A. **SHOUT OUT TO MR. CHESSMAN** – Congratulations to Mr. Chessman, our district was named as a winner in the most recent round of funding for the Fresh Fruits and Veggies program. This is a $150,000.00 dollar grant that puts healthy snacks in the hands of our students everyday. This is a highly competitive grant and Mr. Chessman is to be lauded for completing the application and securing the significant funding associated with this program. Kudos!

B. **UNSUNG HERO AWARD** – On the subject of awards and recognitions; we have a great and mostly overlooked asset in our District in the person of our lead Social Worker, Miss Kellie Irwin. Kellie takes care of a variety of responsibilities at the high school, junior high and other buildings. She is also our designated Homeless Student coordinator. We are third in Allegheny County (Following only Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg) in the number of homeless students who attend our schools. We have over 150 students with no permanent home. Today (Friday) Miss Irwin is being recognized, at a regional summit on homeless students, with the State's 'Unsung Hero' award for exemplary service in support of homeless students. Kellie is the only recipient of this award in Allegheny County this year. It is a very signal accomplishment and I am very proud of Kellie – and of all our awesome social workers--for the work they do for our kids every day. They are a priceless asset to the Woodland Hills School District.

Our young professionals like Kellie and Gerry Chessman are the future of our district. I really view one of my most important tasks as being a mentor to them and others like them.

C. **BUDGET DISCUSSIONS** – The administrative team is working very hard to produce an array of budget cutting options to the Board as soon as humanly possible. I believe that our paradigm for overall budget development must switch to a more collaborative model in which we, as an administrative team, develop and present a budget framework that includes a wide variety of options for programs, staffing and operations the Board can use to prioritize and set a final budget in place. My hope and vision for this year is for a final budget to be in place and ready for adoption as soon as the 30 day review period for the proposed final budget is completed (About June 3rd). I really believe that this is a 'doable' proposition if we all are willing to work hard and in a focused way.

D. **Department Updates** – The following department reports are included in this Update:

- Attachment 5 – Technology
- Attachment 6 – Transportation/Food Service

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

- Attachment 7 – Dickson Elementary
- Attachment 8 – Fairless Elementary
- Attachment 9 – Shaffer Elementary
- Attachment 10 – Wilkins Elementary
- Attachment 11 – High School
Technology Department Report

5-3-12

Brian has been updating all Mac images. He met with Ron Holtzer Jr., President of BAI and is working with BAI to determine actual per page printing costs.

Brian & Steve recorded the continuation of the April Board Legislative meeting on Monday. They also recorded the Academy lottery on Tuesday and the May Board Agenda meeting on Wednesday. They are currently editing all meetings for our website.

Keith and Steve worked with ASCC to install the new TV Broadcaster/Messaging System in the HS TV Studio. ASCC will be returning to give a 2-hour instructional demonstration to multiple staff members.

Keith worked on Security issues with a Linux Server and rebuilt a Server. He has also cleaned up settings on the firewall. In addition he enabled all servers to email Tech Staff regarding hard drive conditions and status. He is currently compiling 5 years worth of offsite printing data for a thorough analysis.

Steve is working with the ASCC and Leightronix to configure, program, and set security levels on the new TV Broadcaster/Messaging System. He has burned 160 DVD’s for Kindergarten registration. In addition he has compiled an EdInsight usage report for current school year and updated a number of Windows Servers.

BJ submitted the manual review log for PIMS HQT collection. She is compiling the Special Ed, Charter School data from previous years. In addition she is exporting mailing labels for the Youth for Life summer mailing.

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

- Nutrition Inc has agreed to lower the amount in the decorations, area enhancements, and promotions portion of the 2012-2013 budget by $1,400. That amount will increase the projected profit by $1,400. Nutrition Inc. also corrected an error in the expense detail report by increasing the smallware & equipment replacement section by $800 and eliminating the $800 cost in the china, silverware, glassware section.

- I was involved in multiple budget meetings throughout the week.

- Spent several hours modifying the original 2012-2013 transportation proposal.

- Reviewed and finalized Nutrition Inc. renewal contract.
“Journey Around the World” News

- Third graders, who are studying Europe, enjoyed the presentation on Tuesday, May 2, by Belinda Anderson and Vince Boger who now live in London. They are the grandparents of 3rd grader Makaylah Ballard who happen to be visiting Pittsburgh at this time and were happy to share their experiences with their granddaughter’s class.

- Jessica McKelvy, the student teacher in Mrs. Foster's room, was the guest speaker for 2nd grade students on Thursday. Ms. McKelvy has traveled to Costa Rica, and her mother is a Spanish teacher. They gave a very interesting presentation on their experiences and knowledge of Costa Rica and Central America. Dickson 2nd graders are studying this area as part of the Journey Around the World Project.

- The annual sushi rolling demonstration for 6th graders was Thursday, May 3. Although it takes a lot of preparation time, the students enjoyed trying the new tastes for their project on East Asia.

- Our very own teacher Delease Edwards was the featured speaker for Kindergarten classes on Thursday during their specials. Mrs. Edwards is from Jamaica and shared her life experiences of the Caribbean.

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- Dickson Kindergarten students had a special reader on Monday, April 30. Mrs. Dana Williams, a representative of the Pennsylvania Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), visited the classes, reading an Elmo story about healthy eating and playing breakfast bingo. Each student received a book.
- The last formal PTO meeting of the year was Tuesday, May 1. The final plans were made for end of the year activities, including Fun Day, and preliminary dates were discussed for next year.

- Dickson teachers and staff members were treated to a special luncheon on Thursday by the PTO in appreciation for their hard work throughout the year. Parents brought in appetizers, main dishes, sides, and desserts for the luncheon. The annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is anticipated eagerly by the entire staff and this year’s feast was outstanding as always.

- Friday, May 4 was a super field trip day at Dickson! The Media Club visited KDKA, touring both the radio station and TV studios. The fourth graders took a trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo as part of their science studies on habitats and marine life. The third graders went bowling together and then on a picnic in Forest Hills Park.

- Dickson’s 5th and 6th grade students attended their special dance on Friday evening. The dance is sponsored by the PTO and chaperoned by the teachers and administrators. This year’s theme was “Hollywood.” The students had a great time and created special memories.
Positives from Fairless

On Tuesday, April 24th, sixth grade took a virtual field trip with NASA education specialist David Alexander from Dryden Flight Research Center in California “planet hopping”. Students learned about how the mass of each planet in our solar system relates to the gravitational force. Students began by determining how high they can jump on Earth. Using those measurements, the students calculated how high they can jump on other planets. They discovered the smaller the planet, the higher they could jump.

On Thursday, April 26th, fifth graders took a virtual field trip to the Cleveland Metropark Zoo and explored “A Bite-Sized Look at Sharks”. Students learned about some of the unique features that have made sharks one of the most successful groups this planet has ever seen. They also found out why the shark’s bite is so important to our oceans! The highlight of the trip was when students got to see feeding time up close.

Also on April 26th, first graders took a virtual field trip to the Sun with NASA Education Specialist Damon Talley from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Students began by comparing the objects they see in the night and day time sky. Next, they used white paper and crayons to draw a picture of the sun. As they interacted with NASA personnel, new facts about the sun are added to their illustrations such as sun spots, solar winds, etc.

On Monday, April 30th, sixth graders took a virtual field trip to “Our Solar System and Beyond” with NASA Education Specialist David Mazza from Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. During the conference, the presenter got the students thinking about what makes up the solar system and how large it really is. Using computer animations, David extended their ideas on structure, distance, and speed of solar system bodies. One especially important misconception to be challenged is the idea that the solar system all fits on one page as seen in many graphic representations of the planets in textbooks. To travel to the Moon at 25,000 miles per hour took Apollo astronauts three days. To go to Pluto at the same speed would take 52 years.
A Team Committed To Excellence

WEEKLY POSITIVE MESSAGE
April 26, 2012 through May 2, 2012

➢ In an effort to serve as Mentor for Pre-Service School Administrator and Teacher Mr. Clawson, Woodland Hills High School Teacher, Mrs. Love, Assistant Principal collaborated with him to organize a tutorial program for Shaffer students. As a result, several high school students who are members of the National Honor’s Society have successfully facilitated tutorial sessions on Tuesday and Thursday during the last period of the school day to provide differentiated assistance to children in reading and mathematics who require additional support. (From the perspective of Dr. Vereen, this initiative represents an example of maximizing resources during economic distress within a school district.)

➢ The Shaffer PTO continues to provide very high levels of support at the school. Most recently, the organization sponsored a field trip for fifth graders to attend a Career Exposition at Duquesne University. This field experience took place on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. All of the children who attended were provided a positive opportunity to begin the process of exploring career options for the future. The PTO also hosted a lavish as well as delicious luncheon for the Shaffer staff in honor of Teacher (and Staff) Appreciation Week on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. Finally, the organization recently submitted their calendar of events to the school in order for the Shaffer Calendar of events can be completed pending the approval of the district wide calendar. All of the support provided by this organization is deeply appreciated.

➢ The annual “Jump Rope For Heart” school wide service project has concluded at Shaffer. As of Tuesday, May 1, 2012, $2,200.00 was collected by the students and other contributors. Mrs. Bynum-Ratliff initiated this event and Mrs. Love assisted her with the collection of donations. As previously documented, proceeds have been contributed to the American Heart Association.

➢ The second Principal’s Coffee/Title I Parent and Key Communicator’s Meeting was successfully held on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. This gathering afforded the school with opportunities to extend effort to sustain open lines of communications with parents.

➢ 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; conferences to address the mental health needs of children; and IEP Conferences.

➢ The entire Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science PSSA sequence has concluded. All testing materials have been returned to DRC. Shaffer now anticipates the release of the student performance data in the not too distant future associated with these assessments.
Per weekly protocol, several highly committed volunteers from the Oasis Intergenerational Program continue to support the academic needs of several Shaffer students through tutoring.

Dr. Vereen and Mrs. Love have nearly completed the Clinical Supervisory also known as *Differentiated Supervision* process for the second formal observation cycle.

Shaffer teachers have begun the process of submitting their professional portfolios as required per the year-end evaluation process. Dr. Vereen will begin the process of analyzing each during the next week.

Sixth grader Sophia Russell has concluded the service project to benefit the Human Society and Petco. She is in the process of planning a special assembly with Dr. Vereen so that the children of Shaffer present the donated supplies to volunteers from both animal providers.

Fifth grader Alexa Jusino recently secured permission from Dr. Vereen to facilitate a service project to benefit the African nation of Zembobwi at the start of the next school year. Alexa’s efforts will include organizing a community flea market/garage sale to raise funds for a service group within that nation. Specific information will be communicated in the near future.

While not mentioned in each report, the Lunch With The Principal student incentive program continues to celebrate the success of students as well as to encourage them. The final program will be held on Wednesday, May 16th.

Again, while not mention in each weekly report to the superintendent, Shaffer Elementary School teachers continue analyzing, interpreting, and using various student performance data sets to monitor student growth and to provide as required interventions for each learner. The compilation of a building wide Data Binder affirms the efforts of the school.

It must be noted that Mrs. Pearson, Gifted Support Teacher has planned educational opportunities for children to participate in exciting field trips during the upcoming days. Specific information will be reported on in the near future.

Shaffer Music Teachers Mrs. Bodenschatz, Mrs. Hertick, and Mrs. Klicker are preparing for upcoming concerts. Details of these events will be reported next week.

Shaffer has been compiling documentation which supports the compliance of the school with all Title I protocols. Mrs. Shandrick, Administrative Assistant has been very instrumental in that process in preparation for the upcoming audit.

*Submitted by Dr. Deborah M. Vereen, Principal*

*May 3, 2012*
WEEKLY NOTABLES

APRIL 23 – 27, 2012

In music classes for grades K, 1, 2, and 4 this week, we have been singing songs centered on the theme “Earth Day”. Two songs are THIS PRETTY PLANET and SOMEONE’S GONNA USE IT, which talks about protecting the water, land and air.

Third graders are continuing to progress nicely with the playing of the recorders that was begun in March and will culminate with a mini concert towards the end of May.

In 6th grade reading books, Theme 5 stories are about other countries. We have studied/read stories so far on Greece, China, Japan, and Egypt. We are tying this in with social studies for this nine weeks. Each student chose a country and are researching information from the country’s capital, currency, government, language, etc. Once they research the information, they create a power point with the information. Once finished, they will present it to the class. They are having a lot of fun finding information and learning new things from different parts of the world.

Along with our “Artist In Residence,” our Pre-K “planted” seed infused paper and 6th grade students visited the art museum.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Karen E. Bloch, Principal
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Johnson

FROM: Dan Stephens

DATE: May 2, 2012

RE: High School Highlights

The following activities occurred at the high school since last Wednesday, April 25, 2012:

Student’s take part in a virtual, collaborative "field trip" with students in Belmont, Northern Ireland

On Monday April 30th, students from Marcia Mineo’s classroom attended an historic field trip at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. The students took part in a virtual, collaborative "field trip" with students in Belmont, Northern Ireland. With the use of teleconference and mobile technology the students in Europe were able to "walk" with the students and interact with the Woodland Hills students in 'real time'. A first for the Warhol (and the whole Carnegie Museum family), this event featured portraiture and specifically the "About Face" special exhibition at the Warhol. The goal of this partnership is to improve autistic youth’s communication skills by developing and piloting activities that utilize Warhol’s portraits and the practice of contemporary portrait artists to teach facial recognition skills to students within the autism spectrum. The exhibition features three-dimensional, large-format photographs which are fixed open at a 55 degree angle, and mounted directly the gallery walls. From one perspective the viewer sees only a neutral portrait of the student, while from the other angle one views an open spread, which reveals an expressive image of the student and an accompanying emotional motivator. Motivators range from an image of a birthday party to a spider. Students from both schools shared their own pieces of art and shared feelings on the exhibit. After the one hour teleconference event, the Woodland Hills students were taken to the studio and produced additional art with support from the Warhol Educational Department. This event was collaboration between the Jason Coleman, technology integration coach at WHHS, the AIU, Carlow University and the Warhol Museum.
Woodland Hills High School Students host the Propaganda Tournament

On Tuesday, May 1st, the Woodland Hills Gifted department co-sponsored the annual Propaganda Tournament. Over 100 students from 10 different area high schools competed in our Library. This competition is designed to have students analyze various methods of influencing the ideas and behaviors of individuals. Woodland Hills was well represented in the winner’s circle. Mitchell Rode earned the second place individual award and David Morgan took third. Congratulations to all of our students that competed.

Woodland Hills High School Students win the Wolverine Spirit Award

Woodland Hills High School awarded two students the Wolverine Spirit award for April, 2012. Mario Scaramouche, a 12th grade student was nominated by his rifle coach and teacher. Mr. Rodrigues feels that Mario is the most decorated rifle marksmen in Woodland Hills’ history. As captain, he led the rifle team to the WPIAL championship and to a Silver Medal at the PIAA State Finals. Mario is in the top 1% of his class, President of the Marching Bank and worked on the Junior High and High School Musicals. Also, Maddie Marcelle, a 12th grade student was the second award winner, nominated by her swimming coach. Mr. Nepa reported that Maddie strives to be the very best swimmer she can be every time she competes. She has broken her own 100-breast stroke record three-times. At the PIAA Swim Finals, she finished 8th in the state. As a team captain, she provided leadership by example and mentored younger swimmers. She also excels academically, is in the National Honor Society and was selected for Wendy’s High School Heisman Award.

Woodland Hills Science Department hosts bring your Child to Work Day

On Thursday, April 26th the high school science department put together a few periods of fun for the children of faculty and staff that came to school for “Take Your Child to Work Day”. Mr. Booth and Mr. Vranka allowed the children to dissect a shark and a frog. The children identified various major organs and discussed their functions. The children add an opportunity to compare organs between the sharks and the frogs. One of the teachers even cut their finger while demonstrating how the shark’s teeth are used to cut their prey! Mr. Kowinsky discussed electricity with the children. He demonstrated conductivity of electric current and had them playing with a Van de Graaf generator and a Jacob’s Ladder. The generator caused numerous static discharges both between the children and the generator and between children. The Jacob’s Ladder contains two electrodes which allow a spark to rise up between them. He even conducted electricity through a banana! Mr. Steinmetz discussed combustion with the children. The children learned about the importance of oxygen to fire. They did this through demonstrations involving shooting corks and combusting gummy bears. They also were able to do several flame tests to identify what metals were present in an unknown sample. Overall, it was an exciting time and the children enjoyed their time in our little science classes and learned something as well.
Woodland Hills High School Honors Banquet

The High School Academic Honors Banquet was held on Tuesday, May 1st at Olympia Hall.

We had the honor of inviting 41 Senior students to attend this banquet due to them achieving a 3.5 or higher throughout their tenure here at Woodland Hills and/or being presented with one of the 25 local scholarships that were awarded that evening.

Woodland Hills student inducted as the District Governor of the Interact Clubs of Rotary District 7300

On Monday April 30, junior Kezia Harewood was inducted as the District Governor of the Interact Clubs of Rotary District 7300. She is the first Woodland Hills student to receive this honor. Her responsibilities will include advising Interact Clubs from the Pittsburgh area and planning the 2012 Interact Conference to be held in October.

The Interact Club is sponsored by high school teachers Mrs. Marilyn Keteles and Mr. Kevin McGuire.

Writing classes participated in Allegheny County’s “One Book, One Community” program

On Tuesday May 1, students from Mr. Curran’s Creative Writing classes participated in Allegheny County’s “One Book, One Community” program. Students read excerpts from the book "This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women" and participated in a web conference. The writing activities and discussion was coordinated by high school librarian Mr. Kevin McGuire.

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