

MSAD 12 News
July/August, 2009

August is the time of the year during which children are trying to squeeze that last bit of summer fun from their vacations, and parents are trying to just hold on until September when school starts and they are finally able to get a break! Soon the finishing touches on summer repairs to buildings will be completed and classrooms polished to perfection to start off another excellent year of school at Forest Hills Consolidated Schools!

Everyone within Forest Hills is eagerly anticipating the beginning of another school year. We have so many positive initiatives that we are working on together for this coming year that its going to be difficult to track all of the great things going on. Here's a sample of just a few items we'll be working on this year:

- Continued improvement regarding communications by building upon our successes with Leadership Team and our school's website and working diligently to create a school system where open communication is a hallmark.
- Our new Team teaching model in grades 4/5.
- Our new A+ Certification Computer Repair Course and community Project.
- Grades 3-12 laptops initiative. We are very excited regarding the potential of this equipment to lift our instructional programs to the next level of excellence!
- Live2Learn Programming. We are going to be beginning our second grant cycle with these federal funds that offer after school programming to our children. The focus will be to increase involvement and participation in our programs for our most needy children and families with the help of a recently awarded Americorps position.
- K-12 Curriculum Work to ensure our curriculum is cohesive across grades K-12 and aligned with our vision/mission and our recent work with becoming an accredited NEASC K-12 School (one of only two in the state). We need to keep this positive momentum moving!
- K-12 Assessment work to create a coordinated K-12 system of assessment, instruction and interventions for all children as part of our new Response to Intervention (RTI) System.
- Comprehensive Safety Planning in partnership with all community agencies as well as Sheriff, Border Patrol, State Police, County Red Cross, County Crisis Response Team and County Emergency Management Agencies.
- 4 Year Old Pre-K Program Planning to work towards the possible creation of a 4 year old program within the Forest Hills Schools. This year will be devoted to planning and proposals to the SAD 12 School Board which, if approved, will lead to implementation for the 2010-2011 school year.

This is just a sampling of the work that we will be undertaking this coming year while building upon our past successes such as our high graduation rates, our high percentage of seniors going on to post secondary education, our excellent work on improving the energy efficiency of the school, and our excellent extra and co-curricular offerings and active and supportive community partnerships.

I would like to take the time to welcome a few new faces to Forest Hills Schools. A huge TIGER WELCOME goes out to the following new staff members: Wayne

Lumbert – Custodian, Tammie Bishop – Cook, Kasey Gilbert, Lindsay Keiper, and Sara Hannan – Educational technicians, Michelle Cuddy – Special Education Teacher, Elizabeth Winokur – French Teacher, Kathleen Ferrick – English, Phoebe Payne – Part time Music, Carole Lumbert-Worster – Part Time Curriculum/assessment coordinator, and Roxanne Vining – Live2Learn Americorps Member. Welcome to TIGER COUNTRY! ☺

In closing, I would like to remind everyone of our excellent school website where you can find all the information regarding our school that I can't fit into these short newsletters! You'll find pictures, highlights, calendars and more so please log on to www.sad12.com to stay up-to-date on what's going on! I look forward to once again hearing the sound of children learning in our classrooms beginning on September 8, 2009. Until then, students – cherish these last few weeks of summer and parents – just hold on, we're coming to the rescue soon! ☺