



Superintendent's E-Mail Newsletter

"Staying in touch..."



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



*"Do something wonderful,
people may imitate it."*

~Albert Schweitzer



Foundation Announces New Cycle Of Venture Grants

The Spring Cove Educational Foundation is in the midst of re-orienting some of its activities. One area that will be addressed is the awarding and implementation of Venture Grants. Based on the feedback from many grantees and applicants, we are moving the cycle of grants from the September window to a February/March timeframe. It is our belief that all will be better served if we can award grants in April and implement them in September for a full school year. We have found that many grants need ample lead time for an effective cycle of implementation. The 2008/09 Venture Grant application form is available for download via the district's home page. Deadline for submission is March 4, and awards will be announced at the Foundation's Annual Celebration of Excellence scheduled for April 24.



Mrs. Shoemaker's Venture Grant Goes To College!

Pictured above are students and parents from Mrs. Traci Shoemaker's class co-presenting with students from Lafayette College on January 31 at the Penn State Altoona campus. Their presentation was entitled, "Envisioning Environmental Science." This unique Venture Grant allowed Mrs. Shoemaker's students to participate in Project C.A.R.E., an environmental science learning experience with Dr. Arthur Kney, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and his Lafayette College students. SCSD students and the Lafayette group met via a videoconference to share their collaborative Powerpoint presentations. The evening provided parents an opportunity to meet with their children's on-line mentors. Lifelong learning? I definitely think so. And, if you talk to Mrs. Shoe's kids...ask about the **BUGS!**

“Things turn out best for the people who make the best of how things turn out.”

- John Wooden



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Did You Know We Have ?

Just a reminder to all that you are able to purchase additional insurance coverage from Aflac, with the convenience of payroll deduction. Coverage is available for areas such as Cancer, Dental, Short-Term Disability, Vision, and many more. This is a service available to ALL Spring Cove employees. For more information, contact the Business Office, and they will forward your contact information to an agent for an appointment.

Don't Fence Me In...At Least, Not For Too Long!



Here are a few “icy” shots of the job site for the new elementary school. The general contractor, LOBAR, Inc., is certainly moving the project along in the early weeks with the installation of a temporary fence. Why a fence? Once a job starts, the general contractor is legally liable for all activities that take place on the job site. In essence, they “own it” for the next 18 months. Therefore, it is very necessary for them to secure the job site to prevent theft and accidents. We will offer access to the job site to those who need it, when they need it. I know everyone understands that the world we live in forces us to have this type of security. It may not be pretty, but it will be worth it for the great facility that soon will be available for our community. As another means for you to check out the progress of the school, we recently installed a web cam at the Middle School. The camera will be directed at the job site, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It will be viewable on the school district web page, and we hope to go “live” with the camera in the next few weeks.

What Have I Been Reading Lately?

I am currently plodding my way through all 995 pages of *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Although there have been many books written about Abraham Lincoln, I am enjoying this one because of the “behind the scenes” look it gives the reader to the political process leading up to Lincoln’s nomination. It is also a great reminder that we have to work with everyone, even our rivals, to achieve great things. Lincoln went against the advice of his closest advisors and appointed a number of his rivals to his cabinet. Anticipating the certainty of a civil war, he had the presence of mind to know that politics as usual was not going to serve our country. It’s not your typical leadership book, and that is why I like it.