

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



THE SUPERINTENDENT'S INSIDER..... January 6, 2011

In the News:

- **THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONTINUES TO SEARCH FOR A FEW PARENTS AND/OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SERVE AS AD HOC MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: EDUCATION, FINANCE & FACILITIES, COMMUNICATIONS AND POLICY. THE NUMBER OF AD HOC MEMBERS ARE LIMITED. AD HOC MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS AN AD HOC MEMBER OF ONE OF THE COMMITTEES PLEASE CONTACT SUE SMEALL, SECRETARY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT.**
- Teachers in grades 3 through 8 will begin a professional development program being provided by Innovative Designs for Education. The professional development is a job embedded program that will have trainers from IDE meeting with grade level teams to provide them with training in Project Based Learning. The training will consist of topics on:
 - 1) Components of problem-based learning tasks
 - 2) Using problem-based learning to differentiate instruction
 - 3) Using problem-based learning to address the Common Core State Standards
 - 4) Using problem-based learning to build student responsibility to learn

Teachers will work with the IDE trainer to begin to design Authentic Learning Units and to expand their understanding of the concepts and strategies of project-based learning.

As described by Barbara Duch of the University of Delaware describes problem-based learning as an instructional method that challenges students to "learn to learn," working cooperatively in groups to seek solutions to real world problems. These problems are used to engage students' curiosity and initiate learning the subject matter. PBL prepares students to think critically and analytically, and to find and use appropriate learning resources.

Highlights from the December 20, 2011 Board of Education meeting:

- Approved the completed NJQSAC Statement of Assurance for submission to the Department of Education.
- Accepted the resignation of Pamela LaFevre for the purpose of retirement effective March 1, 2012.
- Approved a Contract Agreement with Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (ESC) for the purpose of providing teacher assistants to Holland Township School District beginning January 3, 2012 until the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
- Approved Elizabeth Buchanan as part time special education teacher (19.6 hours per week).
- Approved Policy 2431.2 (Prevention and Treatment of Concussions and Head Injuries).

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information regarding this information please do not hesitate to call me at 908-995-2401 extension 312.

Emil J. Suarez