

Depew Union Free School District

District Newsletter

Summer Newsletter 2013



District Introduces 'Depew Well-Cats' Wellness Program

The Depew School District has introduced a wellness program for staff that features fun activities and information programs. The program goes by the name of Depew Well-Cats, a play of words on the district's athletic wildcat mascot.

Independent Health helped set up the wellness program and has been a resource for activity and program ideas for the district. Participating in the wellness program is voluntary and open to all Depew Schools' staff members.

A naming contest was held and staff submitted 12 ideas. Two teachers, Sal Carlino and Amy Buttino, both independently came up with the same idea of Depew Well-Cats, so they both won tickets to a Buffalo Bisons' game that were donated by Independent Health.

The first wellness activity was a four-week walking program that started May 20. The Step-Out Well-Cat Walking Challenge, which was voluntary and non-competitive, drew 187 district employees. District employees who signed up were given a pedometer to wear throughout the day and they recorded their steps on a daily and weekly basis. At the end of the four weeks, all walkers, regardless of their totals, were included in drawings for various prizes.

"Independent Health has a great list of activities and speakers and is helping us identify wellness programs that we feel our employees would like," said Susan



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Middle School Students Headed to Space Camp

Over summer vacation, six Depew Middle School students will learn what it's like to walk on the moon, build a two-stage model rocket, design spacecrafts and face other challenges in a Space Station Mission Complex.

They will attend five days of intense programs at the Space Academy in Huntsville, AL. The sessions will pull math, science and technology concepts into activities with rockets, astronomy, robotics and aeronautics.

Students Nicholas Sugg, Aaron Schaefer, Max Mages, Breonna Smith, Shanon O'Rawe and Megan Slocum were sponsored for the trip by the Northrop Grumman Foundation which will pay tuition and travel expenses. Their technology teacher, Aaron Nolan, was awarded an educator's scholarship from Northrop Grumman and will attend the Space Academy for Educators.

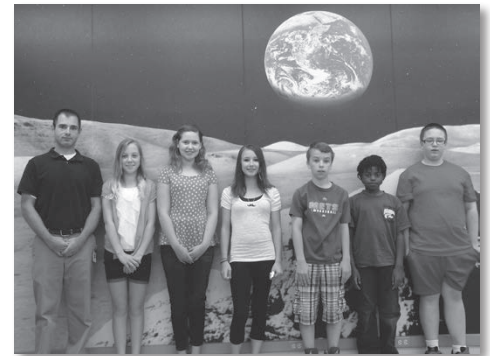
The Depew group is the only group chosen from the WNY area to attend this prestigious summer camp.

"The work force is experiencing shortages in engineers. This program helps to identify young students who have an aptitude for science and technology. By having them attend something like Space Camp, these students get to explore scientific and technical concepts through experiments that most local schools could not replicate," said Nolan.

Nolan will attend the Space Academy for Educators where he will be involved in simulated space missions, astronaut training simulators, and workshops and activities that include NASA content and are correlated to the National Science Education Standards. Through the program, he'll have access to a special website where he can adapt many of the workshop activities into classroom lessons for students.

"I teach a flight and aerospace unit for eighth-graders and I will put what I learn into my lessons," said Nolan.

"There is a lot of emphasis on real world applications of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in education. If participating in a program like this will allow a student to discover an interest they didn't know they had, that's a benefit," said Nolan.

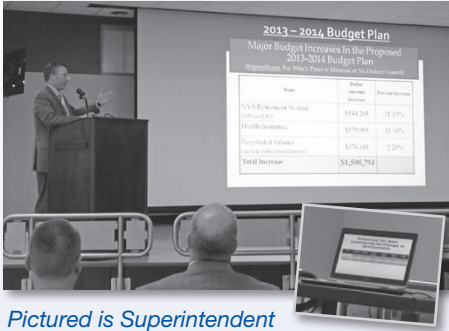


Watch the Gym Construction

This summer, district residents can watch the Cayuga Heights Elementary school's new gymnasium being built. A webcam, installed on the construction site, will stream live 24/7 during the construction phase. To watch the webcam, click the video camera image on the district website, www.depewschools.org. The gym addition was part of the 2011 Capital Renovation project approved by voters May 17, 2011. The gym addition will be at the rear of the school near the football fields.



Depew Union Free School District



Pictured is Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey at the budget public hearing.

Projection Screens Assist at Hearing

Two large projection screens and a speaker system in the renovated Depew High School cafeteria made it a little easier for residents to see and hear the budget hearing presentation in May. The public hearing marked the first time that the district had used the new audio visual equipment.

The two permanent projection screens and speaker system were part of the district's capital improvement project and greatly improve how the district can present information to students, as well as the community. Since the room will be used for large group instruction, Board of Education meetings and other school-sponsored events, it's a simple matter of connecting a laptop computer to the unit to view a presentation on the big screens.

District Introduces 'Depew Well-Cats' Wellness Program

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Arena, School Business Administrator. The Wellness Ambassador committee is made up of staff from various buildings and departments. As a group, their focus will be to decide which wellness activities to offer to staff. "As wellness ambassadors, our goal is to find out what the staff is interested in; whether it's seminars about controlling diabetes, high blood pressure, healthy cooking, or stress relief, and get their feedback," said Ms. Arena.

Watch future newsletter updates on this exciting new program.

Message from the Superintendent

Thanking Our Community, Sharing Our Priorities

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers, administrators and Board of Education we would like to thank the Depew School-Community for supporting the 2013 – 2014 fiscal plan with an approval rate of 64%. Once again, your vote of confidence indicates to us that you are in support of our goals and the direction that we have set for the Depew Union Free School District.

Furthermore, it is important to share with you that as a District we continued our efforts, this past school year, to identify strengths and areas of concern within our programming. It is critical to understand that our continual focus is to monitor specific goals for improvement and thus design our resources around achieving those goals. Over the past three years, several themes have emerged as priorities, those items are as follows:

- Student achievement, specifically the achievement of student sub-groups, pursuant to the No Child Left Behind requirements and New York State Standards;
- Financing public education in Depew, particularly related to the continual loss of state aid and the maintenance of the instructional program;
- The examination of enrollment, class size, the assignment of students to schools and building utilization;
- Bolstering relationships with parents in the education of their children;
- District organization and the study of current roles and responsibilities of the administrative staff;
- Negotiated contracts with bargaining units and the associated short term and legacy financial obligations;
- Maintaining the beautiful facilities that we have over the long term;
- Special education, its increasing costs and issues related to various instructional delivery models for our special needs population; and
- Fostering partnerships with the municipalities and neighboring school districts.

I can assure you that as we enter into the 2013-2014 school year, the leadership team of the District will take every opportunity to continue to address these emerging issues in order to continue to achieve our District's mission, which is, ***"To challenge and inspire students to achieve at the highest level and become responsible citizens"***. With your continued support we will be able to celebrate our successes, zero in on the issues affecting education and ultimately become a school district of excellence.

Enjoy a safe and relaxing summer season with your families and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Superintendent



Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

A Look Ahead to the 2013-14 School Year

As we wrap up the school year, it is important to revisit the major changes that are occurring in New York State for all our students in K-12 classrooms. Our district will be fully implementing the Common Core Standards in all subject areas during the 2013-14 school year. This requires much professional development, support and clarification for everyone: teachers, administrators and parents. The Common Core State Standards ask teachers to make 12 major “shifts” or (changes) in their classrooms – six shifts in English language arts and six shifts in Mathematics. These changes may be tough at first as students and teachers adjust to higher expectations. The shifts are as follows:

English Language Arts/Literacy

Read as much non-fiction as fiction
Learn about the world by reading
Read more challenging material
Talk about reading using “evidence”
Write about texts using “evidence”
Know more vocabulary words

Mathematics

Build skills across grade levels
Learn more about less
Use math facts easily
Think fast AND solve problems
Use math in the real world
Really know it, really do it

Our district is committed to helping our parents become familiar with the shifts and actively engage in their child’s education. Our Comprehensive District Planning Team has identified several key activities that will be implemented at all three of our buildings next year to enhance and support parent involvement. These promise to be fun and informative at the same time.

Key focus areas will be:

1. Services and opportunities we can offer to assist parents in supporting student learning at home.
2. Celebrating the quality work of our students and providing explanations about the standards, curriculum, assessments and other academic requirements.

Our overarching goal is to create a DIY network of parents and students, helping to develop the tools needed, so every child in our district is successful. Please watch for our Welcome Back newsletter in the fall with specific information, dates and times for these exciting opportunities. Until then, have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely

Susan B. Frey, Assistant Superintendent



Honoring Mothers

Prekindergarten students in the YMCA program housed at Cayuga Heights Elementary School celebrated Mother’s Day with a special tea party.

Retirement

The Depew Union Free School District would like to recognize the following retiree for her service, dedication and commitment to our district.



- Joan Songin, 27 years of service
Bus Aide for the Transportation Department

Top Three Students Earn Superintendents Association Award



Each year the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association honors the top three students in each of the public and private schools in Erie and Niagara counties. This year, Jessica Addesa (valedictorian), Maeghan Glynn (salutatorian) and Monica Zeisz (third in class) were honored at the 2013 Erie-Niagara Scholastic Dinner held at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens on Thursday, May 23. The students were given a specially designed crystal buffalo for their achievement. Pictured are Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey, Jessica Addesa, Maeghan Glynn, Monica Zeisz, DHS Principal Carol Townsend and Board President John Spencer.

Depew Union Free School District

'Bricks for Scholarships' Program Starts

Pay tribute to your family or a business by sponsoring an inscribed commemorative brick for the Depew Schools' Athletic Memorial located at the far end of the athletic fields. The 6 inch by 9 inch bricks will be placed within the paved area near the three monuments by the flag pole.

Bricks purchased between September and December will be installed in the spring and will be available for viewing by the third week in May. Bricks purchased from January through June will be installed in the fall and will be available for viewing on Homecoming Weekend in October.

All donors to the Bricks for Scholarships program will be recognized annually in June at the Senior Sports Recognition Awards Night and published on the district website.

All proceeds from the commemorative brick program will provide annual scholarships to senior student-athletes who are continuing their education after graduation from Depew High School.

Levels of support include:

Blue & White	\$50
Wildcat Club	\$100
50-Yard Line	\$250
Red Zone	\$500
Touchdown	\$1,000

Call Dana at the athletic office at 686-5078 for more information. Information is also posted on the district's website, under the Athletics tab.



Board Recognizes Parent Musical Volunteers

A group of 17 parents who went above and beyond as volunteers behind-the-scenes at high school musical productions received the inaugural Board of Education Recognition Award.

Citing their generosity of time and talent, they were nominated by Diane Sullivan, high school music teacher who produces the annual musicals.

"They sacrifice up to two months of Saturdays, at least two weeks of evenings to work and more time at home creating costumes, sets and other decorations," she wrote in her nomination. "These people came to us as parents of students in recent musicals and they return year after year even though most of their children have already graduated. These parents are proof of what a community can achieve when people work together."

The award was presented at the May 28 board meeting. It was the first given under the newly established recognition program that honors individuals or teams whose extraordinary performance exemplifies excellence in education and goes above and beyond the norm.

Honored for their volunteerism in the following categories were:

Donald Needham, Gary Kent, Joseph Szczesniak, Joseph Hayes, Ronald Veiders, Joseph Vona and David Sheff for Set Construction.

Sharon Bistoff, Liz Kent, Dana Mang, Cindy Veiders, Candi Grzybek and Gabrielle Miller for Costumes.

Tammmy Lail, John Lail, Cherie Spencer and Eva Stamataros for Make-up, Hair, Refreshments, and Backstage Assistance.

"I have worked with many wonderful volunteers from our community over the years," wrote Sullivan. "This current group, many of who have worked on our shows for a number of years, may indeed represent the most caring, dedicated group we have ever had the pleasure of knowing. They expect nothing in return for their tireless efforts. They work side by side with our DHS staff and students for the pure love of facilitating a positive school experience for our young performers."

"As our students become adults with children of their own, they will no doubt still remember the faces of the parents who helped them backstage with a costume crisis, showed them how to safely use a set piece that was built for them, gave them words of encouragement, cheered them on and applauded them. Hopefully, our students will go on to do similar good works," Sullivan wrote.

Depew Union Free School District

Prekindergarten Registration

If you need to register your child for the Universal Prekindergarten program in the Depew Union Free School District, registration materials are online at www.depewschools.org. Look under the Community tab for the Universal Prekindergarten webpage.

There are two providers for this free program: Lord of Life and the YMCA. Currently, slots are full at Lord of Life, but there is availability at the YMCA. There are a limited number of slots available for the wrap around day care. The YMCA classes are held at Cayuga Heights Elementary, 1780 Como Park Boulevard, Depew. Morning (8:30-11 a.m.) and afternoon (Noon-2:30 p.m.)

Our providers have extensive experience working with early childhood education and are familiar with our community. The program will operate on the Depew UFSD calendar and will run daily. Classes are two and one half hours. All sessions will be taught by certified New York State teachers.

To register for the UPK classes provided by the YMCA please see John Marino, Program Director, 31 Central Avenue, Lancaster. Phone, 684-2395. You must personally submit registration materials weekdays, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Documents you will need to register include: proper proof of residency, birth certificate and child's immunization records and parent picture ID such as a driver's license.

Sale of Terrace Request for Proposals

The Board of Education of Depew Union Free School District invites the submission of sealed bids for the purchase of Terrace Elementary School located at 591 Terrace Boulevard, Depew, New York. Proposals must be received by August 27 at 2 p.m. by the District Clerk. Sealed bids will be received and opened on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 2 p.m. in the District Offices, 5201 S. Transit Road, Depew, New York, 14043. Interested bidders may obtain specifications in the District Office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or by downloading the document using the 'RFP Sale of Terrace' link on the district website homepage, www.depewschools.org.

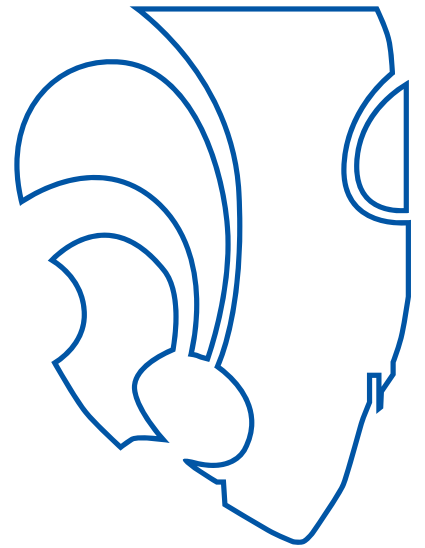
Year End Activities at the High School



Congratulations Depew 2013 Graduates!



Cut and color your bookmark!



READ a GOOD
book this summer!



Cayuga Heights Elementary



Fourth-Grader Wins Arbor Day Poster Contest

Stephen Kaus, a student in Mrs. Schebell's fourth-grade class at Cayuga Heights Elementary, was awarded Boys First Place in the Town of Lancaster's Arbor Day Poster Contest entitled "What Trees Do for You and the Community". Stephen's artwork displayed the unique ways trees help us, from giving off oxygen and taking in carbon dioxide to providing us with food, shelter and recreation. Stephen was honored at the Town's Arbor Day Celebration at Westwood Park on April 27 and received a Kindle Fire tablet for his creativity. Congratulations, Stephen!



Magic Tree House Project Takes Students to Far Away Places

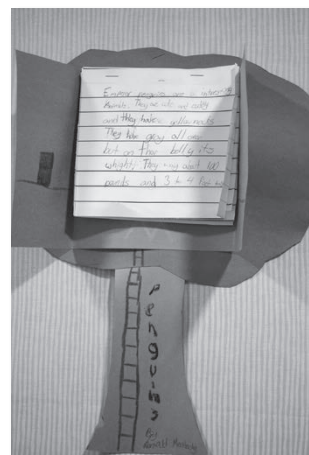
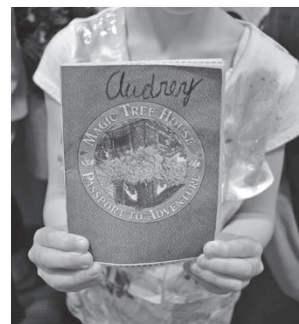
The students in Mrs. Peszko and Mrs. George's classroom have been immersed in the Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne. The students have been working on many different skills related to the new Common Core Curriculum. Some of these skills are comparing books in a series written by the same author and containing the same characters, analyzing text detail in writing, discussing character traits and analyzing what motivates character's feelings to change throughout the story.

Each student received a Magic Tree House passport to track their reading progress. After a student independently read a Magic Tree House story, they visited the website, magictreehouse.com, and took a short quiz to demonstrate their understanding of the novel. Then they received a stamp in their passports.



Students also tracked the places that the novels took them on a large map in the classroom titled "Reading Takes You Places". As a whole class, students read the novels "Christmas in Camelot", "Eve of the Emperor Penguin", and "A Perfect Time for Pandas". While they were reading, students put reading comprehension strategies to work and learned that "reading is thinking". Students used reading strategies, such as insert notations, to demonstrate their thinking and understanding of the texts. Also, at the end of the unit, students created a book jacket for their favorite Magic Tree House novel. The book jackets contained an illustration, title, author, summary and a biography of Mary Pope Osborne. Students really let their creativity run wild during this activity. Pictured are students by their book jacket designs which were displayed in the library.

Mrs. Peszko and Mrs. George collaborated on the project with Mrs. Bulas, the school librarian. Using library resources, students completed a research project based on a location or animal from one of the novels they had read. Mrs. Bulas contacted Mary Pope Osborne to let her know about the wonderful activities that were happening in room 235. With Mrs. Bulas's guidance, Cayuga Heights was the winner of a grant from Mary Pope Osborne, which was used to purchase sets of novels.



Cayuga Heights Elementary

Fifth-Graders Win Trip to Sabres' Practice

Cayuga Heights Elementary School students participated in the Buffalo Sabres/Perry's Ice Cream reading competition "Shoot! Score! Read More!" Students in Mrs. Kohl's and Mrs. Quintilone's fifth-grade class were announced as the winners of this challenge and were treated to a trip downtown to see the Sabres practice at the First Niagara Center on March 11.

On their visit, students got a complete tour of the arena, were able to watch a practice and were treated to pizza and ice cream. A highlight of the experience was meeting some of the team's players including Steve Ott, Patrick Kaleta, Jordan Leopold, Cody Hodgson, Marcus Foligno, Mike Weber and Christian Ehrhoff. The team gave each student some Sabres' gear, a player autograph and a hockey puck from the day's practice. With the help of Perry's Ice Cream and the Buffalo Sabres, this class made memories that will last a lifetime.



Laughing while Learning in the Library



During a short poetry unit, third-grade students wrote tongue twisters in the library. They were given a letter of the alphabet and had to answer Who, What, When, Where, and Why questions using alliteration with the letter they were given. After completing the writing during a library class, Mrs. Dioguardi's students created a final product to hang in the library. Each student was photographed and they wrote their tongue twister on a paper tongue. Laughter was heard throughout the library as students and faculty enjoyed reading them.

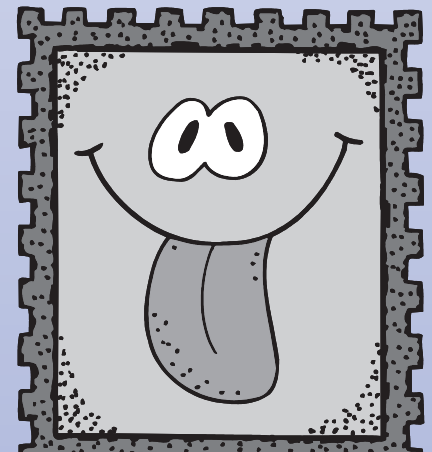
Fourth-Graders Recreate History in a Play

Benjamin Franklin invented the Franklin stove, or did he? Mrs. Jasinski's fourth-grade students questioned this theory after reading the novel "Ben and Me" by Robert Lawson. Amos, a house mouse, retold the account of Benjamin Franklin's success through a narrative fictional text based on historical context.

After learning about the American Revolution in social studies, the students read the novel and recreated the story through their own performance. They received guidance on the activities from Miss Scott, their student teacher from the University at Buffalo. Working in small groups, the students were assigned specific chapters. They wrote their own scripts, designed their own backdrops and props, and held their own performance in the classroom.

"Ben and Me" is a great, humorous story for young readers using historical facts in a work of fiction.

Bringing creativity into the classroom allows students to express themselves and showcase what they have learned.



Depew Middle School



Eighth Graders Enjoy Shocking Lesson!

Eighth-graders in Robert Pilon's science classes have been learning about various types of energy including electricity. In a recent lesson, students had the opportunity to create circuits. An electrical circuit is a pathway for electricity to flow through and most circuits consist of four parts; a power source such as batteries, wires to move the electricity from one part of the circuit to another part, a device that uses the electricity called a load, and lastly a switch that can be used to open or close the circuit. To illustrate a circuit in a unique way, the students in the science classes used their hands and arms instead of the commonly used metal wires to create a human circuit! The students eagerly gathered around hand-in-hand creating a large loop with each end of the loop grasping a wire from a small hand crank generator. When the generator was turned each student received a small amount of electrical current passing through their hands and arms. This was felt as a mild electrical shock and proved that the circuit was a complete, which allowed the electricity to flow through the human circuit they had created! Pictured are Mr. Pilon with students Tyara Connor, Ryan Martin and Rory Arne.



Freedom in America Winners

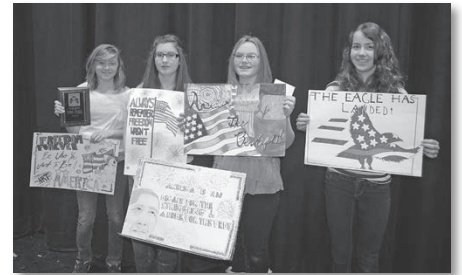
Freedom, Constitutional rights and appreciating the privileges we have in the United States were all common themes from middle school students competing Friday, March 22 in the Depew Middle School Freedom in America essay and poster contest.

Eighth-grader Mikayla Hyman earned first place in the essay contest, received \$150 and a plaque. Second place was given to Kayla Bosworth, who received \$100. Runners-up each received \$75 – Brandon Burka, Samantha Szykowny and Drake Busdiecker. Each finalist was required to read their essay in front of a panel of judges and the entire middle school population during an assembly.



The contest, formerly known as the SERTOMA Freedom in America essay and poster contest, celebrated its 41st year this year. Students in seventh- and eighth-grade submitted essays and posters revolving around the theme of Freedom in America. Topics ranged from American history to contemporary topics such as volunteerism, the military or voting rights.

Seventh-grader Taylor Hale won first prize in the poster contest and received \$100 and a plaque. Victoria Haymes earned the second place prize of \$75. Runners-up each received \$50 – Sarah Sheff, Madison Ceccarelli and Katie Steckstor.



Joe Pagano, middle school art teacher, coordinated the poster portion of the contest which was judged by the high school art teachers. Sal Carlino, middle school social studies teacher, coordinated the essay portion of the contest, and planned and organized the day's event.

For the essay portion, dozens of students submitted essays and the top 20 were chosen to move onto the next round. A second round of review narrowed the field from 20 to the top five finalists. The judges for the essays were school administrators, Board of Education members, members of the Depew and Lancaster communities, and a DHS senior who was a past winner of the contest.

Learning About our Great Lakes

Sixth-graders from Depew Middle School took part in several "watershed lab activities" with Great Lakes Educator Brittany DiLeo. Students participated in a lab which illustrated how the water cycle works. Students "traveled throughout the water cycle" as a molecule of water, finding out it operates more like a web rather than a cycle.

Additionally, Ms. DiLeo came back to conduct two enrichment classes for Mrs. DeMarco's science classes. Students worked in groups to act as rival environmental consultants hired to study four kinds of parks and ponds. They made recommendations on the best ways to clean up the ponds and improve the parks. Each group tried to make the best argument for grant funding.



Depew Middle School

Depew Dominates TECH WARS 2013

Depew Middle and High School recently competed against other Western New York schools at the seventh annual Tech Wars competition held at ECC South. The competition allowed students from the area to showcase their skills in various design and engineering challenges.

Depew Middle School swept the competition and finished one, two and three in the Middle School mini-marshmallow catapult competition. For this challenge, students had to design and build a catapult that was evaluated on design, technical drawings, furthest distance and accuracy. The group of Matthew O'Hern and Mitchel DelConte brought home first place. James Steckstor, Drake Busdiecker and Jackson Czuba took home second, while Aaron Schaefer single-handedly brought home third.

Jackson Czuba and Alexander Wysocki competed in the balsa wood bridge design challenge. Czuba's bridge held an impressive 21 pounds before being destroyed, while Wysocki's held a respectable 18 pounds.

The High School also took home some hardware. The group of Mike Wagner, Adam Steiner and Cody Lezynski took first place in the High School mini-marshmallow competition with their trebuchet design. Eric Wagner designed and built a wind turbine that produced the most amount of energy, 120,000 milliwatts. Chris Brossard also had a very respectable showing in the CO2 car design challenge as well.



The Middle School team, front row (l to r) Jackson Czuba, Aaron Schaefer, Mitchel Delconte, Mr. Nolan. Back row (l to r) Alex Wysocki, Drake Busdiecker, James Steckstor, Matt O'Hern.



The High School team (l to r) Adam Steiner, Mike Wagner, Cody Lezynski, Mr. Cooper.

Technology Program Receives Mini-Grant Again

For the second consecutive year, the technology education program at Depew Middle School received a mini grant from Northrop Grumman Amherst Systems to conduct science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) experiments.

Teacher Aaron Nolan said the \$300 grant this year will be used to purchase power supplies for a unit on electricity that will include the eighth-grade students building electrical circuits and learning about amps and multi-meters.

Last year a \$250 grant was used to fund experiments for eighth-grade students who designed, built, and tested balsa wood gliders in their technology class to reinforce the principles of flight and aircraft design.

The technology department thanks Northrop Grumman Amherst Systems for their support and emphasis on the importance of STEM education.

Depew Language Students Win Awards

Several Depew students were honored at the WNY Foreign Language Educators' Council STAR awards on June 4 for their outstanding achievements in foreign language classes.

Eighth-graders Andrew Nietopski and Samantha Szykowny each earned an outstanding student award. Sophomore Marla Hairston earned two awards; outstanding student



Middle School STAR recipients (l to r) Andrew Nietopski, French teacher Kelly Harshany, Samantha Szykowny.

award and the high school division



From l to r: Marla Hairston and Hannah Gullo

poster contest winner. Senior Hannah Gullo earned three awards; outstanding student, grand prize poster winner and the 2013 Philip A. Fulvi Memorial Scholarship granted by the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers. Sydney Kaczmarek, an eighth-grader at Depew Middle School, was the middle school division poster contest winner. Each poster winner received a cash prize.



Sydney Kaczmarek

Depew High School

Exchanging Friendships & Learning



Thirty students from France got to live the life of a Depew student during a recent exchange trip. The French students and their four chaperones live in Dijon, France and stayed with Depew students and their families during their visit. The French students spent the week of May 12 “shadowing” their student hosts at Depew Middle and High schools.

While the French students were here, they presented a play in French and enjoyed the end of the year Language Other Than English (LOTE) Clubs’ party. Prior to the visit, many student hosts corresponded with their French “e-pals” in anticipation of the visit. The exchange was a great experience for all the students who were able to create new international friendships.

Literature Comes Alive on Stage



Students in Mr. Endres’ AP English class enjoyed a field trip in March to the Irish Classical Theater in downtown Buffalo to see “Dancing at Lughnasa”. The Tony Award winning play written by Ireland’s greatest living playwright, Brian Friel, is about a struggling family in 1936. The senior students enjoyed seeing a piece of literature they had studied in class come alive on stage.

Students Conduct DNA Experiments

Handling and testing DNA samples usually happens in high tech labs, but Depew High School science students got the chance in early May to work with DNA samples to conduct a paternity test and other experiments.



During an in-house field trip, Cornell University scientist Mike Yerky, Ph.D. spent three days at the high school guiding students through various experiments with DNA so they could conduct a paternity test on DNA samples.

Because DNA strands are so tiny they cannot be seen, even with a microscope, scientists use a gel electrophoresis process to make them visible. Dr. Yerky guided the students step-by-step to conduct their own gel electrophoresis experiments in the classroom.

Dr. Yerky guided the students step-by-step to conduct their own gel electrophoresis experiments in the classroom.

If it all sounds fairly complex, it was. Students worked in teams and had to be

very precise to use enzymes to cut the DNA, set up the gel, insert the DNA sample into the gel, connect it to an electrical current and apply a stain in order to make the DNA visible. Use this link to see a virtual lab of the gel electrophoresis process. <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/labs/gel/>

Dr. Yerky’s visit happened because teachers Jennifer Cordon

and Hillary Weir attended a workshop at the Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers (CIBT). Through their workshop attendance they became eligible for a visit from Dr. Yerky, who is the CIBT Outreach Coordinator.

Over the three-day span, he worked with two classes of ninth-graders in Living Environment classes and a forensics class of juniors and seniors. The students spent the entire day in the science class on the experiments.

“It gave them the feeling of what a scientist would actually do. The students were here over a sustained timeframe of eight periods. This was unlike any lab experiment they have ever conducted,” said Mrs. Cordon.



Depew High School

State Senator Holds Lunchtime Conversation with Students

The Depew High School cafeteria was in the spotlight in February as state Senator Patrick Gallivan visited the school. Barbara Albi, Food Service Director of Depew UFSD, invited the senator and his aide, Todd Aldinger, to have lunch with some of the students involved in Student Senate and

to see menu choices available to students under the new cafeteria regulations. The lunchtime conversation included seniors Lauren Betzig and Joelle Kaczmarczyk, juniors Denis Vanini and Sabrina



Kwiatkowski, sophomores Sara Keller and Marla Hairston, freshmen Steven Zehler and Maddie Petherick, Superintendent Jeffrey R. Rabey, High School Principal Carol Townsend and Mrs. Albi. They went through the cafeteria line to get their lunches and back to the superintendent's conference room for a question and answer session. Sen. Gallivan answered a number of questions from the students about legislation and explained his job duties. He discussed how he made decisions on pending legislation. He also discussed the process of making a law and the research that is required before a law is finalized.

Mardi Gras Celebration

Members of the DHS French Club celebrated Mardi Gras at an after-school party featuring crepes and chocolate fondue. Students learned about this cultural event, shared beads and made masks in the traditional colors of green, gold and purple.



Russo Inducted into NTHS

Depew High School student Robyn Russo was among 138 high school students, representing 19 local school districts, from across Erie 1 BOCES' three career and technical centers inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) in March.

Russo, a senior, is enrolled in the Introduction to Nursing program at Harkness Career & Technical Center. The mission of the NTHS is to honor student achievement and leadership, promote educational excellence, and enhance career opportunities for its NTHS membership.



Townsend Accepts SAANYS Award

On May 16, Depew High School Principal Carol Townsend accepted the High School Principal of the Year



award from the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS). Mrs. Townsend was nominated by her peers in Region 12 which covers the eight western New York counties.

Mrs. Townsend has been principal at Depew High School for the last ten years. She has also been actively involved at district level committees including CDEP, Shared Decision Making, Safety, Building Projects, Academic Advisory, Instructional Leadership, and Administrative Leadership to name a few. Mrs. Townsend is also an active member of the Zonta club, a worldwide service organization to advance the status of women through education and community service.

DHS Ethnic Dessert Fair

In celebration of Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Week, the DHS French and Spanish clubs

held their annual Ethnic Dessert Fair. Members of both clubs prepared hundreds of international desserts which were enjoyed by all students during lunches on March 5.



DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

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Athlete Honors

Lauren Yaskow
and Kaylin Carter,
both seniors on the
varsity softball team,
earned All WNY
Scholar Athlete
Honorable Mention.
Congratulations!



The district also congratulates the following winter teams earning Scholar Athlete status: Boys Basketball - 95.386; Girls Basketball - 93.371; Boys Bowling - 93.526; Girls Bowling - 93.336; Boys Indoor Track - 95.498; Girls Indoor Track - 97.042; Boys Swim - 93.380; Wrestling - 91.226. To qualify for the Scholar Athlete Award, a varsity team, using a designated number of members, must have an overall grade point average of 90% or above.

Three Inducted into the Lancaster Youth Hall of Fame

Three Depew High School students were inducted in May into the Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors youth who are positive role models, help others and show responsible behaviors.

Honored were Hannah Gullo, Garret Zmich and Amanda Musial, all seniors. Hannah, who will attend Daemen College for French language education, was nominated by DHS Principal Carol Townsend. Garret Zmich, who will attend Niagara University for international studies, was nominated by Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey. Amanda, who will attend D'Youville College to study nursing, was nominated by Townsend.



Photo courtesy of the Lancaster Youth Bureau