

Depew Union Free School District

District Newsletter

Winter Newsletter 2013



Fifth-Grade Geography Bee

Cayuga Heights held their second annual fifth-grade National Geographic geography bee in January. A preliminary test was given to all fifth-graders and the top 10 students moved on to the competition.



This year's top 10 were Zachary Plew, James Jerozal, Alex Mirabella, Ian Herbst, Devin Connelly, Chloe Parkinson, Morgan Balbuzoski, Collin Zlotek, Madison Catalano, and Justin Cwiklinski. The students competed in all areas of geography including U.S. and world geography, geographic comparisons, continents, map skills and world cultures.

The 2013 geography bee winners were Zachary Plew with third place, Alex Mirabella with second place and Justin Cwiklinski with first place. Justin will now complete the qualifying test for the New York State tournament. Good luck to Justin and congratulations again to all of this year's participants.

'Inspired' Gallery Showcases Student Art

High school art students can now share their work with fellow students every day in the "inspired" art gallery. Located in space near the front foyer known as the "fishbowl", the gallery features various paintings, sculptures and textile pieces done by students who are enrolled in a variety of art classes.

In the past, artwork was displayed in two showcases in the front hall. With the gallery, there is no limit to the size of the piece or the number of pieces that can be exhibited.

"We selected the name of our art gallery to reflect the fundamental mission of our department, which is to inspire our students. Our goal is to challenge them to think creatively, communicate visually and find a way to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas," said Jennifer Hatfield, art teacher.

Some of the pieces recently on display included handmade purses, portraits, watercolors and a unique life-size sculpture made of plastic wrap. The pieces will be changed periodically throughout the year.

Gina Griffo, a junior, has two pieces in the gallery and she said other students have told her they love the gallery. "It is a place where you can see the best art work and who actually did it," she said. For her, the gallery is important because it shows the creativity of students. "It's something different and fun and it's special," she said.

Ms. Hatfield said that regardless of a student's future aspirations, their experiences in the art room will help them discover a little more about themselves and the person they want to be.



Commemorative Bricks Are Available

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. The proceeds will be put toward student scholarships and awards.

Levels of support include:

Wildcat Club	\$50 to \$99
50-Yard Line	\$100 to 999
Red Zone	\$1,000 and over

Call Dana at the athletic office at 686-5078 for more information. Information will also be posted on the district's website at www.depewschools.org.



Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

FAQs about Standards-Based Report Cards

In response to the changes in the New York State Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) and the new state assessments, Cayuga Heights Elementary School has implemented the use of a new CCLS standards-based report card for the 2012-13 school year.

Why is the District moving to a new report card?

The District has implemented new curriculum to meet the common core state standards in ELA and Mathematics. The new report card will provide parents, teachers and students with more accurate information about students' progress toward meeting these standards. By monitoring the concrete skills and knowledge listed on the report card, we will know whether all students are being exposed to the same curriculum and learning what they should in each grade.

The new system should help us close the gap in achievement among different groups of students. Parents also will be more aware of what their children should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level.

Report cards will be generated four times each year to provide parents with more frequent information about their child's academic progress.

See bottom of page for a chart identifying students reading levels that includes the two measures as noted.

Reading Levels

ATOS level: ATOS is a readability formula that uses four factors to estimate the difficulty of books and other texts. **ATOS Factors** = Average Sentence Length + Average Word Length + Vocabulary Grade Level + The Number of Words in a Book. Your child's ATOS score tells you the difficulty of reading your child is able to achieve. A child's ATOS score will be on a scale of 0-1028. Your child's teacher will test your child to obtain the ATOS score using the STAR Early Literacy or STAR Reading Assessment.

Guided Reading Level: In the classroom your child participates in guided reading in a small group. This work time gives teachers information about your child that allows them to design lessons to meet their needs in the area of reading. The guided reading level is on an A-Z scale and as your child progresses in the area of reading they will move up the scale.

How are standards-based report cards different from traditional report cards?

On many traditional report cards, students receive one grade for reading and one for math. On a standards-based report card these subject areas are divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each standard in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

For the subjects of science, social studies, art, technology, music and physical education, students are graded based on overall marking period achievement. Feedback is also provided for the characteristics

of successful learners. This section is used to assess social skills and work habits which are positive behaviors that lead to success at work, home and in life.

How does the new report card measure my child's academic progress?

The new report card will use four different performance levels to indicate a child's progress toward meeting the end-of-year New York and Common Core State standards. The table below offers a detailed explanation of what each level means.

Performance Levels Chart

4 = EXCEEDS PROFICIENCY (EP)

Student exceeds grade level expectations by independently applying and utilizing concepts and skills.

- A student earning a 4 independently uses and applies knowledge in ways that demonstrate higher level thinking skills
- Typically, few students perform at this level

3 = MEETS PROFICIENCY (3)

Student demonstrates grade level expectations for concepts and skills.

- A student earning a 3 demonstrates understanding of grade level skills and concepts and requires minimal support
- A MP throughout the school year indicates strong, excellent work at grade level
- The MP mark is the goal for the grade level and should be celebrated

2 = DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY (DP)

Student is progressing toward basic understanding of grade level concepts and skills with assistance.

- A student earning a 2 has not yet met the standards but is progressing toward achieving skills and learning end-of-year grade level concepts. Some support from teachers, parents and/or peers is needed
- A DP indicates ongoing growth

1 = NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (NI)

(Not Yet Making Sufficient Progress)

Student shows an emerging awareness of concepts and skills.

- A student earning a 1 is currently not meeting the grade level standards. The student demonstrates an inconsistent understanding and application of knowledge
- Intervention is needed from teachers and parents

Students also may receive a N/A mark to indicate that the curriculum related to a particular standard has not yet been taught or assessed during a particular marking period.

Continued on page 3

Grade Level	K				1								2							3					4			5		6
STAR (ATOS) Level	0-18				19-240								241-439							440-618					619-780			781-020		921-1028
Guided Reading Level	AA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z			

Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Superintendent Helping to Rebuild the Boys and Girls Club

On the very first day of the New Year, the Depew School Community was faced with an overwhelming adversity as a fire ravaged the beloved Depew Boys and Girls Club. This was devastating as the Club has, for so many years, served our boys and girls.

The mission of the Boys and Girls Club is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Nationally, there are nearly 4,000 Clubs that serve 4 million young boys and girls. It is our duty as adults, within our close-knit community, to preserve this mission and ensure that our boys and girls have the same opportunities as those in the past.

As a Superintendent, Club members' father and a former member myself, I am very passionate about the experience that the Club provides our young people. Speaking from experience, the Club played a very important role in my own adolescent life. Growing up in the small community of Holland, New York, we didn't have a lot to keep us occupied, but the one fundamental activity that kept us busy and focused was to be a part of the Boys and Girls Club. I can vividly remember walking to the Club, every day, as soon as school let out. We would be met, behind that blue door, by Harry Kline, an activities coordinator. Harry, as we affectionately called him, would always greet us with a smile and fun activities for us to participate in, from organized sports to just fun and games. As teenage kids we could bounce from one activity to another; from floor hockey to a game of bumper pool to ping pong. That time in our lives was so important, as we forged lifelong friendships and had a special place, off of the streets, to build our character and our future.

I will always be indebted to the Boys and Girls Club, as that special place with the special people, which allowed me to grow as a young person in a safe and nurturing environment. As adults, we now owe it to our children, to continue to provide that same safe and nurturing opportunity.

Over the next several months there will be many opportunities for everyone in the community to pitch in and rebuild the Depew Boys and Girls Club; from participating in fundraisers to donating time in the clean up and rebuilding of the Club. The boys and girls of the Depew school community need your help, it is time to pitch in and support them.

I encourage you to visit the Depew Boys and Girls Club's website at <http://depewlancasterbgc.org> for updates on their progress and opportunities for you to help them, as they honor their past and build their future.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey
Superintendent



Veteran Receives High School Diploma

Ronald Bless, a veteran of the Korean Conflict, received a special document last November – his high school diploma – nearly 62 years after he left school in 1951. The diploma presentation was made by Carol Townsend, high school principal, during the Nov. 20 Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Bless is eligible to receive his diploma as a result of NYS Education Law 305 (29) that makes veterans who left high school before earning their diploma and who joined the military during wartimes eligible to receive a high school diploma.

Mr. Bless contacted the district last fall because he had heard that certain veterans who left school to join the military were eligible for their diplomas. He wanted to know if he could receive his high school diploma. He explained that although he had his GED and felt very fortunate that he had a successful career, it was still important to him to receive his high school diploma. He stressed that it was even more important that he send a message to his grandchildren about how important this achievement is and what it means to him.

He and his wife Shirley, who passed away eight years ago, raised three children, Mark William, Larry Dean and Sherry Ann. Mr. Bless has four grandchildren and one great grandchild. One of his grandchildren, Ryan Eisensmith, a sixth-grader at Depew Middle School, attended the board meeting to see his grandfather receive his diploma.

The district was honored to follow through with Mr. Bless's wishes and award him a diploma.

Education Law section 305(29), (29-a) and (29-b) states any veteran of the armed forces who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam War, and who was unable, for any reason, to complete a secondary education, may be awarded a local diploma based on knowledge and experience gained while in service.

FAQs about Standards-Based Report Cards *Continued from page 2.*

How can I take advantage of the new report card to help my child?

Standards-based report cards provide detailed information about how your child is doing in each subject. You will see whether students need extra assistance in certain areas or when they need to be challenged even more. By using these clearly defined standards, teachers and parents can work together to ensure that students succeed.

The National Parent-Teacher Association has created a "Parents' Guide to Student Success" for each grade level that offers specific tips for how to support your child's learning at home. These guides are available on the district web site, www.depewschools.org, under the Academics tab.

Report cards are designed to communicate with parents — they should be helpful and easy to understand. If you have questions or concerns about your child's report card, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Cayuga Heights Elementary



Sweaters at CHE

Faculty at Cayuga Heights Elementary wore their holiday spirit on their sleeves in December when they participated in a festive sweater day. Faculty was given the choice to wear their most decorative holiday clothing.

The finalists are pictured (l to r); Mrs. Hyman, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Andolina, Mrs. Donnelly (who won the Most Festive award), Mrs. Bulas, Mrs. Fortune and Mrs. Smith.

Feasts and Gingerbread

First-grade students in Mrs. Stachewicz's class spent November and December getting in the holiday spirit with a traditional Thanksgiving feast and gingerbread house festivities. With the help and involvement from Mrs. Stachewicz, their families and friends, these students were able to celebrate with each other and experience the togetherness of the holidays in their classroom.



Local Author Visits Cayuga Heights

As an elementary school teacher for 33 years, Deborah Schnell has lots of experience teaching young children. In particular, teaching them to tie their shoes. Her method worked, so she decided to share it by writing a book, *Sydney Bunny Learns to Tie*.

Since retiring two years ago from the Pioneer Central School District, she became a visiting author going to local schools to read her book and do an activity with children. In mid-January, she spent two days at Cayuga Heights Elementary School visiting prekindergarten, kindergarten and first-grade classes. She brought a giant laced shoe with her to demonstrate how it is done.



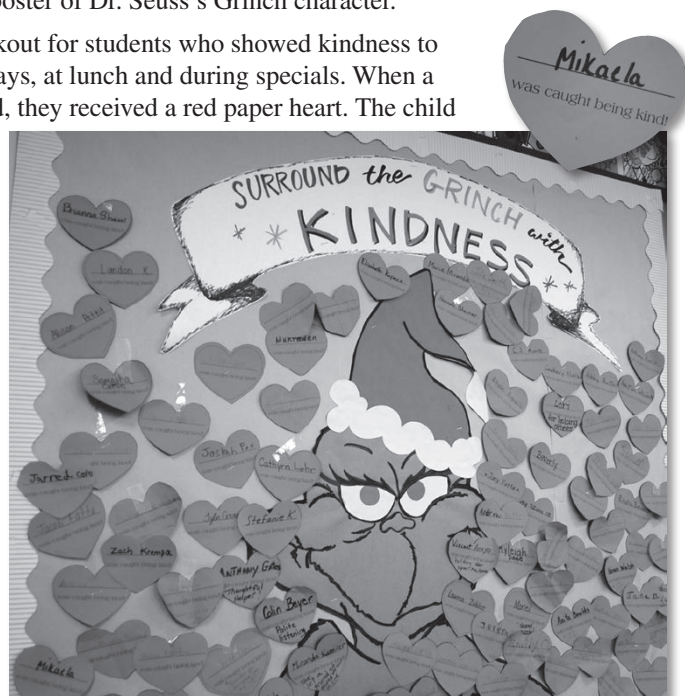
Her book, *Sydney Bunny Learns to Tie*, is the story of a bunny whose actions while playing in the woods follow the hand movements a child should do to tie a shoelace; when to cross laces, when to make a loop, when to pull the laces tight. The book is intended to be read by an adult and gives the adult detailed instructions for how to help a child learn to tie a shoe. When the children remember the storyline, they remember the actions and are more successful at getting their shoes tied.

Random Acts of Kindness at Cayuga Heights

Elementary students who were "caught" showing kindness to others in December got their name on a special holiday poster of Dr. Seuss's Grinch character.

School staff was on the lookout for students who showed kindness to others in class, in the hallways, at lunch and during specials. When a child was caught being kind, they received a red paper heart. The child wrote their name on the heart and taped it next to the large Grinch poster in the hallway outside the main office. The poster, titled "Surround the Grinch with Kindness" was covered with hearts by the end of December.

Teachers, aides, nurses, secretaries and custodial and cafeteria staff had 12 hearts to distribute that said "I was caught being kind". The project was part of the building's Shared Decision Making program.



Cayuga Heights Elementary

Kindergarten Had a Fun, Busy December!



The kindergarten classes had a December stocked full of fun and learning. They “traveled” around the world to learn about how other children celebrate. From learning how to play the Jewish dreidel game, to knowing the Mexican legend of the poinsettia, making a nightscape with the crescent moon and stars for Ramadan, and creating a gingerbread house all their own. On the last day before the break the kindergarten classes all wore their pajamas and went to the high school

for a fantastic performance by Mrs. Sullivan’s chorus and the movie, *The Polar Express*. Afterward they returned to have hot cocoa in their rooms. At one point they were even visited by the big guy himself, Santa. Thank you PTO for arranging his visit. It was very exciting! Glenn Colton came to us for his final performance. Everyone had a blast dancing and singing with him as he sang for us.



Glenn Colton Gives Last Holiday Concert at CHE

In his farewell tour before retiring, children’s entertainer Glenn Colton brought holiday spirit to students at Cayuga Heights Elementary School on Friday, Dec. 21. Colton, who has been a regular performer at the elementary school, had students and teachers singing along with him as he ran through a number of well-known holiday songs during his last holiday concert for school children.

Wearing a Santa hat, using stuffed animal props and playing his electric guitar, he didn’t disappoint and performed many of the songs that made him so popular such as Mr. Ducky Wucky. Both staff and students enjoyed the holiday show.

Peer Helper Program

Cayuga Heights would like to recognize students in the fifth grade that have completed the Peer Helper training program. These students were chosen by their fourth-grade teachers based on their ability to interact with classmates in a positive and productive manner. The students’ training, given over the summer and fall, focused on teaching conflict resolution strategies they can use with other students who may be having a disagreement. The training focused on learning communication skills, listening skills and problem-solving techniques.

These students will put their training to work this year by assisting to defuse possible conflicts among their peers and fellow students in the cafeteria, hallways, on the bus or in the classroom. The peer helper’s role is to be aware of possible conflicts and to intervene before it escalates. Peer helpers assist students to communicate concerns in a fair, reasonable manner, and guide the students with solving their own problems. Other students can seek out help from the peer helpers. They can be recognized by their blue and white badges labeled “Peer Helper.”

Faculty members involved in the training and interviewing of the peer helpers included Teresa Banasik, school counselor; Jim LiPuma, director of pupil personnel services and Cayuga Heights Acting Principal Michelle Kudla.



Depew Middle School



Band & Chorus Perform at State Conference

The Depew Middle School band and chorus entertained nearly 500 middle school teachers who were attending the New York State Middle School Association annual conference last October. The seventh- and eighth-grade band ensembles entertained guests as they moved about the conference. In the afternoon, the sixth-grade chorus performed a number of pieces for conference-goers.



Classroom Turns into a Prehistoric Cave



Sixth-graders got to see things from the perspective of a prehistoric cave dweller during their prehistoric unit in social studies class.

After studying paintings from the Cave of Lascaux and other caves, students discovered that the pictures contained in the caves were more than just images of things they recognized; they were also a way of communicating beliefs and ideas. The

pictures in the caves gave clues as to what happened long ago, especially during pre-history when there were no written records left behind. They learned how art could be used to tell stories, communicate ideas and promote understanding of the world around them.

To cap their academic study, students in the classes of Mrs. Maryanski, Mrs. Thurnherr and Mrs. Ziobro participated in a faux prehistoric cave painting experience. Turning their classroom into a cave-like setting took a bit of imagination, but with the lights off and desks arranged and covered to resemble caves, it was a success. Students were taken back in time to explore how early ancestors used art as a way to record stories and communicate ideas. Arranged under their desks, students created their own prehistoric cave art similar to that of prehistoric times.



Evidence-Based Character Traits

As one of the culminating activities from a unit on tolerance, sixth-grade students in Mrs. Ziobro's class created characters from the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Working in groups, students were assigned a character from the novel and instructed to create a background that would most be identified with that character. After completing the task, students had to brainstorm six character traits for their "person" and support each trait with specific evidence from the book. The wonderfully decorated characters were displayed in the hallway for all to see in the sixth-grade wing. Pictured are Jacob DiGiacomo, Anna Foster and Rachel Wagner.



Depew Middle School

DMS Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Schools across the country promote Red Ribbon Week during the month of October and have done so since 1985. This is a special time for students, parents, educators and the community to unite and take a visible stand against substance abuse. This year's theme was "The Best Me ~ Is Drug Free!" The middle school counselors, Mrs. Westfield, Mrs. Ryder and Mrs. Malczewski, organized a school-wide campaign with a variety of activities to increase student awareness about the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

The most essential event of the celebration was when a young lady named Sam visited and shared her heartbreaking, but also inspirational, back-and-forth story of drug addiction and recovery. She genuinely described her most trying challenges and future goals and made statements including: "I will always be recovering," "I wasted six years of my life and would give anything to have those years back" and "I may not be here if it weren't for the support of my parents and Renaissance House." Mrs. Westfield commented that students and staff members were speechless from what they heard and learned much that day as Sam had a huge impact on everyone who was there. The counselors were impressed with the number of heartfelt letters students and staff wrote to Sam after the assembly. Some student comments included:

- "I'm so sad for all you have been through. Thank you for sharing your story with us and I hope you are able to stay away from using drugs."
- "I don't care how much my friends pressure me in the future – I will never try drugs especially after I heard your story!"
- "Thank you for teaching us more about drug addiction from a real person close to our age."
- "I have always known I will never try drugs but I bet your story had a great impact on other kids here. Thanks for making a difference."

Sam came to the middle school through a program called "Face 2 Face" which is offered by Renaissance House's Kids Escaping Drugs Campaign. It's designed to put a face on drug and alcohol addiction and assist with education and intervention. It is very powerful when recovering addicts and their families share stories about the consequences of use and demonstrate that addiction does not discriminate.

Some of the other ways the counselors promoted a drug-free and healthy lifestyle during this year's Red Ribbon Week included a bake sale where proceeds went to Renaissance House, an essay contest, drug-free pledge signings, anti-drug poster development and morning announcements about the effects of drug and alcohol use. Students were encouraged to wear red as well as their "The Best Me ~ Is Drug Free" ribbons. On behalf of the entire school, Mrs. Westfield thanks Sam and Renaissance House as well as our local Target store, Wegmans, Panera Bread and Tim Hortons for their continuous support of the Red Ribbon initiative!



"The New Kid Lunch" for Sixth-Graders

This year there have been 12 new students in the sixth-grade who have joined DMS from a variety of other localities. Some young learners have come from as far as Yemen, England and California! Moving to a new country, city, neighborhood, home, and/or school can be a challenging adjustment for anyone – especially developing adolescents. All the counselors in the district reach out to new students in a variety of different ways to help them adjust as easily as possible. One such example is new students typically have positive student helpers assigned to take them around school the first couple of days.

Middle school counselor Mrs. Westfield offers regular socialization lunches for new sixth-grade pupils to assist them in their transition. She focuses on helping individuals understand they are not the only "newbees" and they are not alone, offering them a chance to connect with each other which is particularly crucial, encouraging them to learn more about the school and get involved, serving as a "go-to-person" if they are in academic, social, or emotional need and working with them to explore and share their many strengths to enhance self-concept. Mrs. Westfield states this type of group has been very successful year after year and plans on continuing "The New Kid Lunch" in the future!

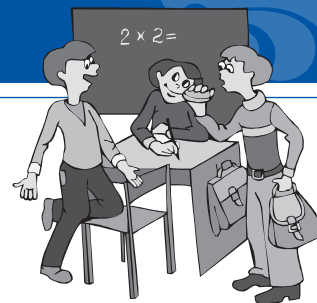
Celebrating French Customs

In December, the seventh- and eighth-grade French classes and the foreign language club celebrated Christmas in the French way. The students had the opportunity to make Christmas decorations, learn about French Christmas traditions, and listen to French Christmas carols. The most memorable part of the celebrations was the Bûche de Noël Christmas cake. It is in the shape of a yule log. The students had the choice of a chocolate cake with a chocolate chip mousse filling or a vanilla cake with a raspberry mousse filling. The cakes were specially made by Muscoreils bakery in North Tonawanda.

French classes celebrated Three Kings Day on Jan. 7. For this fête, the students had the opportunity to make and taste the "Galette des rois" pastry. The student who found the bean or "fève" in the cake became king for the day. They were able to wear the crown and every time that the "king" took a drink, the whole class would yell "Le roi boit" (the king drinks). The kings and queens for this year were Carter Post, Michelle Mentecky, Duncan Allan, Riley Dungan, Mitchell Becker and Justin Zolnowski. Pictured is Carter Post.



Depew Middle School



Yearbooks for Sale



Middle School yearbooks can be purchased online until April 1, 2013. Please use code 1345113 at this link <http://ybpay.lifetouch.com>. The link is also available on the Middle School website homepage.

Administrative Offices Relocate to Renovated Space at HS/MS

The Depew Union Free School District administrative departments housed at 591 Terrace Boulevard moved to renovated office space at the Depew High/Middle School complex. Phone numbers for the special education department, superintendent, assistant superintendent and business office remain the same.

The special education department is housed at the middle school. Parents who wish to visit the special education office should enter the middle school's main entrance, sign in and be directed to the offices.

Renovated space at the high school now houses the District offices of the superintendent, assistant superintendent and business office. The administration office has an entrance located to the far left of the main high school entrance. Visitors can park in the front lot and enter Door 3 to press the security buzzer to be admitted.

The office renovation was included in the 2011 capital project approved by district voters on May 17, 2011. The move helps the district contain its utility and maintenance costs by \$200,000. Portions of the Terrace Boulevard building will remain open until June 2013 as the gymnasium has been reserved through June and a daycare operates in the building.

Math Club Grows

The middle school math club continues to gain new members with each meeting. At the January meeting, attendance was at an all-time high with 22 students. "I am excited to have so much interest after school, especially when the club is an extension of a core subject," said Mrs. Hoeflich, club advisor. Mathletes continue to tackle official Olympiad problems, but the second half of the meeting offers a fun way to interact with math. Recently the games of math guru Greg Tang have captured the students' attention. Kakooma challenges students with multiplication puzzles while the Numskill card game promotes addition fact fluency. Geometry will be the focus of the next meeting when groups build their own tetrahedrons.

Reading for Children in Need

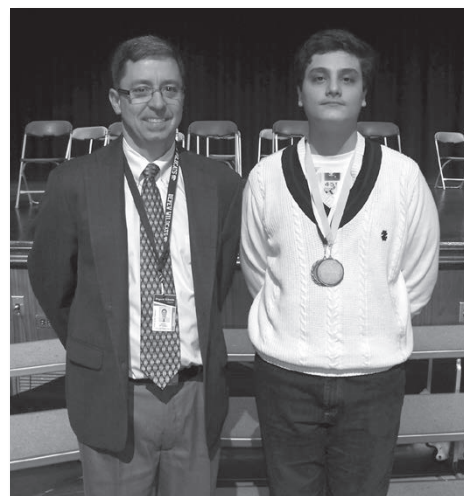


Students in Mrs. Pilon's ELA classes participated in the Scholastic Books Paws for Reading challenge. Students signed up to be on the Dog Team or the Cat Team and pledged to read for 20 minutes every night. Prizes were awarded weekly in class. Scholastic donated a book to a child in need for every 20 minutes that students read. When the challenge ended on Dec. 14, Mrs. Pilon's students had read a total of 3,027 minutes and donated 151 books to children in need. The grand prize winner was seventh-grader Alix Ostempowski who read for 1,492 minutes and donated 75 books. Alix was awarded a \$5 Tim Horton's gift card and \$20 worth of books from Scholastic. Congratulations to the Cat Team and thank you to all who participated for a worthwhile cause.

Metronome Earns Speller Top Spot

For the second year in a row, eighth-grader Kristiyan Iliev earned the top spot in the Depew Middle School annual spelling bee. He won by correctly spelling metronome. He received a medal, \$30 and a Webster's dictionary. He will represent his school in the next level of competition against students from across western New York. Last year he finished in fifth place in the WNY competition. He is pictured with principal Joseph D'Amato.

As always, the competition in the middle school spelling bee was intense. The top middle school spellers were determined by a written test taken in December. Competing from grade six was Eliana Addesa, Zachery Almorabi, Kayla Bulas, Alyssa Heisler, Haleigh Iannotti (absent), Hannah Iannotti (absent), Tyler Kessler, Samantha Maroshick, Amanda Nguyen, Mallory Oddo, Jacob Pembleton, Gabe Rutland, Luc Swiatek, Ryan Theriault, Carly Wangler; from grade seven was Maria Birch, Madison Ceccarelli, Morgan Fowler, Davion Henderson, Dylan Lis, Tyler Piwowarski, Kincaid Porter, Nick Rembecki, Siera Sadowski and from grade eight was Madison Addesa, Kristiyan Iliev, Angel Pipien-Wascak and Layla Willis. Each contestant received a spelling bee medal for their achievement of being in the finals. Congratulations to all the finalists and good luck to Kristiyan!



Depew High School

Literature Comes Alive on Stage



Students in Mr. Endres' AP English class enjoyed a field trip in November to the Irish Classical Theatre in downtown Buffalo to see *A Couple of Blaguards*. This play is about the McCourt brothers' childhood in Ireland and their new life in America. Mr. Endres' 17 senior students enjoyed seeing a piece of literature they had studied in class come alive on stage.

Construction Trades Field Trip

High school tech teacher Ray Cooper and high school counselor Kim McEwen took a group of juniors and seniors to the 8th annual WNY Construction Career Day on Oct. 4 at the Operating Engineers Training Facility in Lakeview.

As you may or may not know, the construction industry cannot be exported. There will always be a need for new buildings or updating existing structures. However, it is projected that in the near future there will be a critical shortage of trained construction workers. Such a shortage will open many job opportunities for youth to become trained construction professionals which will ultimately provide them with career focus and job security.

To help promote the importance of the construction industry, Erie Community College, in collaboration with the WNY Building Trades, have organized this event annually. Students had the opportunity to experience first-hand some of the work that many of the trades' people perform and to operate some of the tools and equipment.

Students participated in bricklaying, welding, carpentry and sheet metal working. They operated backhoes, mini-excavators and skid steers. Students commented that it was a great hands-on learning event and some said they are definitely pursuing this career field.



Harkness Student of the Month

Brittney Owen, a senior at Depew High School, was named Student of the Month for November at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career and Technical Center, where she is enrolled in the Baking & Pastry Arts 2 program. Her teacher said she is a model student, takes her work seriously and maintains a constant level of professionalism.



DHS Concert Choir Spreads Holiday Joy

The high school concert choir serenaded the building on the Friday before Christmas with caroling in the hallways and a performance for Cayuga Heights Elementary students. During the hallway caroling, Santa Claus joined them to pass out candy canes in each room. The choir, directed by Diane Sullivan, sang a variety of holiday favorites before departing for performances at Elderwood Health Care at Linwood and the Galleria Mall.



Depew High School

International Holidays



The high school French club and Spanish club celebrated the holidays in international style after school on Dec. 12. Nearly 100 students enjoyed a pizza party and door prize giveaways. The French club students made the beautiful and delicious "Buche de Noel" cakes, a traditional dessert that is served around Christmastime in France.



Three Kings Celebrated

Over 100 members of the high school French and Spanish clubs celebrated Three Kings Day after school in the cafeteria on Jan. 8. Following tradition, two lucky students found the figurine in their cake making them our royal guests! Pictured are the winners, French student Michelle Frost and Spanish student Taylor Grupp.



DECA Students Compete

DECA Advisor Jessica Leary accompanied nine high school students to the Region 12 DECA competition at Lockport High School on Jan. 6. This event was attended by nearly 500 students representing 16 western New York schools. Depew had a total of seven winners and two first-runners up. These students have qualified to attend the New York State DECA Career Conference & Competition in Rochester this March.

Winners were Ron Jerozal, Regional Representative and Chapter DECA President, and Belal Mohamed, who competed in Wholesale Sales Demonstration; Sara Keller and Brooke Rackley who competed in Retail Merchandising; Evan Synor who competed in Public Speaking



Caption: Top Row: Belal Mohamed, Ashley Napierski, Emily Law, Evan Synor, Ron Jerozal. Bottom Row: Ms. Jessica Leary, DECA Advisor, Dylan Haak, Jake Bleasdale, Brooke Rackley, Sara Keller.

Extemporaneous, and Dylan Haak and Jake Bleasdale who competed in Decision Making Human Resources. Jake received a very rare, perfect score. Runners up were Emily Law in Public Speaking Extemporaneous and Ashley Napierski in Job Interview.

French Students Visit Fort Niagara

In November, high school French 3 students enjoyed a field trip to Fort Niagara in Youngstown to see the interactive exhibit entitled The French on the Niagara which featured historic re-enactments and demonstrations. The field trip was made possible through a generous transportation grant from the DHS PTSO.



National Guard Program Teaches About Engineering

The National Guard engineering education program is partnering with schools across the country to teach students about engineering design and failure. Depew's future engineers in Mr. Cooper's principles of engineering course put their skills to the test. During this activity students identified the catastrophic failure of the levee systems in New Orleans. Students also learned what an important role engineers play in the National Guard and in their everyday lives. Students that passed the final quiz received a personalized certificate of completion from the National Guard.

Students pictured are Christopher Brossard, Nicholas Brotz, Kelly Anne Brzyski, Justin Crawley, Michael Cwiklinski, Christopher Gasiewicz, Kevin Geisel, Kyle Hayes, Michael Jeras, Christopher Karnyski, Daniel Marshall, Matthew Nichy, Matthew Orzechowski, Thomas Smith, Austin Stenzel, and Brandon Williams.



The Wizard of Oz Presented March 15,16

The high school music department will present The Wizard of Oz musical on March 15 and 16. Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performances on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 are \$10. Matinee tickets for the 2 p.m. show Saturday, March 16 are \$6 for children/senior citizens and \$8 for everyone else.

Patrons are also being sought for the ad/patron booklet. Please email DHS musical@depew.wnyc.org if you would like an ad published in the patron booklet.



Nine Fall Teams Earn Scholar Athlete Awards

Members of nine fall varsity sports teams at Depew High School have earned scholar athlete distinction for high academic performance. In 1991, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association established the Scholar Athlete Awards Program to acknowledge the blend of the rigors of athletics and the demands of academics. To qualify for this award, a varsity team, using a designated number of members, must have an overall grade point average of 90% or above. Depew has had consistently high performance results. Hundreds of student athletes have been told that being on a team enhances academic performance. They know that the blending of the two is designed to help them become the best product our educational system can provide.

Girls Swimming & Diving.....	90.311
Girls Cross Country	92.058
Boys Golf	92.566
Girls Soccer.....	93.968
Football	94.254
Boys Volleyball	94.370
Boys Soccer	94.746
Girls Volleyball	95.011
Girls Tennis.....	95.502



Dates to Know

March 11-14

Kindergarten Registration and Screening

March 29

No School, Good Friday

April 1-5

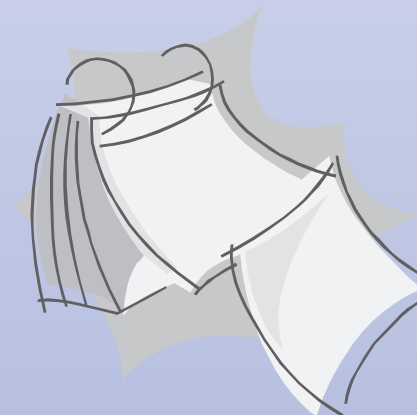
No School, Spring Recess

April 16-18

Grades 3-8 ELA Test

April 24-26

Grades 3-8 NYS Math Testing



DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

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Depew, New York

www.depewschools.org

Kindergarten Registration Information:

Call School to be Placed on List



Kindergarten registration for the 2013-2014 school year for Cayuga Heights Elementary School is scheduled to take place between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on March 11-14, 2013. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before December 1, 2013. The following documents must be provided at the time of registration:

- Immunization Records
- Birth Certificate
- Proofs of Residency (2) (i.e. utility bill, rental agreement, notarized letter stating residency)
- Identification Documentation

Call Cayuga Heights Elementary School at 686-5003 today for more information and to **PLACE YOUR CHILD ON THE REGISTRATION LIST.**