this year's "Friend of the Foundation" Award. Ms. Amick has been an art teacher in the Woodland Hills School District for the last 36 years and is being recognized for her dedication to the students and the District, her creativity as an artist, her limitless efforts as a volunteer, and her generosity as a donor to the Woodland Hills Foundation.

The public is invited to join the Foundation in honoring Ms. Amick at the Chocolate and Diamonds Affair – a gala fundraising dinner that will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at the Edgewood Country Club. For tickets or more information, call 888-281-3241, or email [jan.mitchell@woodlandhillsfoundation.org](mailto:jan.mitchell@woodlandhillsfoundation.org)

Two members of The Future is Mine Club, Calvin Daye and Cheyenne Holyfield, attended a conference at the Heinz Endowments on Monday, January 23, 2012. Calvin and Cheyenne were selected to participate at this conference because of their impressive work with the Hear Me project. Cheyenne and Calvin discussed issues effecting high school students today, how to make student voices heard, and the importance of students working towards positive change in their community. The members of the Heinz Endowment foundation were so impressed with Cheyenne and Calvin that they have been invited back to future conferences.

On January 13, 2012 thirty-five students accompanied by Ms. Krasman and Mr. McDonough attended a workshop on photographer Teenie Harris at the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History. Charles "Teenie" Harris was an African American photographer in the Pittsburgh area who lived from 1908-1998. Teenie Harris was a photographer for the Pittsburgh Courier who captured images from everyday life in the Hill District to celebrity happenings. Harris' collection included photos of prominent individuals such as Lena Horne, Jackie Robinson, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King Jr. The Harris collection obtained by the Carnegie Museum included over 80,000 negatives, which have been displayed in a

variety of different ways around the exhibit. The Woodland Hills High School students got the opportunity to tour the Teenie Harris exhibit in small groups with their own dossier and discussed the impact of Harris' work. The students then worked on their own collages using prints of Harris' work along with images of pictures of downtown Pittsburgh in the present. The field trip was made possible by a generous grant from The Grable Foundation.

Melissa Broadwater math teacher at WHHS received a class set of individual dry erase boards and markers through a project funded by donorschoose.org for use in her math classes.

As the girls' and boys' swim teams come in to the end of the regular season competition they are looking to defeat section rivals Hempfield and Gateway this week. The girls are 5 and 2 overall and 1 and 1 in section competition. On the boys' side, close matches seem to be the rule this season. Congratulations go out to all individual qualifiers including Caroline Rubash, Maddie Marcelle, Claudia Zido, Anthony Rogers, and relay qualifiers Sara Kennedy, Kristina Lewis, Claire Mallick and Hollis Mermelstein. The last home meet of the season, which is also Senior Rec, is next Thursday when the Wolverines take on Kiski at the High School pool. The meet starts with diving opening the competition at 6:00 PM.

The Rifle team won a close match against Bethel Park on Tuesday night advancing the team record to 11 and 2. Over the course of the season the Wolverines have shot 9 perfect scores of 800 out of 12 matches.