



## Look Ahead



### August

- 18 Sports Physicals
- 22 Fall Sports
- 25 Sports Physicals
- 24-25 Freshmen Locker Days
- 30 DMS Locker Move-In Day
- 31 Superintendent's Conference Day

### September

- 1 Superintendent's Conference Day
- 6-7 Superintendent's Conference Days
- 6 CHE Kindergarten Hot Dog Roast
- 6 CHE Grades 1-5 Open House & Supply Drop-Off
- 8 First Day of School

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## Class B NYS Semifinalists!



*The girls Varsity Softball team made it to the Class B New York State Semifinals in Long Island. Although the outcome was not what our girls wanted, the girls' state semifinal run has only happened four times in school history. Mary Grace Bauer also won the NYSPHSAA sportsmanship award. Over the last six sports seasons, Depew girls team sports have earned a Regional championship and a state semifinal appearance, four sectional championships and six sectional finalists appearances. Go Wildcats!*

## Message from the Superintendent

As the very proud Superintendent of the Depew Union Free School District, it was with a heavy heart that I tendered my resignation last year for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2022. After 30 plus years in public education; 17 as a Superintendent of Schools and 12 in the Depew Union Free School District, I am retiring from public education. The number of talented people that I have had the honor to work alongside are too numerous to mention here individually. Nevertheless, I want you to know that there were indeed several Board of Education members, administrators, teachers, and staff that had a positive impact on both my professional and personal life. I sincerely appreciated the unwavering dedication and hard work toward the success of our students.



Dr. Jeffrey R. Rabey

I will continue to publicly thank the supportive Board of Education members, especially those who hired me in 2010, for giving me the opportunity to serve the Depew School-Community and for supporting the decisions made during my leadership. Together, with a caring and committed staff, we shaped one of the highest quality educational institutions in New York State; one that we can all be proud of. I will also continue to appreciate the many

*Continued on page 2*

## Message from the Superintendent *Continued from page 1*

parents and community members who have served unselfishly on numerous committees over the years. The work of these people provided excellent advice and guidance, which helped mold district decisions for future generations.

In my time as Superintendent, we have presented balanced budgets that stayed under the statutory tax cap every year, all while preserving and adding staffing, growing programs for students and remaining fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the community. We have created twelve successful budgets and moved the District into one of the most economically sound school districts within New York State. Since 2010, we have had an average 70% passing rate for our budgets with an average 1.39% budget increase and a 2.01% tax levy increase. In fact, the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System (FSMS), created by the New York State Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), which annually assesses fiscal stress in local governments and school districts shared their new designations in 2022 and Depew was the only school district in Erie 1 BOCES with the lowest scores of 0's in both the Fiscal Stress and Environmental Stress categories.

We have designed, promoted, and implemented over \$102.6 million in Capital projects, which responsibly downsized facilities, upgraded and maximized remaining facilities, created a new athletic complex, a new elementary auditorium, added air conditioning district-wide and upgraded several safety and security measures.

Together we have negotiated and approved multi-year concessionary collective bargaining agreements for every bargaining unit within the District, along with multiple individual contracts that were fair and balanced for all employees, as well as fiscally sound for our taxpayers.

We transformed our Health Insurance Benefits programming from a Community Rated Plan with annual double percentage point increases to an Experienced Rated Plan with minimal annual increases, immediately saving the school-community almost \$1 million. We then gathered data for approximately three years, shifted to a Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan in 2016, which will ultimately provide the District with millions of dollars of recurring savings. Finally, after a few years of active legislative advocacy, we were able to establish a Health Insurance Benefits Reserve Fund. The District is one of only

fourteen school districts in the entire state to have such a fund, which will protect the District well into the future!

Together, we focused on student achievement and our graduation rates. We now have 10 Advanced Placement Courses and 19 Advanced Studies/College Credit Courses. Every student has access to an iPad or a Chromebook with wireless access on almost all of our school buses. Our highly successful Academy of Finance, a "school within a school" is affiliated with the National Academy Foundation. Our curriculum is aligned with a laser focus on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). We have been able to add Girls' Golf, Girls' and Boys' Ice Hockey, Girls' and Boys' Lacrosse and Unified Bowling and Basketball for a total of 48 Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified sports teams. With the unwavering dedication of our world-class K-12 teaching staff, our graduation rate moved from 80% in 2010 to 94% in 2022 with well over 85% of our graduates attending a post-secondary institution. In 2016, we posted a High Achievement Index ranking of 11 out of 96 districts within Western New York.

During the past 15 months, our Depew Family successfully navigated through an unprecedented pandemic that entailed feeding children, securing one-to-one devices for instruction, designing different learning models, performing safety checks on children and their families, providing COVID-19 testing and vaccination opportunities, as well as providing childcare for working parents/guardians.

Also, I want to acknowledge the handful of co-leaders, who have served on the Administrative Team over the years. They hold tough and thankless jobs that require creative talents to find solutions that cannot be found in any textbook. These leaders are good people who I have tremendous respect for and enjoyed working with on a daily basis.

Finally, This isn't a good-bye forever, just an acknowledgement of our time together and my hope to see you soon. I am only an email away; [jrabey@leadingforward716.org](mailto:jrabey@leadingforward716.org). I will be shifting back to the classroom and teaching full-time at D'Youville University in their Educational Leadership Doctoral program and consulting for area school districts.

Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat!

Dr. Jeffrey R. Rabey  
Superintendent of Schools



## 8th Annual Lunch Hero Day Celebrated at Depew Schools

For the eighth year Depew Union Free School District celebrated Lunch Hero Day on May 6 in order to recognize its amazing food service workers with a day of appreciation. To celebrate their hard work and commitment, students at all levels showed their appreciation through cards, gifts and specially made books.

“From their warm and compassionate welcoming environment that they provide in the cafeteria to the personal touch that they deliver with every student’s meal, to how they encourage our kids to eat healthier; Depew’s nutritional professionals are truly heroes to our school-community and deserve to be recognized,” said Dr. Jeffrey Rabey, superintendent.

This year, first grade classrooms created handmade class books and read their messages aloud to our Lunch Heroes. The Food Service staff also received Lunch Hero shirts to wear on this special day among other surprises across the district.



## Message from the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Personnel

It seems like only yesterday we were opening our doors to all students once again. Over the past 10 months, so much has changed, and we as an educational community have done our best to adapt. The past year was not easy by any stretch of the imagination, but in looking at the 2021-22 school year, it is easy to see that it has been a success. There is still work left to be done, needs to be addressed, and gaps to close. Our staff is already making plans, and adjustments for 2022-23 in order to make next year even better.

I would be remiss in saying goodbye to 2021-2022 without taking a moment to say goodbye to our retirees and thanking them for all of the time and dedication to the Depew UFSD. All of you were part of a team of people who met challenge head on and gave extra effort without faltering. You all leave big shoes to fill, and lofty expectations. As you move to your next chapter of your lives, rest easy knowing that the new teachers are waiting in the wings to pick up where you left off and to move our district forward.

Enjoy your summer, rest, recharge and be healthy! We will see all of our students on Thursday, September 8!

Joseph D’Amato, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel



## Depew Union Free School District Welcomes



*Dr. Hank Stopinski,  
Superintendent of Schools*

## District Art Show

On Tuesday, May 17th the Depew Art Department hosted a reception for the District Art Show, Together Again. This annual event took place in the High School Gymnasium during the 2022 District Budget Vote and featured work from kindergarten through 12th grade Art students. After a two year hiatus, it was a wonderful opportunity for students and their families to celebrate their many artistic achievements. Attendees enjoyed viewing artwork in a variety of techniques, from sculptures and photographs to graphic design projects and paintings. The show displayed the wide variety of media and projects our students experience throughout the school year here at Depew.

The District Art Show is an event that our school community looks forward to every year. After experiencing two years where celebrations and gatherings were difficult or impossible, it was a refreshing culmination of a wonderful school year filled with growth and creativity. Congratulations to all of our featured Art students!





## CONGRATULATIONS

to the

## Top 10% of the Senior Class of 2022



### 1. Brian Sounevongsa

#### *Valedictorian*

University of Virginia,  
Computer Science

Parents/Guardians: Baisi &  
Chanthavone Sounevongsa

Favorite Memory: School events like the  
bonfire.



### 2. Emma P. Minotti

#### *Salutatorian*

University at Buffalo,  
Business Administration and  
Management

NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Parents/Guardians: Ronald & Heather  
Minotti

Favorite Memory: Homecoming in the bus  
garage with my friends.



### 3. David R. Kicak

Rochester Institute of  
Technology, Mechanical  
Engineering – Aerospace

RIT Presidential Scholarship

Parents/Guardians: Robert & Kirsten Kicak

Favorite Memory: Mr. Cooper falling out of  
his chair on WildcatTV.



### 4. Lauren B. Arena

St. John Fisher College,  
Criminology and Criminal  
Justice

Trustee Merit Scholarship

Parents/Guardians: Anthony & Amy Arena

Favorite Memory: Marching band trip  
freshmen year.



### 5. Amber M. Allen

Niagara University,  
Adolescence Education  
in Math

Niagara Trustees'  
Scholarship

Parent/Guardian: Kathy Allen

Favorite Memory: Going to Disney with  
the Academy of Finance in January and  
meeting new friends.



### 6. Nicholas J. Karnyski

St. John Fisher College,  
Biology - Honors Program

Trustee Merit Scholarship,  
Honors Scholarship, Legacy  
Award

Parents/Guardians: Steve & Sharri Karnyski

Favorite Memory: Going to Washington  
D.C. with all my friends.



### 7. Hannah R. Stocklosa

University of Buffalo,  
Adolescence Education in  
English - Honors College

Parents/Guardians: Joseph  
& Carmen Stocklosa

Favorite Memory: The marching band trip  
to Washington D.C. freshman year with my  
friends.



### 8. Jenna N. Kuhlmeier

University of Buffalo,  
Media Studies

Pride of New York  
Scholarship

Parents/Guardians: David & Sharon  
Kuhlmeier

Favorite Memory: My classes with  
welcoming and helpful upperclassmen as a  
freshman.



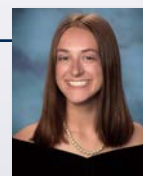
### 9. Miranda P. Arena

Niagara University,  
Middle Childhood &  
Adolescence Education  
in French

Niagara Trustees'  
Scholarship

Parents/Guardians: Anthony & Amy Arena

Favorite Memory: Finding out I was cast  
as Jojo in the musical this past year!

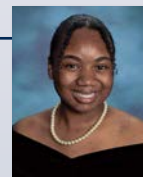


### 10. Mya D. Jackson

University of Buffalo,  
Biology

Parent/Guardian:  
Joy Clark

Favorite Memory: Finding out that the  
musical was going to be Seussical.



### 11. Mary Grace Bauer

University of Colorado at  
Boulder, Biochemistry

Parents/Guardians:  
Michael & Anne Marie  
Bauer

Favorite Memory: Having late passes to  
all of my classes.



### 12. Anthony J. Fazio

Niagara University,  
Middle and Adolescence  
Education in Chemistry

Niagara Trustees'  
Scholarship

Parents/Guardians: Jim & Jennifer Fazio

Favorite Memory: Dressing up for Follies  
Week and taking Mr. G's chair and riding  
it into the assembly.





# SENIOR *CELEBRATION GALLERY*

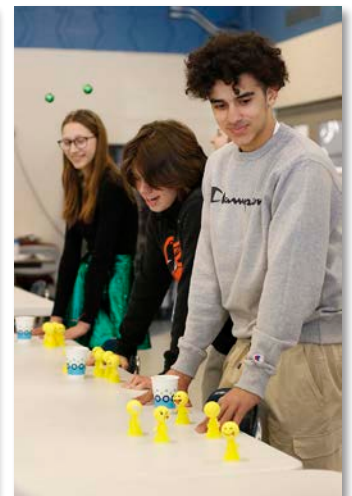
*Photos Courtesy of the Photography Club*





# FOLLIES GALLERY

Photos Courtesy of the Photography Club





## Five Students Inducted into Youth Bureau Hall of Fame

Depew High School had five students inducted into the 2022 Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame on May 5. Seniors Emma Minotti, Hannah Stocklosa, and Nick Karnyski and juniors Jordan Kanick and Emily Reed were recognized at the induction ceremony held at the Twin Village Fire Hall. They were among 14 Depew and Lancaster students honored for their noted achievements in personal growth and service to the people of our community. State and local government officials were on hand to celebrate our students. Congratulations to these outstanding students!



*Pictured from left to right is Principal James Lupini, counselors Kim McEwen and Leo Cintron, Emma Minotti, Hannah Stocklosa, Jordan Kanick, Emily Reed and teacher Traci Kanick.*

## Year-End Celebration

The members of the DHS French and Spanish Clubs recently enjoyed their annual end-of-year celebration with ice cream, treats and raffle prizes. French Club members also recently sponsored a Cupcakes for Ukraine event and donated \$345 to a local Humanitarian Aid Campaign for Ukrainians.

Both clubs are also pleased to announce their officers for next year. French Club: Luisa Pyc and Emma Lee, Co-Presidents, Melody Edwards, Vice President, Scott Cooper, Secretary, and David Paradowski, Treasurer (second term!). Spanish Club Tyler Karnyski, President, Katherine Manna, Vice President, Joseph Manna, Secretary and Matthew Jasinski, Treasurer.



*Raegan Wentlent, Tylee McCray and Giovanna Macchioni.*

## French News:



## DHS French Club Guest Speaker

At the April meeting, DHS French Club members welcomed guest speaker Theo Ricardo, a French student earning his PhD at SUNY Buffalo. Theo discussed growing up outside of Paris and the French school system. Students also enjoyed trying French pastries at the meeting. It was a great educational opportunity for our students!



*Emily Klima, Jenna Stevens, Luisa Pyc, Emma Lee, Melody Edwards.*

## French Student Wins Regional Competitions

Congratulations to DHS sophomore Sasa Nguyen who recently submitted an outstanding French project to the Soirée Poésie Musique 2022 held by the local chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French. Sasa created a beautiful video of an excerpt from *The Little Prince*. Sasa also won the annual Poster Contest of the WNY Foreign Language Educators' Council. This year's theme was Planting the Seed for Strong Language Learners. Sasa's beautiful poster will be duplicated and distributed to World Language classrooms across Western New York.

Both competitions were open to French students from across Western New York and served as wonderful opportunities to engage students and connect with the French learning community in our area! Félicitations Sasa!





# DEPEW HIGH SCHOOL



## Senior Lawn Signs

For the second year the junior class designed and delivered lawn signs to our graduating seniors. Pictured is Class of 2023 Officer Jaina DelRegno helping with the deliveries. Congratulations to all of our DHS seniors!

## Thank You to the Photography Club

The DHS Photography Club has been invaluable in documenting this year's student events. Thank you to all involved, including Maddie Sergi, Amber Allen, Emmitt Hunter, Abby Blevins, Andrew Winkel and Alexis Tamrowski as well as Advisor Khrista Tabak.



*Pictured from, back row: Theresa Kaus, Maddie Sergi, Rouxx Scioli, Landin Seamans, Kayden Anzalone. Front row: Abby Blevins, Amber Allen, Andrew Winkel, Willia Cassidy.*

## Athletic Signing Day

On May 13, the Athletic Department celebrated six athletes who plan to continue their academic and athletic careers at the college level. Congratulations, Sam Radka, Kaitlin Whalen, Colin Nichol, Alyssa Bashaw, Nick Florczak and Landon Piniewski!



## Academy of Finance News

The DHS Academy of Finance wrapped up the year on a high note! Thank you to all who supported the Annual Car & Bike Show and our Big Ticket Raffle.

Students were able to attend another fantastic event, "Marketing Me" etiquette luncheon on March 30. AOF students learned dining etiquette, interview skills, the 4 A's of professionalism and more! A big thank you to the presenter Denise Harris,

director of the Career Center SUNY Buffalo State College and to NFIEC for sponsoring this amazing Business Etiquette event.

Returning this year were mentor teams and Financial Literacy Week trivia! See you in 2022-23!

## Courtyard Cleanup

Depew High School's National Honor Society organized a Courtyard clean up on Earth Day, April 22, 2022.



*Kaitlin Whalen and Nick Florczak prepare for the Big Ticket Raffle.*



# DEPEW HIGH SCHOOL

## Music Trip to Boston Memorial Day weekend By Kendall Lepczyk



After two long years, the DHS marching band, chorus, and the color guard were finally able to participate in the annual music department trip. We shipped off to Boston on Memorial Day weekend for a fun and event-filled excursion.

Upon our arrival, we participated in the Freedom Trail walking tour. Here we viewed numerous historical and patriotic sights throughout Boston, such as the location of the Boston Massacre, Paul Revere's house, and Granary Cemetery, where we placed pennies on Paul Revere's grave. Later we dressed up and took off to sea in the Boston harbor for a wonderful dinner cruise. We indulged in a great night of food and dancing.

Next, we visited Salem, Massachusetts, and toured the Witch Dungeon Museum and the House of Seven Gables. The marching band performed in Salem, headlining Emblems of America and many other hits, attracting quite the crowd at the local band shell.

Finally, we headed off to the John F. Kennedy presidential library and museum. The chorus performed there, and the sound emitted from the spectacular room where the performance took place produced a truly angelic effect. Later, we made our way to Fenway Park for a Red Sox game. We wrapped up our remarkable weekend with a visit to the New England Aquarium. Thank you to all of the music department for making this trip possible!

## Connect Life Club Blood Drive

The Connect Life Club held a blood drive in June. Donations will save 42 lives locally. The Connect Life Club held three total blood drives this year at DHS. Every one of them was successful and they hit their goal.



## SADD Grim Reaper Day

April 29 was Grim Reaper Day at DHS. Grim Reaper Day is a day taken to raise awareness and commemorate those who have lost their lives due to distracted or impaired driving accidents. HS students volunteered to be "victims" who would be taken from class by the Grim Reaper throughout the day, change and don make-up, and remain silent for the remainder of the day. During lunch periods, Officer Hossfeld ran students through sobriety tests with the impaired driving goggles and the day culminated in an assembly where the Assistant District Attorney talked to our students about the legal ramifications of making poor decisions. Thank you to all the SADD members, student volunteers, Officer Hossfeld, and the Assistant District Attorney for their efforts throughout the day. A special thanks to the Depew/Lancaster substance abuse coalition FOCUS for their generosity in financing shirts for all Grim Reaper Day participants!



*SADD Members Bailey Barzycki and Emma Gawel prepare to take victims as the Grim Reaper and the Grim Reaper Assistant.*



## New Technology in 7th Grade Social Studies

Thanks to a grant, and the efforts of Mr. D'Amato, students in Mr. Carlino's 7th grade Social Studies classes were able to immerse themselves in a Civil War Battle. The grant provided Mr. Carlino with a class set of Virtual Reality goggles to experience American History in a new and unique way. Using their cellphones, students watched a video from History 360 that gave them a glimpse of what fighting was like during the Civil War. Students saw how soldiers prepared for battle, the chaos of a battle, and the consequences of war. While the video was a re-enactment, it was very realistic and allowed the students to see events as they might have been during the Civil War.



## Field Trip to Hull House

Seventh graders had the opportunity to experience what life was like in the early 1800s by visiting Hull House on Genesee Street in Lancaster. Students traveled from station to station in groups, where they were able to participate in various activities. Hull House had re-enactors that took on the role of 19th century Americans. Stations included Civil War soldiers, Civil War cooking, outdoor activities and games of the time, Flax demonstrations, and a tour of the Hull Family home and property. High School Social Studies teacher Sarah Foels facilitated the tour as a member of the Hull House Foundation Board of Directors. Social Studies Teacher Sal Carlino organized and planned the trip for the seventh grade. Students truly enjoyed themselves and learned a little about local and American History.



## NJHS New Member Induction and 2-Year Recognition Ceremony

The Depew Middle School National Junior Honor Society inducted 33 new seventh grade members into its chapter on May 5. In addition to achieving honor roll averages for three consecutive marking periods, students also had to demonstrate strong examples of leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Students participated in a candle lighting ceremony relaying the 5 Pillars of Honor Society. New members also took a pledge promising to uphold the ideals of Honor Society in their school and community. The ceremony was led by the advisor, Mrs. Jaime Garver and Mrs. Jessica Iwanicki and the NJHS officers - Olivia Toolen (President), Cameron Christiano (Vice President), Mason McGloin (Treasurer) and Johanna Hernandez (Secretary).



7th Grade: Kamden Augustine, Zachary Bridenbaker, Kendra Chludzinski, Camryn Domino, Kate Durham, Melanie Fatta, Emma Felton, Elisabeth Gannon, Cecilia Gmyrek, Daniella Harhigh, Farhan Howlader, Madison Jaskier, Noah Kinderman, Mackenzie Krawczyk, Kayden Leising, Macey Malicki, James Mancini, Matthew Mangione, Kylie McCarthy, Teagan Muldoon, Michael Pajak, Isabella Papaj, Carter Pawlik, Annalise Reed, Avery Sikora, Amelia Slowinski, Ryan Sobierajski, Lucas Spruch, Grace Stuber, Kole Szratter, Warren Triplet and Bailey Wachowiak.

8th Grade: Bailey Adamczyk, Claire Anderson, Logan Bishop, Charlotte Brindle, Matthew Brindle, Brianna Brooks, Maggie Bush, Cameron Christiano (Vice President), Courtney Cole, Johanna Hernandez (Secretary), Chayce Kolbert, Ashley Krysztof, Emily Kush, Olivia Leazott, Mason McGloin (Treasurer), Lillian Myers, Alisa Overton, Ella Pagano, Andrew Peszko, Payton Purcell, Amaya Rivera, Julia Rudnick, Giada Rzeszutek, Jordan Seelig, Elijah Shute, Tate Stones, Olivia Toolen (President), Jenna Tran and Matthew Weiglein.

## Student Council Bowl-A-Rama

On June 3, students from DMS and their parents, enjoyed a fun filled night of bowling at Lancaster Lanes. Mr. Carlino, advisor for Student Council, organized and planned the event. Students received two hours of bowling and shoe rental for \$23. Nearly 50 participants had a great time racking the pins and knocking them down. Mr. Carlino plans on holding this event twice a year as a fundraiser to benefit all three grade levels at the middle school. The event is now being planned for December 2022.





## DMS Freedom In America Essay & Poster Contest

The DMS Freedom In America Essay and Poster Contest was held on Friday, May 6, 2022 in the DHS Auditorium. Students, guests and judges all experienced another wonderful event highlighting the great writers and artists in the district.

The contest is open to seventh and eighth grade students who submit essays and posters on the theme "Freedom in America." Seventh grade Social Studies Teacher Sal Carlino, and Art teacher Joe Pagano are the directors of the program, now in its 48th year.

The students submitted posters and essays for the contest. Five finalists had their essays evaluated by a panel of judges who are distinguished members of the Depew and Lancaster communities.

The judges were:

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jeff Rabey, Board of Education Trustee, Pat Law, Deputy Mayor of the Village of Depew, Audrey Hamernik, Village of Depew Trustee, Darrin Ziemba, Town of Lancaster Supervisor, Ronald Ruffino Jr., Erie County Legislator for the 8th district, Frank Todaro, Chief Petty Officer Frank Moesch of the US Navy, and Depew Senior Theresa Kaus. Theresa Kaus, the essay winner in 2018, continued the tradition of a past winner and DHS Senior serving as a student judge. The essays were judged based on the writing, and oral presentations for content and delivery.

The winner of the essay contest was Hala Saleh, a seventh-grade student. She was awarded \$150 for her essay and received a plaque commemorating the event. Logan Bishop, an eighth-grade student, placed second and was awarded \$100. Runners up were eighth graders Johanna Hernandez and Aliyah Natal, and seventh grader Michael Pajak, winning \$75 each.

For the poster portion of the contest, the first-place winner was seventh grader Reanna Robidoux, who was awarded \$100 and a plaque commemorating the event. The second-place winner was seventh grader Gabriel Toner, who was awarded \$75. The three runners up were seventh graders Ava Jaynes, Avery Swiderski and Kayden Leising, receiving \$50 each.

The program was put on hold for the past two years due to the pandemic but came back this year with an excellent crop of essays and posters. The student presentations and the entire program were streamed live on LocalLive and can be watched in the recent events dropdown.



## Innovation Station Field Trip

On June 7th, students from Mrs. Rosch's Innovation Station classes presented their Passion Projects at the Innovation Exhibition and WNYIT Conference at Buffalo State College. Students ran an escape room that they designed and beta tested entirely themselves, viewed a show at the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium, and saw projects from students at other schools in Western New York, in addition to speaking with others about their own capstone work. They also got to experience 3D printing among other activities. For many students, it was exciting to visit a college campus. This was an exciting finale to the course that brought students many unique educational experiences. Seventh graders interested in joining Innovation Station next year should contact Mrs. Rosch or Mrs. Ryder at the Middle School.



Robert Zielinski and Arianna Rodrigues.

## Fear Factor Math Challenge

The students in Mrs. Robinson's math classes took part in a fun and exciting review activity to prepare for their final exam. There were six rounds of math questions. If the students



answered the questions correctly, they got to send one of their teammates into the challenge. Some of the challenges included searching for bugs in a vat of Orbeez, guessing spicy snacks, and eating baby food.

## Scholarship Recipient

At its recent luncheon, the Western New York Association of School Business Officials awarded a \$1,000 Executive Committee Scholarship to Depew High School senior Amber Allen. Amber has plans to attend Niagara University with a major in Education and minor in French. She is also a member of the Depew High School Academy of Finance.

Amber is pictured with Depew High School Counselor George Bushey.





## Middle School W.E.B. Orientation - "Where Everyone Belongs"

W.E.B. is a program designed specifically for 8th grade and 6th grade students. It strategically puts our 8th graders in a big-brother/big-sister role for our incoming 6th graders. Current 7th graders applied to be a part of the program in the spring, completing an application and answering questions about their visions for the program, as well as what they hope to bring to it.

Our future W.E.B. Leaders began their journey in May by participating in a fun-filled, team building afternoon where they were introduced to the inner workings of the program. Under the direction of Mr. Cena, Ms. Wiertel, and Mrs. Banasik, our leaders will undergo a 10-hour training over the summer to get ready for the first big event with these incoming 6th graders. 8th Grade W.E.B. Leaders will personally reach out to each 6th grader in their group and invite them to our 6th grade orientation in August. We hope the connections that are built start off immediately and help to create a seamless transition from Cayuga Heights to the middle school.

Using what they learned during the training, our 8th graders will lead the 6th graders through a series of cooperative games, group activities, and a tour of our school during the orientation. Additionally, throughout the year, our 8th graders will reach out to their W.E.B. students at specific times, accompany them to events we are holding at school, and be a shoulder to lean on, as well as a peer to look up to throughout the year.

W.E.B Leaders: Leo Hunter, James Mancini, Michael Pajak, Kendra Cassidy, Melanie Fatta, Madison Jaskier, Macey Malicki, Kylie McCarthy, Hala Saleh, Elleena Horrigan, Ben Grzybowski, Farhan Howlader, Jared Martin, Noah Kinderman, Kate Durham, Cecelia Gmyrek, Lucy Kegler, Amelia Slowinski, Elyse Ricotta, Avery Swiderski, Avery Sikora, Kamden Augustine, Carter Pawlik, Ryan Sobierajski, Lilly Dissek, Camryn Domino, Kafaa Almohamad, Annalise Reed, Kylie McGovern, Teagan Muldoon, and Jasmine Stanton.



## DMS Annual Breakfast of Champions

On May 17th, the middle school held the annual Character Counts, Breakfast of Champions. Students were nominated by teachers to attend because of their accomplishments in the area of character education. Specifically, these students had exhibited valuable traits such as self-control, responsibility, compassion, respect, attitude, hard work, honesty, perseverance and teamwork throughout the school-year. The Lancaster-Depew Rotary Club continues to join the middle school in celebrating the positive behavior among the students with their sponsorship of this breakfast.

Students honored at this breakfast included:

### 6th Grade

Brandon Birdwell, Caleb Lorefice, Chloe DesSoye, C'yianna Moore, Emersyn Klink, Emma Bielefeld, Emily Cordon, Heather Yates, Imani McDowell, Jake Gallo, Joseph Buenafe, Joseph Long, Landon Pezzimenti, Lawson Zlotek, Lilah Fatta, Molli Howard, Noah Andrews, Noah Schneider, Olivia Dyet, Owen Muench, Radfan Shaibi, Robert Long, Ryan Peszko, Steven Seelig, Torrey Steinwandel and Willow Arena.

### 7th Grade

Aiden Kulesz, Aiden Schmeid, Alex Wisniewski, Alexis Brown, Alivia Hawkins, Amanda Leach, Amelia Slowinski, Annalise Reed, Ashley Codr, Ashlyn Guggemos, Ava Jaynes, Avery Swiderski, Ben Grzybowski, Elisabeth Gannon, Finley Gray-Hinckley, Gabriel Toner, Gabriella Kelm, Hala Saleh, Hamzah Abdelhaq, Ian McAdory, Isabella McNamara, Isabella Papaj, Isabelle Barzycki, Jacob Sharpe, Jasmine Stanton, Kamden Augustine, Kane Riggelman, Keegan Netzel, Kenan Muhic, Kendra Chludzinski, Latianna Pugh, Leo Hunter, Lilly Dissek, Logan Zimmerman, Madyson Wendling, Melanie Fatta, Michael Pajak, Noah Ducato, Noradean Shaibi, Russell Rowley, Ryan Suleski, Serena Krull, Shanya Worthy, Shelby Cendrowski, Skylynn Haynes, Teagan Muldoon and Xavier Parks.

### 8th Grade

Alex Belsky, Alisa Overton, Anthony Frank-Sasiadek, Arianna Sifter, Bailey Adamczyk, Cameron Christiano, Devan London, Elijah Shute, Ethan Pilon, Isabelle Hoffhines, Isaiah May, Jennifer Milewski, Johanna Hernandez, Jonathan Johnson, Jordan Wisniewski, Kayla Szuba, Kaylee Reid, Keira Schultz, Lilly Paradowski, Lillyan Rollison, Mady Pietrzak, Marissa Baker, Matthew Brindle, Matthew Weiglein, Mya Ferris, Olivia Toolen, Robert Zielinski, Roland Wenk, Sam Faruque, Talen Evans and Tristan Richards.



*Hala Saleh, Ashlyn Guggemos, Amelia Slowinski and Melanie Fatta.*



# CAYUGA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Fun with Phonics at Cayuga Heights

At Cayuga Heights Elementary, students in Mrs. Bonnie Schaaf's class learned to read in fun and unique ways!

As part of their phonics unit, the class mascot, Rasheed the lion, brought a traveling twist to the student's reading. Rasheed visited New York City to study the different buildings. While in the "Big Apple," he sent the class letters and activities to do while he was gone. Students dearly missed him but enjoyed learning from his travels. They excitedly welcomed him back and enjoyed the apples he brought back with him for the class and the T-shirts he brought for the teachers.

The class looks forward to Phonics Unit Celebration Fridays! Recently, they celebrated being Word Builders! Rasheed and the students built "Vowel Town," complete with pictures of many landmarks that helped students practice vowel teams they learned throughout the unit.



## Explore and More field trip

The Kindergarten classes along with Miss Ader's, Mrs. Reiner, and Miss Fleetwood's classes went to Explore and More in May. The students had a great time pretending to work at a car wash, being a mechanic, and learning about boats and locks from the region. The students also were active learning about local sports and the way the human body works and can be used to make energy, like riding a bicycle! The students had a great time playing in an indoor forest and farm, even milking a cow! Overall, this was a trip many of the students are still talking about!



Oliver DiPasquale, Matthew Purpura and Kyle McAdams.

## 5th Grade Promotional Ceremony June 10th



The Grade 5 Promotional Ceremony was held on June 10 to recognize fifth graders as they prepare for their next chapter in middle school.

## Kindness Club Plants Flowers

The Kindness Club leaders planted flowers near the entrance of Cayuga Heights to bring sunshine to our school! Students worked with Miss Tedesco to clean the flower bed by throwing away garbage, taking out the weeds, and adding bright flowers to the area. Our mission in Kindness Club is to give back to our school in various ways, especially making it a beautiful and clean place to be!



Gino Napierala and Samuel LaMarca.



## 2022 Fourth Grade Cayuga Heights Spelling Bee

On June 3rd, eighteen 4th graders competed in the annual Cayuga Heights Spelling Bee. All finalists were awarded a participation trophy for proudly representing the top spellers from their classrooms. The runner-up was Holden Kobielski from Mrs. Janiga and Mrs. Ball's classroom. The first-place champion, Kendall Profic is a student from Mrs. Lorenc's classroom. There were many rounds of correctly spelled words between the top two finishers, before Kendall correctly spelled the winning word "household" to secure first place. All contestants showcased poise and perseverance in this friendly competition.



Fourth grade spelling bee champion is Kendall Profic (right) and runner-up, Holden Kobielski (left).

## Wildcats on the Move

On Saturday, June 4th, the Wildcats on the Move Running Club participated in the Independent Health Kids Fun Run at Delaware Park! We had 198 participants registered from Cayuga Heights and 11 students finish within the top 20 for their age group. Congratulations to Myles Munson and Julian Gavin for finishing in 1st and 2nd in their age group.

After two long years without a running club at Cayuga Heights, we had an overwhelming response from students in grades 3-5. We had over 150 students join Wildcats on the Move Running Club this year. We are so happy to see the dedication and determination from all of the Wildcats!

Students in running club participated in team building, running stamina

and goal setting since the middle of March. The group increased their mileage and have a combined total of over 2,000 miles! WAY TO GO WILDCATS!



Left to Right: Coach Tedesco, Julian Gavin, Coach Lundberg, Myles Munson and Coach Oldin.

## Genesee Country Village and Museum

On June 16th the fourth graders visited the Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumfordsburg, NY. The museum is a living history museum, that tells the story of 19th century American history in New York State. At the museum, the students were able to explore restored historic buildings and experience 19th century jobs like a potter, a tinsmith, a blacksmith, even a school teacher. In each building, docents, dressed for their part, explained the historical story that unfolded in and around their post. Artifacts such as spinning wheels, looms, butter churners, and corn grinders were also available to the students to see and in some instances touch. Foods that were made during this time period were also being cooked in several of the homes. This was truly a trip that brought learning to all of our senses!



Holden Kobielski, Brayden Nawojski and Andrew Jolley.



# CAYUGA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Learning Poetry in Nature

Mrs. Rejewski and Ms. Herdzik's first grade class has been expanding their writing skills with a bonus unit on poetry. The students dove into this unit, "looking at the world through poet's eyes." They have done a fantastic job growing as poets writing in a way that sparks the readers' emotions and imagination.



## Cayuga Kids Give Back

As part of their service project goal, Cayuga Kids collected items for the SPCA serving Erie County. Items collected include dog/cat leashes and collars, treats, bowls, food, blankets and towels. The items were delivered to the SPCA along with a check for \$375 from the Depew Teachers Organization. To end the year, in June Cayuga Kids supported the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation by purchasing bracelets and completing our JDRF dance party. Cayuga Kids got sponsors for their dance moves to support JDRF.

## Cruisin' on the Erie Canal and Lockport Locks

On June 10th the fourth graders visited the Lockport Locks and Erie Canal. Captain Mike steered the ship and took our students on a journey through the rich history that lives in our backyard. The students were also able to use hands-on replicas of the locks, to see how the engineers of the 1800s were able to literally figure out an uphill battle. The locks are a marvel of engineering that allowed boats to climb the Niagara Escarpment. The students also visited an original storage facility on the canal, which is now a museum, where they were able to use pulleys and see how cargo was loaded and unloaded from ships. They also learned how the idea of the canal got put into action, and how much the canal changed life and the economy in the United States. After our boat ride, and tour of the museum, the students enjoyed a picnic lunch by the canal.



*Cayuga Heights Librarian Tonya Bulas delivered the donations and check to the SPCA serving Erie County.*

## Thanking First Responders

Cayuga Kids put together appreciation baskets for first responders in our community. One class from every grade level brought in items like snacks, hand sanitizer, tissues, gift cards and bottled water to put a basket together. The list of honored first responders includes Depew Police, Depew/Lancaster Fire, Millard Fillmore Suburban Emergency Room and an immediate care facility. Some of the first responders visited Cayuga classrooms and some baskets were delivered. This is yet another way that Cayuga Kids serve their community. Go Cayuga Heights!

*The Lancaster Fire Company visited Mrs. Whyte's class.*







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## Cayuga Heights Field Day

Cayuga Heights students enjoyed a western-themed Field Day on June 17. In addition to fun field day games, students also jammed along with Glenn Colton, practiced line dancing for a Dance Party for diabetes awareness, learned about reptiles from Prehistoric World and jumped in three bounce houses!



## Dressing Down for a Cause

Throughout this school year, teachers and staff at Cayuga dressed down for a lot of local causes! Our “Dress Down Wednesdays” started in October, raising money for the Breast Care Network of Western New York. Our efforts were so successful, that we decided to continue donating for the remainder of the school year! Our donations were in conjunction with the Lighthouse team’s goal of doing service projects all year! In December we dressed down to donate to Children’s Hospital, in January and February our funds went to Gates Vascular Institute, In March and April we donated to The Depew Boys and Girls Club, in April our money went to the SPCA and our May/June donations went to JDRE. These five different organizations all hold special meaning to members of our staff and school community, so that is why they were chosen!