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SLSD Parents and Guardians,

As winter break approaches, I wanted to take some time to look back at the first few months of the 2020-2021 school year. While we continue to progress through an unprecedented time, it is important to reflect and acknowledge how far we as a school community have come since last spring.

The successes of the school year start with the efforts of our outstanding students, faculty and staff. We must recognize their continued diligence and hard work as they completely transform how they engage in school and work each day. Regardless if they are learning in our school buildings or completing coursework at home, our students and staff have continued to work with a clear purpose while impressing us with their ability to overcome these unique challenges. We can all continue to learn from the example of our students' as they persevere, evolve, and overcome on the path back to our pre-pandemic norms.

It is important that we take some time to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. We are proud of the role that they play within the successes that make up the Southern Lehigh School District. Here are a few highlights of additional accomplishments so far this school year:

- The Southern Lehigh School District recognized 7 students who were named 2021 National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students
- Since August, the SLSD Technology Department has worked through 3,910 Helpdesk Tickets to ensure our students and staff remain connected during this critical time.
- Philanthropic endeavors have continued to be a cornerstone of the SLSD. From Giving Trees to Bedtime Bundles to Art Supplies for Pediatric Cancer Patients to Coat Drives to Gift Card Collections and the ongoing community support of the SLHS Spartan Pantry, the students and staff of the Southern Lehigh School District continue to witness the power of a community that supports those who are in need. Thank you to all who have organized and supported our school buildings as they continue to aid various groups in our community and across the Lehigh Valley.
- The SLHS Theatre Company pivoted to a completely virtual Fall Theatrical Presentation of "The Election" to ensure that the show went on in the midst of a global pandemic, to rave reviews.
- The Southern Lehigh fall athletic teams had notable seasons.
 - Three teams won Colonial League Championships (Boys Soccer, Girls Cross Country, and Girls Volleyball). Six teams qualified for District XI Playoffs (Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, and Girls Tennis). Two teams, Field Hockey and Girls Tennis won District XI Championships.



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As a reminder, if you are planning to travel over winter break, we ask that you follow these [orders](#) from the Pennsylvania Department of Health upon your return. Please continue to do everything that you and your family can to keep yourself and others safe. Slowing the spread of COVID-19 requires a comprehensive community effort. Wearing a mask, remaining socially distant, increasing hand hygiene, and the avoidance of gatherings make a significant difference.

Even though many of our traditional activities remain different than those we are used to, I hope that all of the members of our school community continue to find alternative activities that bring them personal joy.

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