



Look ahead



December

- 6 DMS Holiday Concert Grade 6, DHS Aud., 7:30 p.m.
- 7 No Special Education Classes at Erie 1 BOCES
- 10 DMS/DHS Jazz Ensemble Concert, DHS Caf , 7:30 p.m.
- 11 CHE Grade 4 and 5 Chorus, Grade 5 Band Concert, DHS Aud., 7 p.m.
- 12 DMS Holiday Concert Grades 7 and 8, DHS Aud., 7:30 p.m.
- 17 DHS Holiday Concert, DHS Aud., 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Board of Education meeting, DHS Caf , 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Concert Snow Date, DHS Aud., 7:30 p.m.
- 21- Jan. 1 Winter Recess – No School

January

- 15 Board of Education Meeting, DHS Caf , 6:30 p.m.
- 17 AOF Information Night for 9th Grade Parents/Students, DHS Library, 6-7 p.m.
- 21 Martin Luther King Day - No School
- 22-25 Regents Exams
- 25 End of the 2nd Marking Period
- 28 Reorganization Day
- 28 DMS/DHS Spring Sports Registration, through Feb. 15

Like our Facebook page
to keep up to date on events
at Depew UFSD!



www.Facebook.com/DepewSchools.org

Ribbon cut on Multi-Sport Complex

The ribbon cutting for the Depew Union Free School District Multi-Sport Complex on Sept. 14 officially opened the project that started with planning over two years ago.

This project would not have been possible without the Board of Education’s vision and dedication to Depew students. Board of Education members supported the work of the district’s Facilities Improvement Team (FIT) and their recommendations for this Capital Project. That support was echoed in the overwhelming vote by the school community in December of 2016, which approved this multi-million-dollar undertaking.

From design to construction, the community was able to watch as the grass field went from construction zone to a beautiful 4-acre, all-turf playing field for student athletes in soccer, lacrosse, baseball and softball.

Present to hold the ribbon spanning the new complex were Board of Education members, local elected officials, design and construction team members, school administration and student athletes from all sports.

Depew Union Free School District athletes, Wildcats spectators and the community will be able to enjoy the completed Multi-Use Turf Field for years to come. The ribbon cutting, while for the multi-sport field, also signified the conclusion of work in all three school buildings throughout the summer in preparation for students’ return.

The Board of Education is committed to improving and providing Depew students with state-of-the-art facilities. That dedication applies to our classrooms, but also goes beyond that in our focus on the whole student, to include the importance of physical and health education.

The whole child approach is an effort to transition from a focus on narrowly defined academic achievement to one that promotes the long-term development and success of all children.

At Depew, we are focused on the whole child when it comes to ensuring a place to play, exercise, eat right, learn and much more.

“I can assure you that as we enter into the 2018-2019 school year, the leadership team of the district will continue to take every opportunity to achieve our district’s mission, ‘To challenge and inspire students to achieve at the highest level and become responsible citizens.’ With our residents’ continued support we will be able to celebrate our successes and continue our work in becoming a school district of excellence,” Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Rabey said.



Depew athletes, administration and board of education members hold the ribbon that was cut to officially open Depew’s Multi-Sport Field Complex. Photo by student Seangtavhanh Luangpakdy.

Wall of Fame

The Depew Union Free School District, in partnership with the Depew Wildcats Alumni Association, inducted nine distinguished graduates into the Alumni Wall of Fame during a ceremony for families on Oct. 11. Alumni are recognized for their professional and academic success and for positively representing the Depew school-community. This group represents technology professionals, finance experts, humanitarians, teachers, government officials, law enforcement officers and former star athletes. The public joined the awardees and their families at the ceremony in the high school cafeteria.

The 2018 Alumni Wall of Fame inductees and year of graduation:

In the Athletics category, Ralph Riester (1978), Joe Puntoriero (1979), William Fuhrey (1982).

In the Community Service category, Lynn Burley Soplop (1966), Diane Liss Benczkowski (1976), James M. Kaminski (1989).

In the Scholar Category, Joseph "Joey" Measer (1985), Michael S. Lomas (1992).

In the Friends of the Alumni category, the late Lorraine K. McCarthy.



The Wall of Fame Class of 2018 was inducted on Oct. 11.

Message from the Superintendent

As educators, the strategy for our facilities aligns with the mission of the New York State Education Department's Facilities Planning Division: "To ensure safe, healthy, comfortable, and acceptable educational facilities, which promote effective and efficient learning for all New York students regardless of where they live."

Three years ago we completed and submitted our five-year building survey to that same division. As our facilities are used day in and day out, the survey reflected where our district could improve the health, safety and quality of our facilities. From there, priorities were identified by the District-wide Facilities Improvement Team (F.I.T.).

These improvements are being spread out over two phases and are outlined as follows:

Phase 1 (Completed Summer 2018)

- High School: Monumental Digital Sign, Roofing System, Various Classroom Ceilings and Auditorium Theater Lighting
- Middle School: Roofing System and Existing Asbestos Flooring Abatement
- Cayuga Heights: Roofing System and Additional Parking Around Parent Drop-Off Loop
- District-Wide: New Turf Sports Complex: Soccer/Lacrosse/Baseball/Softball and Replace Current Sports Complex Turf: Football/Soccer/Lacrosse and then sell Dawson Field.

This past summer we were able to open our new lighted multi-sports turf athletic complex, which is approximately 183,000 square feet or a little over 4 acres. It will host Depew Baseball, Softball, Soccer and Lacrosse, along with being an additional Physical Education Teaching Station.

Phase 2 (To Be Completed in 2019)

- High School: HVAC Upgrades, Foundation Work, Main Entrance with ADA Upgrade and Stage Floor
- Middle School: HVAC Upgrades, Electrical Upgrades, Main Entrance/Office Security Upgrade and Foundation Work
- Cayuga Heights: HVAC Upgrades, Foundation Work, Renovation of Nurses Office, Main Office and Counseling Offices, Main Entrance/Office Security Upgrade
- Bus Garage: Exterior Door Upgrade and Restroom Ventilation

This project could not have been possible without the vision and dedication to our student body by our Board of Education. This Board of Education supported the work of the District Facilities Improvement Team and their recommendations for this Capital Project and as a result in December of 2016, this school-community voted and overwhelmingly approved the \$15.5 million endeavor. This project will allow us to maintain and upgrade the beautiful facilities that we have over the long term. The project is tax neutral, with no local tax impact. The funding is coming from state building aid and the district's capital reserve fund. All of this information can be found in more detail on our District Website at <https://www.depewschools.org/capital-project-2016>.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Message from the Assistant Superintendent

Comprehensive District Education Planning Team Updates District Goals for 2018-2020



The collective efforts of our Comprehensive District Education Planning (CDEP) Team consisting of 32 K-12 teachers, counselors, administrators and parents have identified goals for the next two years that align with a vision of creating Future Ready students. The team understands that students thrive in environments that feature PEAK principles (What School Could Be, Ted Dintersmith, 2018), where they develop:

- Purpose: work on important challenges that make school/community better
- Essentials: acquire the skill sets and mindsets need in our innovative world
- Agency: students own their own learning, become self-directed, intrinsically motivated adults
- Knowledge: learning is deep and retained, enabling them to create, to make, to teach others

Future Ready isn't simply a state of mind. It's a state of continuous action to propel forward learning, accessibility, and equity for all learners in our schools today. It is our actions to sustain social learning communities embedded in the greater community, schools, and in connected virtual environments. It's making available to all young people the state-of-the-art and traditional tools they need to accomplish contemporary learning projects. We believe our District goals (listed below) will help us move toward achieving this vision:

- To inspire and prepare students to be confident, competent, caring and contributing individuals who can meet and overcome life's challenges.
- To transform learning through an innovative K-12 educational environment that prepares our students for a rapidly changing world.
- To provide a safe and inviting school culture by fostering positive relationships among students, parents, staff, and the community.

Based on survey results and anecdotal observations of our students, we know very clearly that they view school as a social space, both face-to-face and digital, where they connect relationally with peers, friends, and educators. They possess a deep value for learning together, for hands-on project work, for community-embedded learning, and for adults who care about them. We believe all of this is captured in our updated goals. Our commitment to students, parents and community is to continually provide a high-quality teaching and learning environment that successfully achieves these goals throughout our K-12 classrooms.

All the best to each of you for a wonderful 2018-19 school year. May all our students develop the skills necessary to be Future Ready!

Sincerely,

Susan B. Frey
Assistant Superintendent

WNY STEAM Award

Depew UFSD was recognized as a "School on the move" by the WNY STEM Hub. This competitive award was based on the district's journey to transform teaching and learning through STEAM integration.

Our STEAM program is a cohesive district-wide approach, that includes all students in K to 8 as well as challenging STEAM electives in grade 9 to 12.

Dedicated staff teach STEAM classes at Cayuga Heights as well as STEAM Enrichment. At Depew Middle, all students in grade 6 take STEAM Exploration and move to our Gateway to Technology program in grades 7 and 8. The high school program offers students a fully accredited Project Lead the Way curriculum, which can lead to college credit.

High school students can also elect to take Digital Music Production, Computer Applications, Coding and Webpage Design, AP Computer Science Principles or App design within the Academy of Finance program.



Accepting the Award for Depew were Assistant Superintendent Susan Frey and Director of Instructional Technology and Pupil Services Joseph D'Amato.

First Day of School



Link Crew members, Maddie Zilka, Aniya Willis, Taylor Keith, Maddie McLoughlin and Olivia Thornton welcomed freshmen and other students to Depew High School on the first day of school with signs and cheers. The welcome is a tradition at Depew High School.

Grant Allows for School Resource Officer in 2018-19

At the end of August, just in time for the new school year, the district received a \$75,000 grant from Assemblywoman Monica Wallace, allowing for a full-time school resource officer for 2018-19.



Detective Scott Hossfeld

Detective Scott Hossfeld started with the Depew Police Department in 2000 and became the liaison to the district in 2010. As liaison he was available to the school upon request. Now his role allows him to be more involved with students, teachers and staff on an everyday basis.

Hossfeld was introduced to Cayuga Heights students during welcome assemblies on the first day of school.

“For the elementary students we are working on making them more comfortable around a police officer. Now, when I see them wave to me in the

Continued on Page 6

Checking in with the Faculty

- Middle School Music Teacher Janine Yelich received a \$200 grant for set construction from the Lancaster Youth Bureau.
- Middle School Math Teacher Theresa Mercuri was recognized by the Buffalo Bills and M&T Bank as part of the Touchdown for Teachers program as a teacher who goes the extra mile. Mercuri was nominated for the honor by Robert Harhigh.
- On June 21st, the entire faculty of Depew Middle School came together for team-building professional development that was led by Mike Seege, a magician who has evolved his act into the areas of team building and anti-bullying messages. Depew Middle School continues to focus on building culture and student leadership. A positive and engaging culture for students starts with a positive and engaging culture for faculty.
- In July, over 20 faculty members participated in an in-depth discussion of a book called, “iGen: Why Today’s Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy- and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood - and What That Means for the Rest of Us,” by Jean Twenge Ph.D. The younger iGen generation, or those born between 1995 and 2012, have never known a world without Smartphones. This generation includes many of the current and future students in the district. The author identifies both negative and positive trends associated with less real world and face-to-face interaction and makes recommendations on how you can “Let your phone be a tool you use, not a tool that uses you.”
- On Oct. 5, faculty and staff members involved in Wildcat Prep participated in professional development activities with the help of guest presenter Scott Wood, CMHC. Wood’s workshop, entitled “Why Try,” involved many hands-on and group activities to illustrate his points including flipping a tarp and getting out of “handcuff” ropes.



Summer Readers celebrated

In September, Cayuga Heights sponsored the 15th annual summer reading awards ice cream party. To attend the party students had to read over the summer and complete a variety of activities about their books. We are pleased to announce that we had 127 students who participated this year! We look forward to next year’s summer reading program and hope to increase the number of summer readers!

DEPEW SPIRIT WEEK



The 2018 Homecoming Court was announced at the pep rally.



Seniors gather around the bonfire constructed by the Varsity D Club.



The junior class won the Powder Puff game this year.



Students in band and chorus decorated the bus for the motorcade with Disney heroes and villains.

Depew Spirit Week

This year's Spirit Week at Depew High School started on Tuesday, Oct. 9 with the first of four dress up days, "Mathlete vs. Athlete." The day culminated in the Powder Puff game that saw the juniors beat first the freshmen/sophomore team and then the seniors. An impressive bonfire was constructed by the Varsity D Club and had a great turnout.

Wednesday was "Why is This in My Closet" day as well as the Modified Football game against Lancaster.

Thursday was "Class Color" day, with the freshmen in purple, sophomores in yellow, juniors in green, and seniors in orange. The JV football team took on Lancaster Thursday night.

On Friday all students and teachers showed off their Wildcat pride by coming in decked out in blue and white. Seniors started their day with "Senior Sunrise," social time in the parking lot with Tim Horton's treats. Students then prepared for the annual motorcade before the pep rally, which included a flash mob, an impressive performance by both varsity cheerleaders and Powder Puff cheerleaders, music by the DHS Pep Band with a routine by the DHS Color Guard, and the announcement of the 2018 Homecoming Court. For the third year in a row the senior class won the Disney/Pixar themed banner contest. The night culminated with the varsity football game against Lancaster and Disney-themed Homecoming dance.



Freshmen show their spirit for "Class Color" day.

School Resource Officer

Continued from Page 4

hallways, it makes my day,” Hossfeld said.

Hossfeld has been invited into classrooms at every level to assist with lessons on lock down drills in pre-K, the danger of drugs in health classes, as well as assisting with afterschool activities.

In addition to lessons on safety, as school resource officer Hossfeld serves as part of the district’s safety plan.

“The fact that there is an officer in the school does not mean an end to safety measures. I am another resource to assist with the safety of the district, so my goal is to be approachable to everyone in the district. As a resource, I am happy to participate in these classroom safety lessons, but I also want to be one of the people in the district students, staff and parents can say something to when they see or hear something. My door is always open,” Hossfeld said.

To contact Detective Hossfeld, visit him in high school room 261, call him at 686-5025 or he can be paged by calling the high school office.

Two New Electives

The Social Studies Department is excited to announce two new electives at the high school for sophomores, juniors and seniors. A survey course in Criminal Justice is now being offered that will cover most basic topics in criminal justice. These topics include, the history of criminal justice, the role of police, how the courts work, the psychology of crime, the corrections system and controversial topics in criminal justice. An elective titled, History Through Film, is also being offered. This elective looks at how historical events are represented in movies. This class explores why Hollywood chooses to rewrite some of the historical details when making a film and how Hollywood can effect Americans’ perception of historical events.

Depew Threads Kicks off with Homecoming Dress Swap



Depew Threads, the new clothing closet available to students at Depew Union Free School District hosted its kickoff event at the end of September. High school students were encouraged to trade in a previously worn homecoming or prom dresses and swap them for a new one.

Students, faculty, community members and local businesses got involved in donating over 140 gently used dresses for the kick off. Twenty-six students benefited from the swap. A number of other students also “shopped” the closet during the event hours, finding dresses, shoes, jewelry, suits and ties. There will be more events and “shopping” opportunities forthcoming at Depew Threads!

Depew Threads offers clothing to all Depew students and was made possible through grants and clothes donations. For more information on Depew Threads, contact Mrs. Gregoire or Mrs. Malczewski in the High School Counseling Center.



Jacob Simon was assisted with a tie by Mrs. Gregoire in the Depew Threads clothes closet before Homecoming.



Salvatrice Arricale, Brianna Louie and Kennedy Cotton participated in the Depew Threads Homecoming Dress Swap.

Stone Age Meets the Modern Age in Global Studies

Freshman Global Studies classes took part in a stone age exploration walk. Students spent the day looking for resources to replicate tools from the Paleolithic Era. Students gathered what they could find from our district trails and creek area to construct scrapers, jewelry, borers and digging sticks. Once the students developed their replica tools at home, they created an online video that reflected on their search for resources, how they built their artifact and reflected on how their Paleolithic replica artifact was effective for survival. It was a great day for a global adventure!

Jenna Kuhlmeier found a stick that could be used as a tool during the Stone Age.





Depew's trebuchet team again took first place in two categories at the 13th annual Trebuchet Competition.

1st Place Trebuchet

Engineering design and development students in Project Lead the Way (PLTW) had another record breaking year at the 13th annual Trebuchet Competition at the Great Pumpkin Farm in Clarence. Held on Oct. 21, students improved upon last year's record breaking design, called the "Whipper," with the help of retired technology teacher James Demarco.

Depew families, alumni, staff, and administrators all came out to support our students as they applied what they learned in the classroom, to come out on top against other local high schools.

Last year, the Depew Team won two out of three categories for their 502-foot throw, in the farthest distance and farthest cumulative distance categories. (The third category is accuracy.) This year's design blew last year's record distance out of the water with a 687-foot throw. This is the third year in a row that Depew has won first place in both categories with three throws totaling 687 feet, 684 feet and 633 feet.

Students' work is not done, as they have repairs and improvements planned before passing it on to next year's crew for another go at the competition.

Academy of Finance News

The Depew High School Academy of Finance (AOF) started the year with its annual Kickoff Cookout to welcome the newest academy members and their families.

The AOF has another great year planned for students. Already this year AOF students have attended the 43North \$5 million business startup competition semi-finals at Shea's Performing Arts Center on Oct. 3, created amazing college application videos, started their mentoring/coaching sessions for the year, worked on budgeting with an HSBC Bank representative, learned about strategies for meaningful conversations with an author, as well as other creative activities for Spirit Week and Halloween.

Academy of Finance students attended the 43North business startup competition semi-finals on Oct. 3.



DHS French Club News

The DHS French Club has a great year lined up! We meet monthly to enjoy French treats, crafts and guest speakers. We also celebrate the holidays with our annual cake make and taste and our Trois Rois and Mardi

Gras parties. Other highlights may include a Sabres' game and a French play! We are also holding some fundraisers to support the trip to France that we hope to make in Spring of 2021! This May, our District will again welcome 30 French students from Dijon France. These students will be hosted by our families and enjoy several days of school in our District. This visit, which is prefaced by e-correspondence, allows our students a great educational and cultural opportunity!



2018-19 French Club officers are Rachel Gonzalez, Vice President, Ryan Musielak, Secretary, Jacob Wainwright, 2nd Vice President, Zachary Buck, President, Chris Burgio, Treasurer.

Cool Jobs Series

Ten students attended the first Cool Jobs Series with speaker Alex Villafranca, CEO of Arbreit Software in September. Villafranca is a high school graduate, who took an idea and turned it into a multimillion-dollar company. He encouraged students to be determined, curious and empathetic. October's speaker was Marcus Lovelace, food technologist at Perry's Ice Cream. Parents who want to be a featured speaker should call Kim McEwen at 686-5073.



Left to right, Elizabeth Kopacz, Lindsay Parini, Candence Brunecz, Josh Argentino, Hollie Lageman, Marcinna Cardona, Alex Villafranca, Zoe Kaminski, Greg Puglisi, Anna Lucci, Mrs. McEwen and Ashley Flanders.

Therapy Dogs Are Classroom Addition



Maverick and Winnie are new additions to Mrs. Ward's classroom, but they are not students. Registered therapy dogs, they come to school with Ward periodically to be a part of class. The two golden retrievers have a calming presence in the classroom.

Wildcats on the Move

Rising New York Road Runners, a free program that is utilized to support the Pep Grant funded program, Wildcats on The Move, awarded free running sneakers to five lucky team members. Participants from the program were randomly selected and will be able to use the sneakers to support their running goals during the upcoming Wildcats on the Move season.



Left to right, front row - Audrey Nawojski, Kierstyn Barba, Ally Richards, Anthony Kuc, Preston Brennan, back row - Coach Fatta, Coach Oldin.

Fall Frontier Days at Old Fort Niagara

Depew Middle School seventh-grade students attended Fall Frontier Days at Old Fort Niagara on Sept. 27. The program is designed as a dynamic place-based educational experience that encourages youth to expand their classroom knowledge beyond a textbook to the history that happened right in their backyard.



Students learned about the history of Old Fort Niagara.

Students experienced Native American, French, British and American history as it played out in a military community at the strategically important mouth of the Niagara River. School groups rotated through the various educational activities with their teachers.

Through the generosity of Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, whose sponsorship covered student admission to the fort, and Connect Kids Transportation Reimbursement Grant, which covered transportation costs, the field trip was provided at no cost to the students or the district. This is the third year in a row that co-advisors Theresa Mercuri and Kathleen Ward secured the grants for this field trip.

Learning in the Library

Students in Mrs. Pilon's 8th grade ELA classes applied for public library cards, if they didn't already have one. This process helped the students tackle the real-life skill of filling out an application. Students received their cards, along with a welcome packet from the library. Mrs. Pilon encourages all cardholders to utilize the public library, not only to check out books, but to use the online resources as well. Students now have free access to ebooks and legal monthly music downloads. Any time a student personally visits the public library to check out a book, students can bring Mrs. Pilon the receipt for extra credit.



Left to right, Alex Heyden, Aidan Edbauer, Jeremy Kulesz, Zander Phillips, Abby Gammel, Stefanie Kowalczyk, Sarina Bisher.

Team Building Day at DMS

On Sept. 21, the seventh grade class participated in the annual Team Building Day. Team Building Day was started by seventh grade class advisors Mrs. Kathy Ward and Mrs. Theresa Mercuri several years ago. It gives students an opportunity to participate in four activities designed to build cooperation, collaboration, trust and a feeling of community.

The seventh grade was broken up into 12 groups and led through the activities by High School Leadership in Action students as well as a middle or high school teacher. The first activity taught students confidence and reliance on each other. In the second activity, led by Mr. Dan Seelig, students worked together in an activity called Mission Possible, where they had to cross the school tennis courts, using pool noodles, small carts, cones, etc. without touching the ground. The third activity, led by Ms. Kelly Jeffords and Mrs. Jodi Obrochta, gave students a chance to learn about different personality characteristics through True Colors, in order to increase awareness of themselves and others.

In the final activity with Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Leslie Gracz, students were tasked with constructing a device for an Egg Drop Challenge. Each team had to use their collective reasoning to keep the egg safe, using only supplies like Popsicle sticks, cotton balls, packing peanuts, yarn and tape. The teams with surviving eggs were brought to the cafeteria at the end of the day for a final drop. In the end, one of the remaining five teams from the earlier part of the day were successful in keeping their egg safe at all heights.

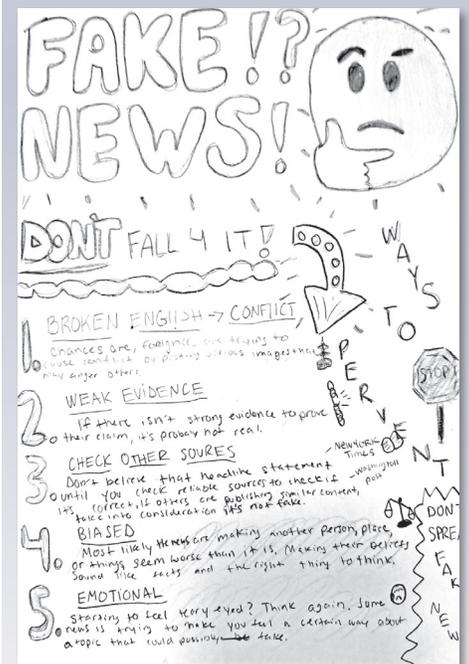
The day was planned and organized by Leader In Me TOSAs Kelly Jeffords and Sal Carlino. It was especially rewarding for the high school students, who practiced leadership skills they have been developing in the Leadership In Action class. Overall, the day provided both students and staff a chance to build relationships and camaraderie.



Leadership day included multiple activities to build confidence and cooperation, including an egg drop.

Identifying 'Fake News'

Eighth grade Social Studies students working with Mrs. Cacciotti, Mrs. Obrochta, and Mrs. Rosch started the year by researching and learning how to spot "fake news." Determining the accuracy of sources and the viewpoint of documents have always been important skills in Social Studies. However, being able to identify reliable sources is getting even more attention in the world today. Students learned about what impact fake news can have, how to help identify it, and even tested their skills by caucusing in class about which were real Facebook posts and which were fakes. They then created catchy posters to help other middle school students learn how to spot a fake. These tips were in the 8th grade wing through October.



Jordan Kanick

Book Fair

Once again this year, Cayuga Heights Elementary had a successful Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair raises extra funds for the library, in order to have author visits, more books, and items for the Makerspace. It is always great to see Cayuga students excited about books and reading. Books were flying off the shelves during the book fair. Many new titles were available as well as familiar favorites such as Goosebumps, Elephant and Piggie, and Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Thank you to all those families that supported the Cayuga Heights Library during the book fair! Keep Reading!

Pumpkin Run

The third annual Pumpkin Run for second and third grade students at Cayuga Heights was held Oct. 24 in the new Multi-Sport Complex.

Cayuga Heights has held this event since 2015 to help promote living a healthy lifestyle - all while having a great time! The Pumpkin Run is organized with fun in mind so that students will associate fitness with having a good time and enjoy it for the rest of their lives. This event also helps improve our students' cardiovascular endurance - which is one of our main goals as a Physical Education department.

Approximately 300 students ran the half mile around the turf fields and then received an apple, a bottle of water and a pumpkin. The top three runners for boys and girls were awarded and then all students were able to participate in a Halloween craft and helped decorate for the Spooktacular Halloween Bash.



Around 300 students participated in the Pumpkin Run.



The Pumpkin Run concluded with pumpkins and crafts.



New fourth grade band members, Reiller Sivecz, Daniella Harhigh, Matthew Mangione, Ryan Sobierajski, Harlow Martinez and Ethan Tobolski.

Music is Alive and Well at Cayuga Heights

The music program at Cayuga Heights is off to a great start. Every child in the school is already creating and performing music in general music classes. Every child is also responding to music and connecting it to the world around them. Fourth and fifth graders have the additional option of participating in band and chorus with more than one-hundred students involved in each. Fourth grade band members are just beginners on their instruments, but they have already learned how to assemble them correctly and how to play the first few notes. Fifth grade band members are more advanced and have begun working on music for their December concert. The chorus is huge and has already begun planning for both concerts and the spring musical. Music is alive and well for every single child at Cayuga Heights Elementary School.

The Benefits of Math Games

Cayuga's Math Department is encouraging the use of math games to build social skills, practice fluency in a fun way and check flexible thinking about numbers. These opportunities increase confidence for improving conceptual understanding and building fluency. Most math games encourage kids to think quick on their feet and promote a love for learning, not necessarily just focused on winning. At the AIS parent-teacher conference presentation, guests received a booklet of "Games to Play with a Pair of Dice" to encourage ways to play at home. In class, dice are just one way to experience numbers. A deck of cards, dominoes, counters, spinners and snap cubes are other frequently used resources. In addition, there are many computer online games including gregtangmath.com, mathplayground.com, and abcya.com, which offer a wide variety of grade levels and skills. We look forward to building a love for math this year.

Cayuga Heights Students Off to a Great Start with STEAM

The STEAM program is off and running this year at Cayuga Heights. Students are getting ready for a year full of hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering, art and math. Here is a sneak peak of our STEAM happenings:



Mrs. Leboeuf's second grade class made mazes for their Hexbugs.

- All students in grades 3-5 were introduced to Scratch. Through this app, students are learning the practice of block coding. The app allows students to create a variety of projects including animating a story, coding music, and making their own video games. Second grade students will soon be introduced to Scratch Jr. which is an introductory program to block coding.
- Through a grant won by Mrs. Pulaski, the students in Mrs. Schwarzmuller's 3rd grade class are also learning block coding with the Tynker program.
- Fourth and fifth graders are being introduced to Ozobots. These tiny robots use color codes to control their movements and students code paths for the robots to follow.
- Second and third grade students had some fun with Hexbugs. Groups built Keva Plank mazes to release their bugs into with the goal being that their bug would make it through the maze from start to finish.
- Mrs. Bulas and Mrs. Pulaski also teamed team up during library classes to tie literacy in with a fun STEAM activity for kindergarteners and first graders. Kindergarten were introduced to the story "Room on a Broom" and create brooms big enough to hold all the characters while first grade listened to "Ghost in the House" and tested aerodynamics in the activity, "Which Ghost Will Spin?"

Field Trip to the Farm

Kindergarten students took a field trip to Watt Farms in Albion, NY at the beginning of October. Each student picked apples, pressed their own apple cider, and learned about pollination and the importance of bees on an apple farm. Although the trip was long, the students had a great time. It was hard to decide what was the best part of the trip. Most of the students summed it up as, "Everything was FUN!"



Kindergarteners Hannah Yubac, Gabriella Ferrucci, Anabelle Shea, and Jazlene Briseno had fun at Watt Farms.

Cayuga Heights Keeps Moving for Play 60

Engaging in physical activity for at least 60 minutes a day is a major focus for students at Cayuga Heights Elementary. The physical education staff once again teamed up with Independent Health and the Buffalo Bills to participate in the NFL Play 60 Challenge and the Fitness for Kids Challenge. The goal of these challenges is to encourage students to remain physically active throughout the school year and develop healthy habits like consuming daily fruits and vegetables and limiting daily "screen time."

To get this year's NFL Play 60 Challenge started, Mrs. Garrett's 5th grade class was selected to attend the Independent Health "Kickoff Party" at the Adpro Sports Training Center at New Era Field. The students had the opportunity to engage in fun physical activities alongside some of their favorite Buffalo Bills players. The 60-minute party gave the students the opportunity to dance, cheer, move and hear about healthy tips directly from the Buffalo Bills. The students even had the opportunity to get autographs from the players and the smiles on their faces assured they will have memories to last a lifetime. The event was the perfect way to get the Cayuga students excited about the fun challenges they will be participating in during the school year.

The Play 60 Challenge took place during the month of October and each classroom tracked their minutes. These minutes, along with the minutes they achieved in physical education classes, were tallied up at the end of the month. Classrooms with the highest number of total minutes were eligible for prizes, including the chance to attend a Buffalo Bills home game. Every student in grades K-5 was a part of this exciting opportunity, and the staff at Cayuga Heights is committed to ensuring all students are meeting the task of being active and getting fit to achieve optimal physical health.



Students in Mrs. Garrett's class had fun at the Bills' Play 60 party.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 34
Depew, New York

DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

David Sheff, President
John Spencer, Vice President
Todd Bush, Trustee
Amy Doody, Trustee
Donna Kapinos, Trustee
Patrick Law, Trustee
Justin P. Young, Trustee

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

www.depewschools.org

Leadership Grows at Cayuga Heights

Students hold leadership roles throughout Cayuga Heights Elementary. Fourth graders deliver morning announcements, second graders are in charge of collecting attendance envelopes around the building, and third graders are fire drill leaders making sure all doors are opened and then secured.

Second graders work as lunchroom leaders helping kindergarten students open juice boxes, tie shoes, throw out garbage and follow all cafeteria rules. Fifth grade students work daily as caring leaders. They help in kindergarten and first grade classrooms with organizing and getting students ready for dismissal.

“The students learn to help others as part of their daily routine,” said Patrick Uhteg, the school’s leadership coordinator. “Empathy and caring are two traits we want all Cayuga kids to learn and understand before they go on to the middle school.” he said.



Joey Tosetto, a second grader, is a lunchroom leader.