



DEPEW NEWS

www.depewschools.org

Winter 2020

Look Ahead

March

- 4 Spring Sports Begin
- 9-10 Superintendent's Conference Days – No School
- 13-14 DHS Musical
- 16-19 Kindergarten Registration & Screening
- 17 Board of Education meeting, DHS Café, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 STEAM Night, DHS, 6-8 p.m.
- 23-27 Follies Week
- 24-25 CHE School Pictures
- 25-26 Grade 3-8 NYS ELA Testing

April

- 1 Spring Festival of Bands
- 4 DHS Band Spring Craft Show, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- 7 Paying for College Information Night, DHS Café, 7 p.m.
- 10-17 Spring Recess
- 21 Board of Education meeting, DHS Café, 6:30 p.m.
- 22-23 Grade 3-8 NYS Math Testing
- 25 Wildcat Relays, DHS Stadium, 12 p.m.

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Depew's New Technology Ambassadors Present at WNYIT 2020

On January 10, several Depew High School students and math and technology teacher Jillian Tylenda attended the Western New York Informational Technology Conference. The event, held in the STEM building at the SUNY Erie North Campus, was made possible by the collaborative efforts of four local schools - Alden, Depew, Holland and Lancaster and several Erie 1 BOCES staff.

This was a great opportunity for Depew's new Wildcat Student Technology Assistance Team (STAT) to learn from peers and develop plans for moving forward.

Approximately 160 students and staff from 16 area schools participated. Unique to WNYIT, many sessions were led by students eager to share their expertise with others. Attendees chose three sessions from 21 different choices covering a wide range of technological topics from social media to drone pilots.



Depew's Student Technology Assistance Team (STAT). Pictured from left, Hafcha Sharun, Marcianna Cardona, Mrs. Tylenda, Ryan Musielak, Nolan Witt, Collin Zlotek and Joey Weigelin.

Congratulations to Depew students Maricanna Cardona, Joseph Weiglein and Nolan Witt who led a session about the Goosechase App, a web-based platform that allows teachers and student leaders to create digital scavenger hunts that provide dynamic learning experiences. They were a hit!

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Message from the Superintendent

Technology Vision continues to Advance in 2020

Since 2015, the Depew Union Free School District has had a vision of enhancing current technology to prepare our students with skills to meet 21st century demands. The district's Smart Schools Team met regularly between February and November 2015 to ascertain the district's needs. The team developed and prioritized the following key initiatives:

1. Learning Management System
2. Network Infrastructure and Wi-Fi Enhancement
3. Teacher Devices
4. Classroom Devices
5. One to One Student Devices
6. Professional Development
7. High Tech Security

Specifically, the district planned for a one-to-one device implementation for our schools. Currently, in our elementary school building, grades K-2 have iPad devices and grades 3-5 have Chromebooks available in their home-base classroom, which can be carried to other classes. Devices are returned to their homerooms at the end of the school day. At our middle and high school buildings, grades 6-12 have

a Chromebook assigned to each student, which they carry with them to all classes. Students are able to take the Chromebook home for use after school hours.

Asynchronous learning is now a key part of our educational landscape. Teachers and students use technology resources at home and school to further research, study and collaboration skills. One-to-one computing has facilitated this to a much greater extent.

In support of our one-to-one initiative, the recent national Speak Up survey of Project



Maricanna Cardona, Joseph Weiglein and Nolan Witt.

Tomorrow, an education-focused nonprofit, indicated that high schoolers assigned a laptop or a Chromebook were more likely to take notes in class, do internet research, create documents to share, collaborate with their peers on projects, check their grades and get reminders about tests or homework due dates. Furthermore, among high school students assigned these devices, 60 percent said they had emailed their teachers with questions. This initiative allows students to be responsible for their own learning and feel good about being responsible for their own learning. This can make students more confident in their own capabilities and perhaps create an environment where they are more willing to take educational risks.

In addition, the district expanded our pre-engineering curriculum, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), into the middle school with the Gateway to Technology program. Our high school PLTW program has been in

Continued on page 3

Student STEAM Fest in Rochester

Depew middle and elementary students were among the 2,300 attendees of the Maker Faire Rochester's second annual Student STEAM Fest on November 22. The students enjoyed a plethora of hands-on activities that encompassed science, technology, engineering, art and math. From making a circuit with Play-Doh to shooting a basket with a robot, making a screen print, setting off rockets and seeing Mario the Maker Magician perform, the students had a great time and learned a lot. This was the first year Cayuga Heights students attended.

"The kids had so much to take in when we were there. They built puppets, saw amazing LEGO creations and had the chance to build some themselves," teacher Cheryl Pulaski said. "The kids absolutely loved the experience. We are already looking forward to returning next year."



DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

District STEAM Family Fun Night to Use Nature to Inspire STEAM Learning

Depew UFSD is planning our third annual STEAM Family Fun Night at Depew High School on Thursday, March 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. This year the event will be going “Into The Woods” with a nature theme! Creating art from natural items is an excellent way for kids to hone their observation skills while developing creativity. These activities also provide opportunities for other STEAM learning; building science, technology and math skills.

This exciting, free event is open to the community and will once again feature hands-on activities, make and takes and demonstrations highlighting science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) related skills. Interactive displays

will provide opportunities for all to experience the exciting work students are exploring at school. In the classroom, teaching within the STEAM framework helps students to solve real-world problems in collaborative groups using an inquiry design process.

Throughout the celebration, families will be able to participate in various hands-on activities and demonstrations, showcasing STEAM integration with our nature theme of “Into The Woods.” This event will offer students and families the opportunity to problem solve together, get creative and learn all about recycling and ways we can better the environment.

Activities will include:

- Student Woodland Creature Cardboard Costume Challenge
- Creating bristle bot bugs
- Marbled Bookmarks
- Leave a Mark Clay Imprints
- Nature’s Carnival Games
- Learning about robotics and coding activities
- Hands-on math games
- and much more!

A highlight of this event will feature Depew High School’s record-shattering trebuchet team. Each fall students compete in the annual trebuchet contest at the Great Pumpkin Farm in Clarence. This year they took first place in both the longest single throw (672 ft) and combined throw (1725 ft) categories. These student leaders will help all attendees create and test their own trebuchets. Our Depew Threads clothing closet will also be open for families during this event. There will be book giveaways, and door prize chances to win gift cards and more.

We hope you mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATE of March 19, 2020 from 6-8 p.m. to join us for this all-ages, fun-filled, family activity night.

I look forward to seeing you at this exciting event where we will travel “Into the Woods”!

Sincerely,
Susan B. Frey, Assistant Superintendent



Message from the Superintendent

continued from page 2

place for over 10 years and has been very successful in preparing students for college level engineering. The middle school classes have taken on real-world topics and applied the design process to find solutions. We believe our middle school students have benefited from the PLTW curriculum and are better prepared for our high school PLTW curriculum. This curriculum will increase the number of students that graduate and move on to engineering in college and careers.

As a result of our vision and the proliferation of technology use within the learning environment, our students have now transitioned to take on a leadership role in their learning and in actually teaching others within our schools and across Western New York. Wildcat Student Technology Assistance Team (STAT) members, Maricanna Cardona, Joseph Weiglein and Nolan Witt recently presented at the Western New York Informational Technology Conference on January 10. The conference was designed as a technological learning experience made for high school students through collaboration of WNY high school students and their teachers. The summit focused on expanding 21st century learning skills, with personalized classes directly from student input.

The vision that began back in 2015 to enhance student technology and prepare our students continues now in 2020, but it also continues to evolve as our students continue to impress and raise the bar higher each year.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Rabey, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

CAYUGA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindness Club Spreads Cheer at Elderwood

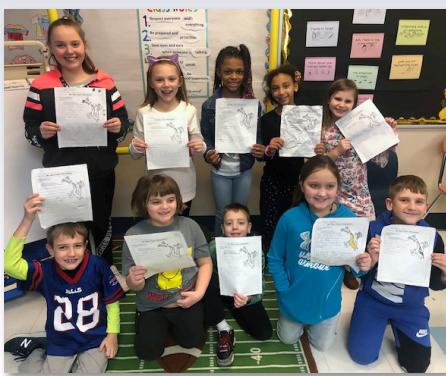
The Cayuga Kindness Club made Christmas cards for the residents of Elderwood assisted living community. Resident Irene distributed cards to those residents who may not have family or friends visiting over the holiday season. The Kindness kids made 100 cards to spread holiday cheer to seniors.



Olivia Herrmann

New Year's Resolutions

Students in Mr. Aaron Ertel's class worked on their New Year's Resolutions.



Third Grade Reading

Third graders are busy building a reading life. Recently, third graders celebrated their learning as they finished up their first unit in Readers Workshop. They worked together to create a rainbow of reading strategies, that now adorns the hallway. During the unit, some strategies the students learned were to treat books like gold, retell stories in order, check for comprehension and predict using your knowledge of the character in the story. Third graders are well on their way to making reading the best it can be each day!

Carols at Cayuga

Prior to winter break, Music Teacher Jason Miller greeted students by playing holiday songs on the piano as they entered the building. The students stopped to watch and even joined in to sing along.



Families Collaborate with The Leader in Me

At Cayuga Heights, families are becoming more involved with our health and wellness curriculum. Two parents, Wendy Thompson and Audrey Bridenbaker, and Dean of Students/Literacy Coach Rebecca Fatta attended a 7 Habits of Successful Families training at Warsaw Elementary School on November 15. These parents will help facilitate the newly formed Leader in Me Parent Group that has been formed to promote further family involvement into this program. This group will work on activities throughout the school that help students understand the connection between school, home and our community.

CAYUGA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Coding Club Awards

Several students in third grade participated in a friendly Coding Club competition during November and December. The Third Grade Coding Club is advised by Ms. Jessica Leary. Congratulations to our top five winners, Adalina LaMarca (1st place), Logan Cooper (2nd place), Alex Vertkhovetskiy (3rd place), Kensey Malicki (4th place), and Samantha Schilling (5th place). These students have qualified to move on to compete against the fourth and fifth graders in February. Also, congratulations to all our members for a job well done, and a special thank you to our Coding Ambassadors, Nathan Witt, Bella Petruskus, Emily Gierlinger, and Heather Yates for all their assistance!



Pictured left to right: Logan Cooper, Samantha Schilling, Adalina LaMarca, Kensey Malicki and Alex Vertkhovetskiy.

Fourth Grade Gives Gift of Cheer

Students from Mrs. Lorenc's fourth-grade class took the time this holiday season to make personalized gifts and cards for all the students in Mrs. Schaaf's multi-age classroom. The fourth-grade students often help the students in Mrs. Schaaf's class during specials, like gym, art and music, and act as their 'big brothers or sisters' by providing assistance or emotional support and encouragement when needed. As you can tell from all the students' reactions, both the givers and the receivers, the joy of this selfless act was immeasurable!



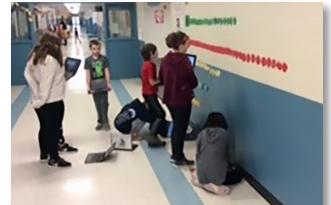
Kindergarten Gingerbread Houses

Kindergarten classes had fun planning, building, and tasting their gingerbread houses in December! The students had only a few instructions to guide them as they let their imaginations take over. There were tables filled with frosting, graham crackers, and candy decorations as far as the eye could see!



Cayuga Heights sets Schoolwide Reading Goal

The students at Cayuga Heights have set a goal to read one million minutes by June 1, 2020. Every minute a student reads inside and outside of school will count toward this goal. Each class updates the school reading goal display with reading paws each week. As soon as a classroom reaches 1,000 minutes of reading, they add a paw to their grade level scoreboard. The reading minutes for each class are tracked by a group of fifth-grade leaders. This group of 12 leaders meets each week to collect the reading minutes from classrooms and to record them in a Google spreadsheet on their Chromebooks. The leaders then make sure the reading paws scoreboard is accurate and up to date. The reading goal is one of many goals set by Cayuga kids this year. As of January 1, the third grade is in the lead with 70,000 minutes read. Go Cayuga Heights!



Readerman visits Kindergarten

Kindergarteners in Mrs. Valint and Mrs. McCormick's class had a special visit from Readerman in January! He shared how important it is to use all their reading powers to point at words, use pictures to help read words, have persistence when we they don't know a word and enlist partner power whenever they get stuck in a book. During the unit, some strategies the students learned were to treat books like gold, retell stories in order, check for comprehension and predict using your knowledge of the character in the story. Readerman paraded with students to Super Readers Headquarters (AKA the library). It was an amazing visit and we can't wait to do more reading!



Readerman (Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Rabey) follows kindergartners to Super Readers Headquarters.

DEPEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

French Classes Celebrate the Holidays

The seventh and eighth grade French students in Mrs. Harshany's classes learned about the Christmas traditions in France and also got to enjoy the traditional Bûche de Noël cake served at the Réveillon (Christmas Eve Dinner). The Bûche de Noël is thought to bring good luck and health in the new year.



Learning about Holidays in Spanish Class

Señora Thomas' seventh and eighth grade classes learned about holiday celebrations in the Spanish-speaking world. The week finished with a cultural celebration including quesadillas in class which were enjoyed by all.



Madelyn Bonnes and Abigayle Blevins.

Eighth Grade Officers Attend Champions for Change Conference

Eighth grade class officers and Mr. Joseph Cena attended the annual Champions for Change Youth Leadership Conference at Michael's Banquet Hall in Hamburg in October. The conference focused on strengthening leadership skills among our student leaders, as well as helping to create other leaders within our schools. There were a number of guest speakers from different careers, including Errol Lee, a multi award-winning recording artist and Casey Kacz, a former professional athlete and youth director at Cross Training Athletics.



Left to right are Treasurer Aubrey Corbett, Advisor Mr. Joe Cena, Vice President Tricia Richards, President Bryce Nowak and Secretary Mya Bush.

DMS Decks the Halls

To help usher in the holiday season, Student Council held a competition between the four hallways of the middle school called Deck The Halls. Each hallway came up with a way to show their holiday spirit through decorations. The winner of the competition was the Science/Tech Wing. Their theme was the 12 Days of Christmas and each door in the wing was decorated with a line from the famous holiday song. Student Council also sponsored the 12 Days of Christmas theme days. Each day students were encouraged to dress up and show their holiday spirit. Theme days included Santa Hat day, White Out day, Reindeer Day, Frozen Day and others that represented the Christmas season. Teachers, office staff and teachers' aides also participated to make it a building-wide event. The final day of school saw a special visit from jolly old St. Nick to all three lunch periods, where he handed out a candy treat to all the students.



DEPEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

DMS Student Council Holiday Food Drive

Once again, the DMS Student Council Holiday Food Drive in conjunction with the Eagles Club of Depew, Aerie 2692 was a resounding success with students and faculty collecting over 900 canned goods and non-perishable food items for Depew-area families at the holidays. This year a twist was added, creating a competition between the three grade levels to see

which could donate the most. Seventh grade were the winners. The members of the Eagles Club took the donations to make baskets and provide gift cards for deserving families from DMS. Additionally, The Eagles Club donated \$250 to Student Council in thanks for the efforts of Depew Middle School for its yearly collaboration on the Holiday Food Drive.



Pictured are honorable members of the Eagles Club of Depew, Student Council Ambassador Noah Wisniewski, Vice President Emily Hunter, Secretary Abby Blevins, President Matt Thorne, Treasurer Max Weiglein and Co-Advisors Mrs. Thurnherr and Mr. Carlino.

Reverse Advent Calendar: NJHS December Service Project

The National Junior Honor Society members were very busy for their December Service Project. Many members participated in donating items for a Reverse Advent Calendar in order to collect additional canned food and non-perishable items to contribute to the Annual Canned Food Drive sponsored

by the DMS Student Council. NJHS was able to collect 142 items to donate! Thank you to all who contributed to our December Service Project!



Pictured are NJHS Co-Advisor Mrs. Jaime Garver, Vice President Mya Bush, Secretary Scott Cooper, President Christopher Kanick, Treasurer Julie Durham and Co-Advisors Mrs. Jessica Iwanicki.

National Junior Honor Society Babysitting Night

The National Junior Honor Society members hosted a Babysitting Night on December 13 at Depew Middle School. Students ages three to 10 had a fun-filled night of activities led by the 8th grade members of NJHS. They made reindeer food, decorated Christmas Cookies, made red or green slime, participated in a snowman wrap and present relay races and made some awesome holiday crafts. NJHS members always enjoy this night and thank the families at Cayuga who participated!

DEAL Days

The first DEAL Day was held on November 26. Kids were in their DEAL groups competing against other teams in a variety of silly relay races. Congratulations to our yellow team who took home first place.



Finding the Code in Knitting

Since December, Ms. Russo and sixth-grade students have been working in collaboration with Mrs. Hooven on a project in the DMS Library to discover the relationship between knitting and coding. The students have been learning how to cast on stitches, knit and cast-off stitches. They have also learned that coding can be used in the real world.

All the students will knit a small square that they can donate to the Knitting Club. These squares will be sewn together to make a colorful blanket that will be donated to a local charity.



Pictured are Mya Ferris and Elizabeth Faleski-Falcone.



DEPEW HIGH SCHOOL

Students Compete at DECA

Depew students took their talents to the DECA Competition on December 15 at Lockport High School. Winners who qualified to compete at the DECA State Career Conference in February were Tarek Karzoun (Apparel and Accessories Marketing), Chris Burgio (Quick Serve Restaurant Management) and Jordan Kanick (Principles of Business Management and Administration). Also, Sarah Rolling and Justin Cwiklinski will be competing by presenting a Start-Up Business Plan Manual at the state level competition. Club advisors are Jessica Leary and Eileen Cartonia.



Front, Amani Elbana and Sarah Rolling; back, Tarek Karzoun, Chris Burgio, Jordan Kanick, Justin Cwiklinski and Sammy Ouattara.

Impact Team helps St. Luke's

For the third year, the IMPACT Team went to St. Luke's Mission to help pack bags of food to be distributed to over 2,800 families. Each family received three bags with enough food for breakfast, a full Thanksgiving feast and dessert. IMPACT Team members were joined by faculty, alumni, family members, and a trustee from the Board of Education.



High School Musical: The Wizard of Oz

By Mitchell Vannelli

It's almost time for the annual DHS musical and this year it will be the beloved classic, "The Wizard of Oz." The cast and crew of over 100 students, staff and volunteers are so excited for the show, and can't wait for you to see it! Starting Monday, March 2, the box office will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Call Center open Monday-Friday noon to 8 p.m. at 1-866-967-8167), tickets can also be purchased online at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/36624> or by scanning the QR code found on the posters hung around the school and community. We hope you'll join us "Over the Rainbow" for the Wizard of Oz, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. and March 14 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.



Stephen Kaus (Scarecrow), Mitchell Vannelli (Tin Man), Ashley Zielezinski (Dorothy) and KJ Zielezinski (Lion).

DEPEW HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Finance News

From Fenway Park and the New England Aquarium to Harvard and Salem, lobster rolls and Quincy Market, The Depew High School Academy of Finance's trip to Boston in November was an amazing opportunity for students to learn. Thank you to the students who attended, the parents who supported us, our chaperones, tour guides and bus drivers!

On November 20, four teams of Depew Union Free School District sophomores competed at the 2019 Junior Achievement of WNY Stock Market Challenge to win the coveted "Bull Trophy." With over 142 teams, the competition was fierce but a great time was had by all.

In December, the AOF worked on our investing skills with the STAX investment game from Next Gen Personal Finance. Students were able to make over 40 investment decisions as they allocated their savings between investment options, receive short in-game lessons and practice diversifying their portfolio to yield the highest return.



College Signing Day

National Signing Day was held November 13 at Depew High School with three student athletes signing on to college teams! Jersey Phillips signed her National Letter of Intent to play Division 1 Women's Ice Hockey at Mercyhurst University. Dean Godios signed to run Men's Cross Country at Edinboro University, a Division 2 program. Justin Losel will be playing Men's Lacrosse at Medaille College.



Foreign Language Club Celebrates the Holidays

Depew High School French and Spanish Club members enjoyed the annual holiday party in early December. Almost 100 students participated in the after-school celebration, which included pizza, prizes and our annual French cake sampling! Many students made the buches de Noel for all to savor! In January, club members celebrated yet again with an after-school Three Kings Day cultural event. Students learned about the European traditions associated with the holiday and enjoyed cakes and prizes!



Natalie Witt, Destiny Clark and Bailey Barzycki.



Pictured from left to right, Dylan Andrzejewski, Lorenzo Arricale, Michael Robinson, Jacob Goss, Alex Caliano, Abdulrahman Mukbel, Anthony Fazio and Nicholas Karnyski.

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLIDAY CHEER AT DHS



Band students performed at several local nursing homes during the holiday season.



Art students decorated cookies.



Student government "elves" passed out hot cocoa and candy canes.



Ugly sweaters are a Holiday Follies tradition!



Chorus students caroled at the Airport to welcome home troops as well as the Food4Families food drive in Tops and at the Galleria Mall.

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Veteran Inspired to Write Book After Speaking to DMS Class

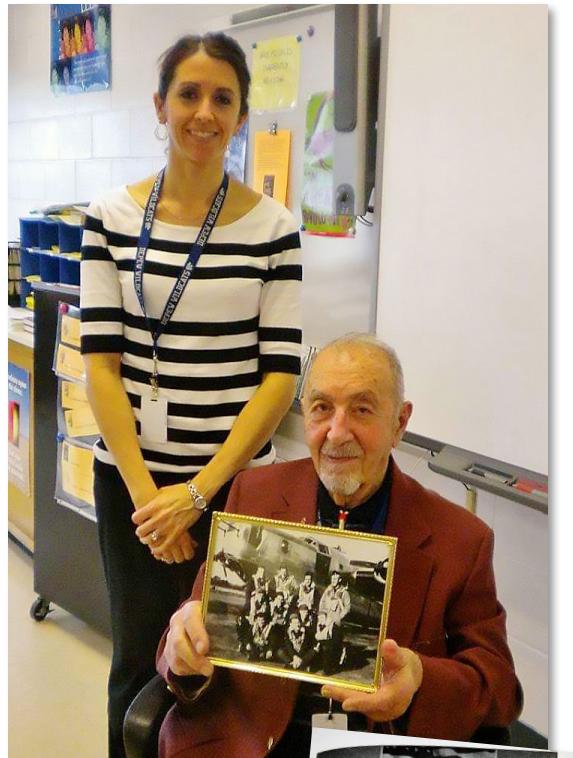
For 20 years English Teacher Melissa Pilon has been imparting knowledge to Depew Middle School students. Whenever she can, she likes to bring in speakers to add first-hand accounts and something special to the lessons. Back in 2016, Mrs. Pilon's eighth grade class had just finished the book "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand and through a mutual connection was able to convince World War II veteran, Michael R. Carestio to tell his story for the first time.

"I remember the students were silent and awestruck when he gave his account of being a bomber pilot and going down in hostile territory – and that's hard to do in middle school," Mrs. Pilon said. "I could tell it was his first time sharing his story, but that he was happy to share. There weren't a lot of WWII veterans left even four years ago, so we felt very special to have him speak and made sure to send him a thank-you card to express our appreciation."

But the story does not end there. First Lieutenant Carestio was inspired to share his story and began writing a book about his experience with his grandnephew, Timothy D. Minneci. Released in 2019, Mrs. Pilon was shocked to see her class was mentioned in "35 Days in the Air: A World War II Memoir," along with a photo of the thank-you card they had sent. In the text, Lt. Carestio remembers sharing his story and the students' insightful questions.

Depew Golf Coach Named NYS Coach of the Year

Longtime Depew varsity golf coach, Rick Wargala, was awarded the 2019 New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Girls Golf Coach of the Year honor. Coach Wargala has been the boys' varsity coach for 38 consecutive years and in 2012 began a girl's golf team at Depew High School. Coach Wargala has also been the Section VI girls golf coordinator since 2013 and has seen the sport expand from five school to 22 in three leagues under his leadership. Congratulations Coach Wargala!



Mrs. Melissa Pilon and WWII Veteran Mike Carestio.



SAVE YOUR BOXES! Woodland Creature Cardboard Costume Contest

As part of our adventure "Into the Woods" at this year's nature themed STEAM night, we are inviting students to create their own woodland creature costume from cardboard, paint or markers and some tape or glue. Students will get to walk the runway at STEAM night and winners will be selected at each grade level.

Watch for additional instructions coming home in the next few weeks and start saving your boxes! (local stores and restaurants always have cardboard as well if you need extra)



Connect Life Club Blood Drive Results

The Donate Life Club made its goal of 20 donors for the first ConnectLife Blood Drive of the year on November 28! There were 28 presenting donors and 20 blood donations. That could mean 60 lives saved locally!



ConnectLife
Blood & Organ Donor Network



DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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DHS Branch of Good Neighbors Credit Union Now Open

On January 14 the Depew High School Branch of Good Neighbors Credit Union officially opened its doors. A grand opening celebration was held with school administration, credit union representatives and Academy of Finance students who will assist in operating the branch.

The opening of the branch in the high school brings with it hands-on experience for Academy of Finance students and banking education to students of all ages at Depew Schools through opening accounts and outreach initiatives.

"Our goal is to reach students and staff at the high school, middle school and Cayuga Heights and not only have them open accounts, but also utilize the credit union for all of their financial needs. We have something for members of all ages; our youth savings club, checking accounts at 15, student credit cards, auto/personal loans, etc.," Jenna Lascala of Good Neighbors Credit Union explained. "Through the outreach projects and teller experience the students will learn problem solving skills, communication and how to interact with a variety of different people, personal responsibility/accountability."

Any Erie County resident can open an account with Good Citizens. The high school branch will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



GoodNeighbors
CREDIT UNION



Senior Academy of Finance student Sarah Rolling mans the teller desk at the newly opened Good Neighbors Credit Union Depew High School branch.