



Superintendent's E-Mail Newsletter

"Staying in touch..."



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*"Building a foundation of excellence.....
.... one student at a time."*

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

~Janice Maeditere



The Ant and The Grasshopper – A La Spring Cove

(See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ant_and_the_Grasshopper)

I included an explanatory link for my headline because my staff is quick to remind me that not everyone is my "age" and they might not be familiar with the examples I select. Age differences aside, you may already know that in order to meet the new 403(b) compliance regulations of the IRS, Spring Cove School District has selected the ING Group to provide a full range of financial planning services. We are pleased to be working with a financial company that brings many strengths to our employees. ING is the #1 administrator of 403(b) and 401(k) plans in the world, and they are also a leader in financial education for their clients.

One of our goals in selecting a 403(b) administrator was to help our employees become more independent and informed about financial security. Out of approximately 260 employees, our district has less than 80 employees who are enrolled in a savings program. Although you may think that the current economic times would not be the best time to start a new savings plan, the reality is that there never is a "best" time to start. One of the best pieces of advice that I received many years ago was "to pay yourself first." A small contribution amount can become a sizable savings over many years, lower your reportable income and reduce your taxes. You can start this process at any time by contacting the Payroll Office. Please consider this new choice, and decide which are you – the grasshopper or the ant? Thank you!

Christmas Programs Make The Yuletide Bright!

Many thanks to all of you who made the season bright for our families with Christmas programs, concerts, and outreach efforts to those less fortunate. These are the actions that make us a community. Thank you!

“There has been only one Christmas - the rest are anniversaries.”

~W.J.
Cameron



Spring Cove
School District

1100 E. Main Street

Roaring Spring, PA
16673

Phone 814.224.5124

Santa Also Brings Us Grants!



Some good news to share about grants and grant opportunities. First, we were just notified that we have been awarded \$45,375 for our application in the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant program. This is a competitive grant program, and we were one of 47 applicants selected from a pool of 111 applications. Our grant will allow us to create “Smart Classrooms” district-wide in grades 5 and 6. We will be able to install a ceiling mounted projector, a smart board, and an upgraded computer system in each of these classrooms. Our goal is to enhance the opportunities for our students in elementary and middle school in order that they are proficient on the 8th grade technology standards. By giving our teachers more tech tools in the classroom, they will be able to enrich the teaching and learning experience with technology.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind all of our teaching staff that the next round of **VENTURE GRANTS** is ready to go. The new applications are available for download from the district website (under Employee Forms) and will be due by February 16. Approval of the applications will take place at the March Foundation meeting. As with last year’s applicants, we plan to publicly announce the winners at the 3rd Annual Celebration of Excellence on April 23rd. This is a great opportunity!



What Lies Ahead In The New Year?

It is customary at this time to take a few minutes to reflect on what has happened in the past year and to look ahead to what might be our new challenges. The past year has been historic in many ways, from the election of an African-American president to the worldwide toppling of economic dominoes. Who would have guessed that these events were possible? Even at the local level, we have seen many businesses and families “pull back” in hopes of better surviving the recession. It does make one pause and think.

Earlier this year, I took the opportunity to visit each school and speak to all about how we, as a school district, will not be immune to the declining economy. I also stated that, despite the economic crisis that might (and has) develop(ed), we are “open for business.” Schools do not put shutters on the windows and file for Chapter 11. We are the constant in many people’s lives. The school musicals, the volleyball games, the opportunity to serve as a volunteer in our schools – all of these, and more, are what hold a community together. Call it “social glue” or whatever, we will be there, and I know that you will do your best to continue the high level of public service our families have come to expect. Thank you all, and here’s to a great 2009 for Spring Cove!