

## **Falling Spring Elementary Nominated as National Blue Ribbon School**

The faculty, staff, and students at Falling Spring Elementary School have cause to be excited. They recently learned that their school is one of 13 Pennsylvania schools nominated as a potential National Blue Ribbon School.

In a letter of congratulations from Aba Kumi, director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, to Dr. Sarah Herbert, principal of Falling Spring, Mr. Kumi said, "Your school was nominated as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School. National Blue Ribbon Schools are public and non-public elementary, middle and high schools that produce outstanding student results. They demonstrate consistent excellence, and made progress in closing gaps in student achievement."

After consulting with several faculty members, Dr. Herbert said, "We've decided to take the next step and prepare an application which will be due to the National Blue Ribbon Schools Committee by March 31, 2017."

"We're very excited about this recognition. It truly is a credit to this school's leadership and its faculty and staff's dedication to educational excellence," said Bill Hodge, associate superintendent.

"Teamwork is one word that comes to mind when I reflect on how we have been able to see our student achievement improve. Staff have built a collegial environment where they work together to problem solve, discuss instructional practices, and needs for their students," said Dr. Herbert.

"Over the last few years, teachers, also, have really focused on their data resources and used this information to adjust their instruction. When you visit Falling Spring, it is immediately obvious that students and student learning is the top priority for our staff, students, and families," Dr. Herbert added.