

The Insider

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

eNewsletter

Lower Moreland Township School District
Dr. Marykay Feeley, Superintendent of Schools

February, 2009

2009 MINT GRANT Award Recipients



Patrick Engleman
LM High School



Robert Barnhart
Murray Avenue School



Ellen Zschunke
Pine Road School

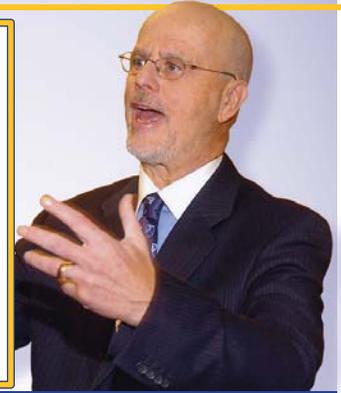
There were many proposals that demonstrated new and exciting concepts, however, it was narrowed down to three awardees. The Superintendent, Dr. Feeley, was delighted to award the 2009 Mini Grants to a teacher from each school for their innovations in technology and communications.

Patrick Engleman, Lower Moreland High School, grant is titled: Integrating Performance, Technology, and the Study of the Physical Sciences. Students in freshman chemistry and physics will increase their knowledge of science and scientific concepts through the development, production, and execution of video podcasts. They will perform labs, create presentations, design film, and produce course-based movies. This technology will provide a highly motivating environment for students who will benefit from an alternative way of learning concepts and demonstrating understandings. Podcasts will also be posted on the teacher's classpage to share with other students and classes.

Continued on Page 3

THE
FUTURE
IS
NOW!

Classrooms for the Future
piloted at the high school



Classrooms for the Future is an integral part of Governor Rendell's high school reform agenda designed to modernize teaching and learning in Pennsylvania by giving teachers and students access to the latest technology. Classrooms for the Future will make every high school English, Math, Science and Social Studies classroom in Pennsylvania a "smart" classroom, providing laptop computers, high-speed internet access and state-of-the-art software for every teacher and student.

Lower Moreland Township School District has been awarded a \$45,413 grant from the state Department of Education as part of its "Classrooms for the Future" initiative, designed to promote the integration of technology into high school classrooms.

Through the grant, Gov. Rendell would like every high school student in the state to have the most up-to-date tools

Continued on Page 3

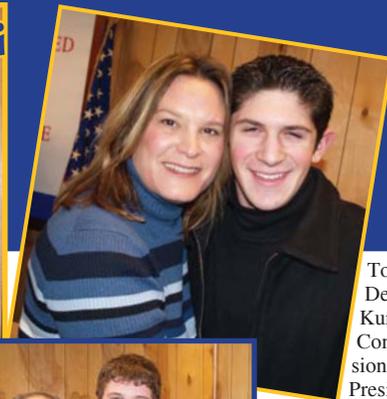
WELCOME J. DILKS to Murray Avenue Staff and Students Welcome New Principal



Ms. Jennifer Dilks has moved in and rolled up her sleeves, thus starting her work as Principal of the Murray Avenue School. The Superintendent and staff hosted a morning meet and greet to formally welcome Ms. Dilks to her new school. She was well received by all. Afterwards, she visited the classroom of Ms. D. Sullivan and introduced herself to the six grade students. •



On The Inside	Lion's Pride Awards	2	Bach to Brancusi	4	D.A.R.E. Graduation	6	Coming Events	7
	Choir Sings at Hopelodge	2	Innocent until Proven...	4	Locks of Love	6	Superintendent's Update	8
	Yoo Advances to Districts	2	Gulish to Peru	5	Alumni/Foundation	7	Contact Information	8
	Guidance, College Night	3	Students Honored	5	Human Resources	7		



Top: Denise Kuritz, Commissioner and President of the

Valley Youth Center and Shalom Kahlon, Uncle, congratulates Shain and Duani, respectively, at the School Board meeting.



LION'S PRIDE AWARDS GO TO STUDENTS

This district is fortunate to have many amazing students. Hard working, enthusiastic and determined, these students maintain good grades, participate in extra-curricular activities, hold part-time jobs, and perform community service. Pair these endeavors with a friendly personality and a positive attitude and what have we described -- Joshua Shain and Jonathan Duani. If they stay the course, they are bound for greatness, but right now, they have earned a place among those honored as Lion's Pride Award recipients for their valuable contribution to the Lower Moreland High School. Joshua and Jonathan have the distinction of being the first students to receive this award.

Joshua Shain is 17 years old and has lived in Huntingdon Valley since he was in 2nd grade. He is interested in pursuing a career in theatrical design.

Joshua began working in lighting at the summer camp shows. He is now responsible for the stage lighting at every district event. He has worked under the apprenticeship of Mr. Haldeman and stated that he has been a great influence on him personally. He admires how he trains the students and has the confidence to allow them to manage entire productions. He also admires Jay Blandon and Erich Ulzinow, Technology Assistants, who have helped him grow in this area.

Denise Kuritz, LM Township Commissioner and President of the Valley Youth Center, has instilled in him the rewards of volunteering and working in the community. This experience has helped develop his management and leadership skills.

Jonathan Duani is 16 years old and also a junior. He has lived his entire life in Huntingdon Valley. He has not determined his career aspirations, but knows he has a fondness for Chemistry.

He began working with sound at Murray Avenue School and is now the Sound Technician at the High School, working hand in hand with Joshua. They work with every department in the district. Jonathan also found Mr. Haldeman to be a great teacher and mentor. He has also taught him good management skills. The "Tech Team" is so well-trained, many outside groups use their services. Both students would like to advance the Tech Team to be able to do podcasting and streaming.

Joshua is the January "Student of the Month" and Jonathan was the "Student of the Month" for December at the high school. Their parents should be very proud. •

It's a First!



Ms. Jessica Ritter, Choral Director, escorted members of the Honor Choir to sing at Hope Lodge on Friday, December 12, 2008. Hope Lodge is the only house museum dedicated to the colonial time period. The choir sang carols and set the ambiance for the candlelight tour of the historic mansion. Visitors experienced how the holidays were celebrated in the past, including treats made in the Colonial Kitchen lit by candle light and warmed by the old fashioned fireplace. •

Yoo Advances

Kathy Yoo was chosen to attend District Chorus held from January 15-17. She accompanied the choir on piano. The concert was held on Saturday, January 17, at Central Bucks West. Kathy's scores at District Chorus qualified her to move on to Regional Chorus as the accompanist. She will be attending the event February 18-20 at Marple Newtown High School. Congratulations Kathy! •

GUIDANCE HOSTS SECOND COLLEGE NIGHT

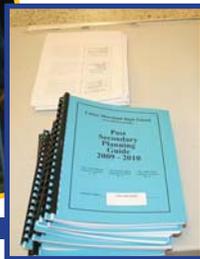
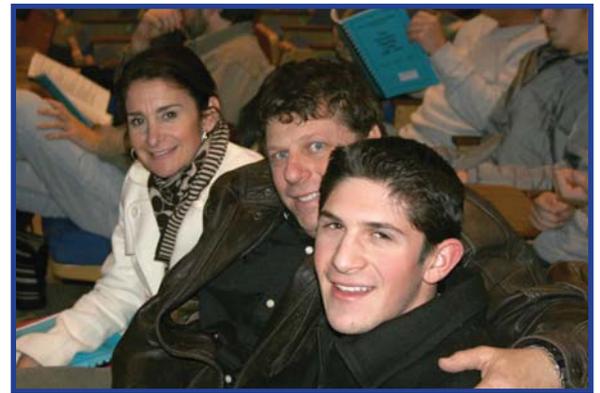


The Guidance Department hosted its second in a series of college night presentations for juniors, seniors and their parents. The first meeting was a discussion on how to make college affordable. On January 12, Mr. R. Marta welcomed parents and students to College Planning night. Each student received an individualized Post Secondary Planning Guide booklet. The booklet serves to assist the family in assessing, preparing, planning and paying for a college education.

Sara Shapiro Harberson, Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions at Franklin Marshall College, was the guest speaker and brought with her a sea of college admission information to share and stimulate discussion as families waded through the pool of information and choices available. She recommended that students do a self-assessment of their career aspirations, requirements for working in a particular field, and research colleges and universities. Parents must also assess their ability to provide financial support and/or investigate financial aid options. She stated there are many scholarships available, but students and parents must be proactive in investigating and applying for these opportunities.

There were many tips offered by the guidance department to help a student's application look more attractive to a school he or she may be considering; such as: continue to challenge yourself academically, keep your grades up, staying involved in extra-curricular activities, and review the weekly guidance bulletin page on the guidance website.

Families like that of Joshua Shain, a junior, know it is not too early to begin the planning process and found the information very useful.



Sara Shapiro Harberson
Vice President, Enrollment Management
Dean of Admissions
Franklin Marshall College

MINI GRANT RECIPIENTS

Continued from Page 1

Robert Barnhart, Murray Avenue School, grant is titled: Picture Perfect. Technology-rich lessons are changing the way instructors teach and students learn, and a document camera enables teachers to incorporate student-produced live video into lessons; for example, math teachers can project student work onto the Smartboard, eliminating the need for rewriting; language arts teachers can project magazine clippings to engage discussion of character analysis; and science teachers can perform experiments under the camera for easy display. Mr. Barnhart's intent is for students to use the document camera for presentations and for other teachers to borrow it for incorporation into their classrooms.

Ellen Zschunke, Pine Road Elementary School, grant is titled: Classroom Communication with Web 2.0 --Global Awareness. Students will use podcasting, webcam conferencing, wikis and blogging to create projects with a real connection to others, taking that first step into becoming globally connected. Using Web 2.0 tools, first grade students will be able to safely communicate with students from other parts of the world and to share projects and ideas with their non-Lower Moreland peers.

Classrooms for the Future

Continued from Page 1

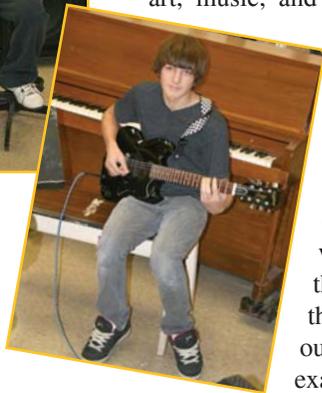
of technology within reach, including a laptop and web cam at his or her desk and a SMART Board interactive whiteboard that is connected to a computer and a data projector in every classroom.

The state hopes to transform the way high school teachers teach and how students learn by providing millions of dollars to equip school's English, Math, Science and Social Studies classrooms with enhanced technology and laptop computers. Additional state funding has been provided to fund teachers and school leaders extensive training on how to use technology to increase student achievement and ensure students are ready for college and the high-tech global job market.

Director of Technology Susan Casagrand says that "Since students have become accustomed to a certain level of technology, we as educators must look at how we can transform our teaching practices to fully utilize these tools."

Through the grant, the high school has access to seven PC laptop carts and two MAC laptop carts which have been integrated into the core content areas of English, Math, Science and Social Studies.

From Bach to Brancusi



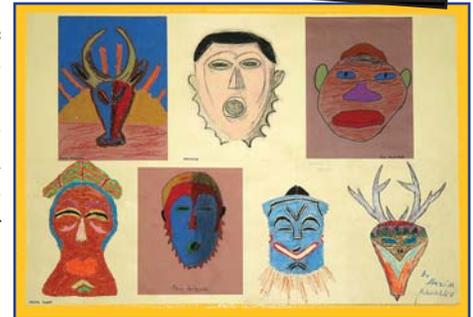
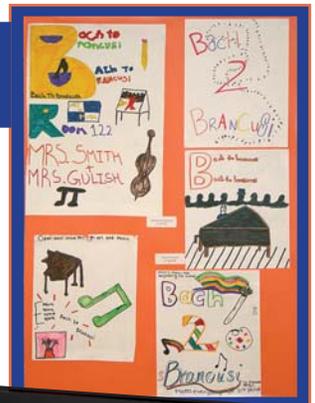
Bach to Brancusi is an interdisciplinary course in art and music. The course is based on the belief that a learned appreciation for art and music of the past and present helps to create citizens with a greater understanding and appreciation for culture, their cultural heritage, and themselves.

The semester long course is taught by the Art and Music Departments. Questions like: What are the arts? How does music and art reflect the culture of which it is a part? How do art, music, and the composite arts allow humans to say things they could not say in other ways? Students looked at artwork and listened to music from the past and present exploring the elements and principles which form the language of the arts. They also looked at the different styles throughout the history of the arts and examined how they are mold-

ed by political, social, and economic events of their time.

Students demonstrated the lessons learned in class during their portrayal of the 70s dramatic performance by Shannon Ashe, Laura Givnish and Robin Choi, pictured at left, or the solo guitar performance of a previously learned piece, as shown in the photo at bottom right.

Art was also matted and displayed by students. Students learned about abstract art and painted in oils and pastel drawings. The angular and distorted forms of African masks were studied in the African music and art lesson. Examples of art created are: Ancient Egyptian style self-portraits, ancient tomb paintings, and poster designs based on the style of post impressionist artist Henri-Toulouse-Lautric. Students created self-portraits rendered in Egyptian style, and posters advertising various clubs and their class.



Innocent Until Proven...

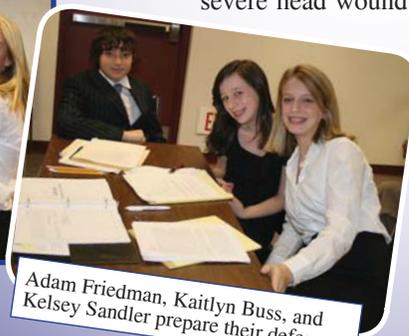
Students in the Academically Talented Program perform mock trial.



James Choi, Gabby Natter, and Madison Kierod...



show their evidence and argue their case.



Adam Friedman, Kaitlyn Buss, and Kelsey Sandler prepare their defense.

Not guilty was the verdict in The State V Jeremiah Birch trial staged at the James Bryne District Courthouse. Eighth grade students in the Academically Talented class of Mrs. Denise Meyers prepared their cases, both the prosecution and the defense, called witnesses and displayed evidence as the jury comprised of 7th graders listened attentively. The case was heard by the Honorable District Justice Jay S. Friedenberg. Judge Friedenberg explained to the class the importance of telling the truth as he swore in witnesses.

The plaintiff was Mr. Ivan M. Wolfe who was claiming that Mr. Birch hit him over the head with the handle of an axe causing him to have a severe head wound. Mr. Birch claims he hit Ivan over the head in defense of another (Scarlett R. Hood) and should be found innocent. The state was looking to charge Birch with aggravated battery.

In the courthouse, many parents assembled to watch the proceedings and support their legal team.



Judge Jay Friedenberg swears in the witnesses.

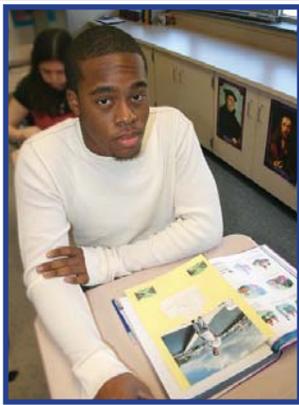


Jenna Lerman testifies in the case.

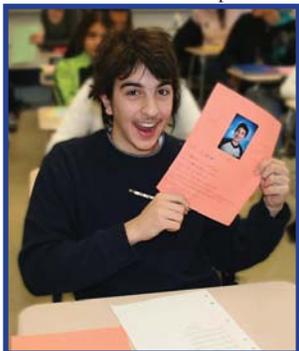


Members of the jury, 7th graders, patiently listen to all the testimonies.

Sarah Gulish takes Humanitarian Trip to Peru



Everette Trowers and Danny Jundi show off their letters and photos.



Lifeline Children's Services estimate that around 54% of the people in Peru are living below the poverty line. Because of the high birth rate in this country, it leads to an abundance of abandoned and orphaned children. In the capital city of Lima, it is estimated that there are around 600,000 orphans.

In 1995, a couple from America decided to start New Hope children's home in Peru after seeing the dept of the problem. At the home, children live with house parents on a full time basis and are clothed, fed, and given an education. Many of these children do not know what it means to be safe and loved.

Some would say this problem is insurmountable, but not Sarah Gulish. She, along with a group of passionate citizens, rallied together and raised funds to take the humanitarian pilgrimage to Peru to work in the orphanage making repairs, bringing much needed supplies, and assisting the regular staff with the children to give them a break.

Ms. T. Tsiadis, Spanish I Teacher, and her class are very proud of Mrs. Gulish and thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to make new friends. So in addition to studying facts about Peru and the orphanage, the class wrote individual letters to the children telling them about themselves, in Spanish, and including a photo. They hope to find a pen pal from another country and bring joy and happiness to another person, while adding fulfillment to their own lives.

Mrs. Gulish has a blog where the students can track her journey--MrsGInPeru. Everyone is anxious for her return and a recount of her adventure. •



Olivia O'Hagan Wins People to People Ambassador

People to People Sports Ambassador Programs offer student athletes in grades 5-12 the opportunity to compete internationally, train with world-class coaches, and develop leadership skills, self confidence, and a foundation for success in a globalized world. Program delegations come from local communities, so students make friends locally before they travel globally.

Olivia O'Hagan won the 2008 People to People Sports Ambassador of the Year Award for Soccer. This is a national award that represents a scholarship of \$7000. Olivia is an 8th grader at Murray Avenue. She will be traveling to Brazil this summer. •



Gabi Kappes, student artist, and Mrs. Trudi Smith, Teacher

A Chosen Few Art students' work recognized

The artwork of 10 of Lower Moreland's talented art students was selected to be included in the annual PSEA "Touch the Future" Art Exhibition. This competitive, juried high school art show was held this year at the Abington Art Center. Approximately 20 high schools from Bucks and Montgomery Counties participated in the show. The artwork was of a high quality.

Several students' work was chosen by Carmina Cianciulli, Dean of Admissions at the Tyler School of Art, to be included in the show --in drawing and painting, Daniel Smilowitz, Alexis Kurtzman, Lauren Goldman, Gabi Kappes and Catherine Smith; in ceramics and sculpture, Rachel Dorfman, Ritu Sarkar, Lauren Rachlin, Chelsey Sannuti, and Farhad Evoghlian. Lauren Rachlin also received a Category Award for the 3D Functional category for her "Heart Teapot." •



Lauren Rachlin

D.A.R.E. TO SAY NO TO DRUGS



Emmanuel Rizzo and Olivia Ranieri tell what they would do if someone tried to pressure them into unsafe behavior.



Ms. Dilks, Dr. Feeley and Mrs. Drennan congratulate Gabby Acker at the graduation.



Left to right, Students Kaila Landau, Nick Conte, Alana Peng, Marisa Riley, Alison Nitzky, Zachery Zaltsberg, Sabrina Olah, Rachel Kim pose for a picture with Deputy Charles Waggs.



Many parents attended the graduation in support of the program and their children.

GRADUATION

Students at the Murray Avenue School have not only been working on lessons in class, they have also been working to learn lessons that will help them address the ills of life --drugs and alcohol. Although students have learned the dangers of these substances and the devastating affects they can have on one's physical and mental health, the D.A.R.E. program takes their lessons to a higher level. What do you do when your parents are not around and you are being pressured into a risky behavior by your friends? Often times students in the middle school struggle with doing what they know is right and being accepted by their peers. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, a partnership with the Lower Moreland Township School District and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, works with middle school students to provide the armor they will need to shield them from the lures and attacks of those who seek to weaken

their defenses and get them off track.

Students in the program were challenged to write essays on "What D.A.R.E. Has Meant To Me" and seven students essays were selected to be read at the graduation ceremony. There was also an "Eight Ways to Say No" skit. Students were given a scenario and they explained how they would handle the situation. Four students were winners of the poster contents.

On hand for the commencement was Sheriff John P. Durante, Francis Devinney, and Denise Kurz, LM Township Commissioners, the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marykay Feeley, and a host of parents and friends. All graduates were congratulated by the panel of guests and school officials. •

A HAIRY TALE

Locks of Love



For the fifth year in a row the Locks of Love Program partnered with the Murray Avenue School and Salon La Vogue of Southampton to give a gift from the heart to help children deal with everyday life after losing their hair due to illness. Twenty volunteers from grades 4 through 8 and one male from the high school sat on the stage waiting to relinquish their tresses for the good of another. The requirement was hair at least 10 inches

long. The hair was measured by stylist, Dina Shain, salon owner, and cut at the top of the ponytail as shown. Mrs. Shain holds up the hair that will go to create hair pieces.

After the hair is removed, the volunteers are treated to a free hair cut and style by stylists from the salon.

Organizer of the event, Mrs. Nancy Hamill, thanked the students and their parents for their generosity and thoughtfulness. This simple act of kindness will bring sunshine into the lives of so many people.

The event was covered by local radio and T.V. stations. Lower Moreland Township School District shows its excellence by caring for others. •



Mrs. Nancy Hamill Organizer



ALUMNI COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING



The Superintendent convened the first meeting of the Alumni Committee aimed at reclaiming the thousands who have called Lower Moreland schools their home. The committee members consisted of the principal and assistant principal of the high school, a board member, and three parents.

The goal of the committee is to develop a system to identify, catalog and communicate with graduates. In the 1990s, homecoming weekend was also deemed alumni weekend. Events for the alumni were listed in the district calendar and there was a printed alumni directory.

The initial plan is to conduct a feasibility study to determine the framework for building an effective alumni association. More information will become available shortly. •



THE FOUNDATION FOR LOWER MORELAND SCHOOLS



The Foundation for Lower Moreland Schools held its first meeting on Friday, February 6. Mrs. Leslie Howard, President and former corporate fund-raiser, was anxious to begin developing funding streams for the district. Mr. Bob New, Consultant, was on hand to speak on the vital role educational foundations are playing in public school districts throughout the country. •

HUMAN RESOURCES HOST TWO EVENTS



Dr. Betty Robinson and Mrs. Cindy Martino have been very busy in Human Resources. The pair have hosted two events recently. The first was a "meet and greet" for the staff. It was an opportunity for the department to provide information to the staff on the role of HR and provided the staff

an opportunity to write down questions they would like answered. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for February 20th.

The second event was an all day orientation program for substitute teachers. It allowed the substitutes to meet the administrators, learn what is expected, and learn the general operations of the district. •

COMING EVENTS

DANCING WITH THE STARS!

Dance
Competition

Featuring
Couples
from the
Student Body,
Faculty,
and
Administration

Thursday
March 26, 2009

7-9 P.M.

High School
Auditorium

Open
to the Public
Free Admission

Sponsored by the
Spanish Club

LOWER MORELAND MINI THON

Raising Money for Pediatric Cancer

Lower Moreland High School will model the Penn State University THON, dubbing this event a to raise much needed funds for pediatric cancer. The 2009 Mini Thon will be 12 hours of a variety of activities. Funds raised will be donated to the Four Diamonds Fund to help find a cure for pediatric cancer. The goal is to double the amount raised last year, or \$40,000, while also raising school spirit. This year there will be an alumni hour for all past LM students to join the fun on the floor and to help in assembling gifts for these suffering families. Mini-fundraising events will take place leading up to the big day.

The event will be held on Friday, March 20, 2009 at the high school. Everyone can help! To make a tax deductible donation, please send your check to:

Lower Moreland High School
555 Red Lion Road - Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Attention: Seth Baron
Make check payable to: Mini Thon '09



An Update from the Superintendent Dr. Marykay Feeley

As I travel around the district, I am inspired by what I see, happy, excited children eager to learn and caring, patient teachers working to meet the needs of every child. I have observed collaboration and cooperation

in the face of changes and challenges. It is the little things that you may think go unnoticed that mean so much. So, as we embrace a new year, and the second half of the school year, please be assured your hard work is greatly appreciated by the parents, the school board, and the administration. You are the best.

In August 2008 the Evaluation Committee began a series of meetings designed to review the district's supervision/evaluation practices. The Committee developed a research-based system designed to promote professional learning in an effort to achieve individual, building, and district goals with a focus on enhancing student learning. In the new Differentiated Supervision system there is no change from the current system for Inductees and professionals with a Level I certificate. Instructional II professionals will participate in a three-year rotation. We are looking for volunteers to participate in mini-observations this spring. Those who volunteer for this program will work with the leadership team to help craft the Teacher version of mini-observation. Please contact your building

principal for more information.

The Lower Moreland Alumni Association, like old shoes, is still around, but, has not gotten the attention of newer more exciting endeavors. In order to reclaim our alumni and thus revitalize the association, we have developed an Alumni Committee. The committee will conduct a feasibility study to determine the direction we need to move to make this a meaningful body for everyone.

In these uncertain economic times, many school districts have had to review their current budgets and priorities and we are no different. We have been forced to change the way we do business so as not to be an undue burden on taxpayers. We have had to look for alternative funding opportunities to address pressing needs throughout the district. The Foundation for Lower Moreland Schools convened its first meeting on Friday, February 6. Mrs. Leslie C. Howard is the President of the Foundation and seeks to raise immediate funds for the gym floor and track at the Murray Avenue School. Working with our consultant, Mr. Bob New, President of the Mid-Atlantic consortium of Education Foundations, we are developing short range and long range funding priorities. You could say that when it comes to making this happen, we have a one track mind.

Eager for successful outcomes, we will keep you informed of the status of these initiatives. Again, thank you and please remain a champion for the children.

THE INSIDER

The electronic newsletter of the Lower Moreland Township School District



Lower Moreland Township School District
Administrative Offices
2551 Murray Avenue
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215-938-0270
www.lmtsd.org



Dr. Marykay Feeley
Superintendent of Schools
mfeeley@lmtsd.org

Dr. Marilyn Lake-DellAngelo
Assistant Superintendent
mlake@lmtsd.org

Cheryl D. Mannings
Insider Editor
Public Relations Specialist
Questions • Comments • Suggestions • News

Contact:
cmannings@lmtsd.org
215.938.0270 x2170 • 267.322.0950c