

BOARD 2 BOARD

February 2017

NEWS FROM THE ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Message from the Executive Director

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events hosted by the AIU.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

The annual Allegheny County Legislative Forum on Education, a collaboration of the AIU, PSBA, IU2 and Pittsburgh Public Schools, will be held on Thursday, March 16, at the AIU's Central Office. The event, which begins at 7:00 p.m., will feature a panel of local legislators who will discuss education issues in our state. KDKA's Jon Delano will moderate. [Click here to register.](#)

AIU CHAMPIONS OF WELLNESS CELEBRATION AND AIU BOARD MEMBER CONVENTION

Join us on Wednesday, March 29 for the AIU's Champions of Wellness Celebration and AIU Board Member Convention at the Sheraton, Station Square.

The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will honor the school districts and organizations that have met the county-wide champions of wellness challenge. This year's convention agenda will include an election to fill the following positions on the 13-member AIU board:

- Five (5) – three year positions: July 2017 to June 2020
- Three (3) – three month positions: April 2017 to June 2017

Candidates for the AIU board are elected by the 378 school directors from the 42 school districts who attend the convention.

[Click here to register for the event.](#) For more information, please contact Pat Sands at 412-394-5707. We hope to see you there.



Legislative Roundup



GOVERNOR PROPOSES MODEST INCREASES IN K-12

Earlier this month, the Governor proposed his budget for 2017-2018. The budget, if enacted, would provide an additional \$100 million for Basic Education Funding and \$25 million in special education. The budget also contained level-funds for the Ready to Learn block grants and career and technical education, and cut student transportation by \$50 million by proposing to alter the current transportation formula.

Remember, the Governor's budget is just a proposal. The General Assembly will determine final allocations with the hope of having a finalized budget by the June 30 deadline.



Educational Opportunities • Innovative Solutions • Leadership Excellence

We, the members of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, are proud to serve as representatives of the 42 boards in our Allegheny County school districts. By way of this correspondence, we hope to keep you better informed of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's programs and services.

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NEWS FROM

ECFCS Early Childhood, Family & Community Services

THANK YOU JEFFERSON REGIONAL FOUNDATION!

Thanks to the Jefferson Regional Foundation and artist Carmen Lloyera de Lopez for providing funds and creative talent to improve the aesthetics of the AIU's Latino Family Center! Many families of all ages were part of designing the new center in order to make it a more welcoming and stress free place for the Latino community. Thank you!

NIGHT OF THE YOUNG CHILD – APRIL 6 AT AIU CENTRAL OFFICE

The annual Night of the Young Child celebration will take place at the AIU Central Office on April 6th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This family event will feature Pete the Cat, Imagination Playground big blue blocks, healthy snacks, resources, games and photos! We hope to see you there!

AIU'S FATHERHOOD PROGRAM SEEKING DONATIONS

Are old prom and bridesmaid dresses cluttering up your closets? Did that old promise 'but you'll be able to wear it again...' just never pan out? Wish these clothes could be put to good use?



The AIU's Responsible Fatherhood Program is seeking donations of formalwear for those attending the annual Father and Daughter Dance, scheduled for April 22 at the Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson Street. All items can be dropped off at the AIU's Central Office. Donations are due to Larry Klinger by Friday, April 7. The following items will gladly be accepted:

- Dresses – For children/youth ages 5 to 18 years old
- Suits/Pants/Jackets/Vests – Adult sizes
- Shoes – All sizes
- Accessories - Hats, Gloves, Purses, Wraps, etc.
- Hair Accessories

In addition, the Responsible Fatherhood Program is seeking event volunteers. For more information, contact Larry Klinger at 412-394-5955.

NEWS FROM

ECFCS Early Childhood, Family & Community Services

DR. SUSAN SAMS SPEAKS AT BROOKLINE PARENT FORUM

Earlier this month, members of the AIU's DART program, also known as Early Intervention, had the opportunity to meet parents in Brookline and present at Early Learning 101, sponsored by Representative Dan Miller's Office. The AIU's Dr. Susan Sams was on hand to provide expertise regarding early childhood education for young children with special needs. Those who attended had an opportunity to learn more about how to find quality childcare. Great job, Dr. Sams!



NEWS FROM

Special Education and Pupil Services

FRIENDS OF ANIMALS RECEIVE DONATIONS

Congratulations to students at Mon Valley School for successfully completing their service project of obtaining towels and blankets for Friends of Animals. The donation, made earlier this month and consisting of nearly 100 items, was the largest single donation of this type the shelter has ever received. The second half of this Friends of Animals service project will include a visit from a shelter volunteer who will teach and discuss the role and care of service animals. Students are continuing to collect pet food, treats, collars, leashes and toys to donate to the shelter. Wish to donate? Contact Mon Valley School at 412-469-2551.

TALENT SHOW

Join students and staff on March 3 at noon at Mon Valley School for its annual Talent Show! Students from all grades and classrooms auditioned for the chance to perform in front of staff, peers and family members. Scheduled performances will include singing, dancing, comedy, magic and more. We hope to see you there!

NEWS FROM

Teaching and Learning

MATH & SCIENCE COLLABORATIVE RECEIVES \$27,000 GRANT

The AIU's Math & Science Collaborative has been awarded a \$27,000 grant from the PPG Foundation for Storytime STEM-packs in an effort to strengthen Early STEM learning in the region. Storytime STEM-packs are an educational innovation that enables educators to incorporate STEM concepts into children's programming from PreK- 4 with minimal preparation time. A Storytime STEM-pack includes a popular children's book, all the materials needed for an engaging STEM activity, and a facilitator guide that makes connecting the story to the

STEM activity easy. As the lead agency, the AIU has partnered with the Westmoreland Library Network™, Allegheny County Head Start, Reading is FUNdamental, and the University of Pittsburgh. This grant will benefit children in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties.



SCIENCE BOWL

On January 24, 25 and 26, the AIU hosted its Science Bowl at Carnegie Science Center. This competition for elementary and middle school students has been offered for more than 25 years and this year over 800 students participated. Teams of four students competed in two scavenger hunts and two hands-on challenges. The hands-on challenges were boat building with aluminum foil and using their senses to discover what was in various mystery bags. The award winners included students from the following school districts: Brentwood, Carlynton, Gateway, Keystone Oaks, Montour, Moon Area, Mt. Lebanon, Quaker Valley, South Park, Upper St. Clair, and West Allegheny.

VIRTUAL REALITY – COMING TO A CLASSROOM NEAR YOU

On February 10, 24 members of the AIU's Social Studies Network met in the Center for Creativity for a session on integrating virtual reality technologies to enhance student learning. Participants had the opportunity to explore 360 videos, lead virtual tours using Google Expeditions and seamlessly travel the world within the high-end HTC Vive VR headset. Due to the overwhelming popularity of this initial event, the center will host similar sessions this spring exploring virtual reality in science and English Language Arts classrooms.

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