



Notes from the Desk of the Superintendent

The month of April was shortened by a long April Recess, and we are now on a fast pace to get to the end of the school year. Here are some of the highlights for the month:

- Eighteen Ansonia High students were inducted into the French and Spanish honor societies during a World Languages ceremony at AHS on April 2. The program was followed by a breakfast for students and their families.
- The economic stimulus package includes funding for education, and U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro hosted a conference call on April 2 for Superintendents in our region to discuss guidelines and timelines for the applications we will need to file. I also attended a Connecticut State Department of Education meeting in Rocky Hill on April 6, which focused on the Title I AARA funds.
- Our insurance company provides a wealth of wellness services, as I discovered at a meeting on April 6. We will be scheduling medical experts to meet with staff in our district in the near future.
- Preparations for the restructuring of our school district for the 2009-2010 year continued this month, with a meeting April 7 involving our bus company and the Boys & Girls Club, which opened a new facility - the former Willis School building - this month.
- The Spring Concert for the AHS music department was held April 8, led by Maria Tangredi and featuring our musically talented high school students, in the Ruth Feinberg Connors Auditorium.
- After April Recess, I completed scheduled walk throughs of the schools with building administrators. I also held conferences with administrators on data team information, lesson plans, and teacher observation write-ups. On April 21, Tony Flack from the Leadership and Learning Center worked with our District Data Team in the morning and the Ansonia High School Data Team and Social Studies Team for the remainder of the day.
- Administrative Assistant's Day was celebrated on April 22, with a luncheon hosted by the Superintendent and prepared by Ansonia Food Services. School secretaries and Central Office support staff were the guests of honor.
- The Ansonia Board of Education held a special meeting on April 22, giving a directive to the Superintendent to meet with all bargaining units for concessions. Those meetings were held immediately, the following day, at which time I was asked to set up a meeting for union representatives to meet with Mayor Della Volpe. That was held on April 29 at City Hall, and questions from the unions were answered by the mayor, Tax Board Chairman Rick Sturges, City Comptroller Joseph Miller and City Treasurer Ron Greski. I attended the meeting with Business Administrator James Gaskins and Board of Education President John Lawlor.
- A group of volunteers from the school district participated in Mayor Della Volpe's Community Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 25, when 16 sites throughout the city were cleaned of debris.
- A mock crash involving drama club students and numerous city agencies was held on April 27 in the parking lot of AHS. School Resource Officer Jen Pella, who organized the event, narrated the crash and resulting emergency response. Everyone did a great job, and it was very impressive when Lifestar landed on the field below the lot to transport one of the "victims."
- Dr. Henry Lee, one of the world's experts in forensic science, spoke to more than 400 Ansonia High School students on April 28 about his experiences of a nearly 50-year career. The students were both entertained and educated by Dr. Lee, whose work ethic of working 16-hour days, seven days a week, is so impressive. We are thankful to Principal Sue McKernan for bringing Dr. Lee to AHS.
- The month closed on a high note with the 2nd Annual Prejudice Reduction Community Conference on April 29. Sponsored by the Ansonia High School Human Relations Club, the free conference featured the topic of disability awareness, and our students did a fabulous job of organizing this important work. We owe special thanks to the Valley Community Foundation for funding the conference.
- Finally, congratulations must be given to Ewa Januskiewicz, president of the Human Relations Club, for winning the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. Ewa was presented with the \$1,000 award at a ceremony and dinner at the Graduate Club in New Haven on April 21. She is one of only 21 students nationwide to receive the prize.

Sincerely,

Carol Merlone
Ansonia Superintendent of Schools