

Depew Union Free School District

District Newsletter

Winter Newsletter 2014



DHS Introduces its New Academy of Finance

Depew High School is excited to announce the creation of an Academy of Finance that will initiate in the 2014-15 school year.



Sponsored by the National Academy Foundation, this program is a unique opportunity for students at DHS to enroll in a program that offers opportunities beyond those normally seen in a classroom.

Students participating in the Academy of Finance will have opportunities to work directly with local business leaders to learn what it takes to be successful in the working world. This will occur through guest lectures, job shadows and field trips to area businesses. They will be required to complete a paid and unpaid internship with local business partners. In addition they will have opportunities to obtain college credit for courses taken within the academy. Students completing the Finance Academy program will obtain the communication skills, job seeking skills and curriculum mastery that will enable them to pursue the career of their choice, whether it be business related or within another field.

The Finance Academy is a three-year program beginning in the student's sophomore year. This year's freshman class will be the first to enroll for next year's program. If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity, please contact Eileen Cartonia, the Academy Director, via email – ecartonia@depew.wnyric.org or phone at 716.686.5065 ext. 4243.

Cayuga Heights New Gymnasium Sparkles

The opening of the new gymnasium wing at Cayuga Heights Elementary school is the last major piece of the 2011 Capital Improvement Project. The gymnasium, which has six basketball nets, padded bleacher seats and two staff offices, was ready for use when students returned to school after winter break.



An entrance hall, constructed off a classroom hallway in the back of the building, leads to the gym, two new classrooms and a restroom area. The two new classrooms will be used in September 2014 since the building lost one classroom due to the construction of the entrance hall.

During athletic events at the Frank Constantino sports complex, the restrooms will be accessible through a back door near the athletic fields. A new concession stand was built which opens to the athletic fields for the sale of food and beverages during events.

Cayuga Heights will continue to use the building's original gym for physical education classes.

The new gymnasium space allows the district to properly address federal guidelines for physical education without having to use a multi-purpose room or classroom for that purpose.



Depew Union Free School District

Depew Well-Cats Program Offers Healthy Activities to District Staff

The district's wellness committee is striving to offer staff valuable health education activities and classes and informational materials throughout the year. The district is proud of its workforce and considers its employees a valuable resource. The district has partnered with Independent Health to put various programming and activities into place this year. The overall goal is to provide resources that will encourage staff and their families to build healthy lives.

Participating in the wellness program is voluntary and open to all Depew Schools' staff members.

The Depew Well-Cats program is overseen by the Well-Cats Ambassador committee made up of staff from various buildings and departments. As a group, their focus is determining programs that are of interest to staff and implementing the wellness activities.

Selected activities for the 2013-14 year include a 2014 Zero Gain Program; Eat for the Health of It; Step-Out Well-Cat Walking Challenge and Know Your Numbers.

Building on Last Year's Success

In spring of 2013, the first wellness activity drew 187 district employees who participated in the Step-Out Well-Cat Walking Challenge. Staff walked over 8,000 miles in just four weeks!

Through sponsorships from Independent Health, two district employees were selected for a stay at the Biggest Loser Resort in Java Center and four staff members were selected to receive a YMCA Fit Star program membership.



Message from the Superintendent Studying Trends, General Discussion Mark Early Budget Process

The Depew Union Free School District has begun the initial stages of the budget development process for the 2014 – 2015 school year. As I am sure you are aware, these continue to be uncertain times. Therefore, our goal will be to continue to provide the School-Community with the necessary information to understand the constraints the District faces when developing a budget. Our strategy always begins with studying trends for our District and holding discussions with our community, so residents can make an informed decision on Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

You can stay updated on the process, through the District's website: www.depewschools.org, as the budget presentations will be posted online.

As we begin the early stages of the process, we will be reviewing the effects of two key pieces to the puzzle;

First, and most concerning, is the continuation of the Tax Cap legislation. This law limits the District's ability to raise the tax levy to approximately 2% or the consumer price index (CPI), whichever is less, plus allowable exemptions. This year, CPI is projected to only be 1.66%, thus the limit will be lower than the first two years of this law and thus significantly reduce our ability to raise revenue locally. Although the concept of a property tax limit is understandable and perhaps needed, it was done by the NYS legislature, while not providing any mandate relief to the school districts.

Next, the state aid picture is uncertain once again, which is the next largest funding stream. Over the past several years, aid has been held flat and even pulled back to 2007 funding levels. Furthermore, the state has placed a spending cap on aid for education, which is based on personal income growth. The right to a public education is constitutionally based in NYS. By limiting districts' ability to raise revenue and at the same time reduce funding support, the state is defunding schools and setting school districts up to diminish the sound basic education our children deserve and will eventually force insolvency for all schools.

As in years past, Depew is taking proactive approaches in addressing these budgeting calamities. We are beginning the process of designing a budget plan early, forecasting the district's long term financial position and continuing to utilize the Superintendent's Advisory Council, which is made up of key communicators within the school community. This group will continue to advise the superintendent on the key budgeting issues within the school community.

As you can clearly see, it will once again be a difficult budget planning process, but it is important to note that it is our continued commitment that the proposed budget will balance the needs of both the taxpayers and our children.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey,
Superintendent

Visit the district website for budget updates: www.depewschools.org

Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

Celebrating Literacy on March 20



Excitement is building around the Depew Union Free School District's Literacy Celebration on March 20, 2014 from 6-8 p.m. PreK-12 students from all of our schools are excited to participate in the evening's activities to be held in the High School building.

Our literacy celebration is the last in our DIY (Depew Informs, Involves and Inspires You) series this school year. This event will showcase student work and celebrate the success of teachers and students as we work together to meet the increased demands of the Common Core Learning Standards in all subject areas. Throughout the year Depew students have been reading a variety of content-rich literature and writing in a variety of styles and genres. The evening will celebrate their literacy work!

Here are a few exciting events taking place throughout the evening celebration:

- 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in HS Auditorium:
 - Video of students throughout the district hard at work with reading and writing
 - Students from grades PK-12 will read their writing pieces
- 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 - Demonstration areas will be set up in the large and small gym as well as the High School cafeteria
 - Refreshments will be available
 - Science Olympiad will demonstrate some of their events
 - The Art Gallery will be open
 - Video of Masterminds competition will be on display
 - Various student presentations will be scheduled on the stage in the cafeteria
 - Small ensembles will perform
 - Each building will have a display area showcasing samples of students' work
 - Raffles/drawings and fun prizes will be given away throughout the evening
 - School counseling display

Please join us for this exciting evening, and a special thank you to the District's Comprehensive District Education Planning (CDEP) team for organizing this wonderful event!

Sincerely,

Susan B. Frey, Assistant Superintendent



Peer Helpers Take the Pledge, Show Their Spirit

Several fifth-grade students at Cayuga Heights recently completed their training in peer mediation. Wearing their Wildcat blue and white, they participated in a badge ceremony to honor their hard work and training. With the help of Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey, Principal Michelle Kudla, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jim LiPuma and School Counselor Teresa Banasik, the peer helpers took a Peer Helper pledge and received their badges for the 2013-14 school year. These fifth-grade students were chosen by their fourth-grade teachers last year based on their ability to interact with classmates in a positive and productive manner. They were trained in communication and listening skills and problem-solving techniques at Cayuga Heights over the summer and during the months of September and October. The students use these skills to assist in defusing possible conflicts among their peers and with fellow students in the cafeteria, hallways, on the bus or in the classroom. Other students can seek help from the Peer Helpers, who are easily identified by their blue and white Peer Helper badges.

Pictured L to R: Row 1 - Elizabeth Kopacz, Lona Tucci, Daniel Gronowski, Salvatrice Arricale, Nathan Steins. Row 2 - Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey, Hannah Steiner, Caitlin Kowalczyk, Alyssa Amirato, Elizabeth Weiglein, Logan Schwartz, Adam Scibetta, Austin Russell, School Counselor Teresa Banasik. Not pictured, Allyson Gary.



Cayuga Heights Elementary

Fifth-Grade Chorus Performs

The Cayuga Heights fifth-grade chorus, directed by Heather Lovelace and accompanied by Martin Wimmer, had a very busy winter concert season. In addition to their usual concerts at school, the chorus performed at the Lord of Life Preschool and Adult Health Care facility. The chorus performed their concert selections and led a sing-a-long of holiday favorites, including "Frosty the Snowman" and the "Twelve Days of Christmas". This was a very special performance for both the Cayuga students and the Lord of Life teachers, as many of the chorus members attended preschool at Lord of Life. The students also shared hand-made Christmas cards with the preschool faculty and the adults in the care facility. Finally, the chorus shared their holiday cheer with their friends and teachers at Cayuga Heights, as they caroled through the hallways on the morning before winter break. Their hard work throughout the fall brought a smile to many faces young and old.

Law Wins Contest

Depew High School junior Emily Law received the grand prize in the 2014 WNY Foreign Language Educators' Council's annual poster contest. She will receive a cash prize, certificate and her framed original poster at the WNYFLEC student awards dinner in June. Reproductions of her winning poster will be made and distributed to foreign language classrooms throughout Western New York. Emily studies both French and Spanish.

Depew Middle School had more students submit an entry to the contest this year than in years past. Certificates of participation were presented to Spanish students Stephen Paolini, Samantha Maroshick, Elizabeth Maroshick, Zoe Kaminski, Mahogany Jones and Katelynn Steckstor. French students Haylee Oliver, Kara Londos, Juliana Ciesielski, Brittany Szafranec, Ben Yelich, Genevieve Weber also received certificates of participation.

Converting Used Markers to Diesel Fuel Cayuga Heights Project Collects Dried-Up Markers

Elementary students usually use a lot of markers during the school year. Fourth-grader Brooke Dehn hopes all those used, dried up markers will be donated back to the school instead of the trash can.

Since November, Cayuga Heights Elementary students and teachers have been collecting used markers (any brand) that are ready to be discarded. The markers will be sent to JBI Inc, a facility in Niagara Falls where they will be converted into clean liquid fuel. This fuel can be used to power vehicles, heat homes, cook meals and more!

Through the Crayola ColorCycle program, Crayola pays to ship the old markers to JBI, Inc. where the plastic pieces will be broken down and converted to diesel and other liquid fuels using JBI's Plastic2Oil® ("P2O") process.

Brooke, a student in Mrs. Lorenc's class, researched, coordinated and presented information about the program to school officials. She created the collection bin that is set up in the front foyer at Cayuga Heights. The marker collection will continue throughout the year. The markers can be any brand, not just Crayola. By keeping the markers out of landfills, the project helps the environment and also helps create a clean energy fuel source, as well.



Fifth-Grade Geography Bee

Cayuga Heights held their third annual fifth-grade National Geographic geography bee on Jan. 10. A preliminary test was given to all fifth-graders and the top nine students moved on to the competition. This year's top nine were Kevin Russell, Teddy Kurdziel, Sarah Kurdziel, Justin Skotarski, Tarek Karzoun, Joey Weiglein, Tyler Cloen, Alex Kaminski and Lara Woolard. The students competed in all areas of geography including U.S. and world geography, geographic comparisons and continents.

The 2014 geography bee runners up were Justin Skotarski and Tyler Cloen. Congratulations to this year's winner Kevin Russell! Kevin will now complete the qualifying test for the New York State tournament. Good luck to Kevin and congratulations again to all of this year's participants.



Grade 3 Visits the Roycroft Campus in East Aurora

The Roycroft Campus is the best preserved and most complete complex of buildings remaining of the “guilds” that evolved in the United States at the turn of the 19th to 20th century. The students in third grade were exposed to this wonderful building of history and to various Arts and Crafts. Throughout the visit, students immersed themselves into the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, finding the joy and satisfaction of creating with their own hands.

Throughout this tour, students were constantly engaged in hands-on activities including making their own African Wishing Scrolls. Students had to write a wish on the scroll that were then rolled up and put into a decorative case that could be worn as a necklace. Another activity was learning about calligraphy and illuminating their initials into a colorful and elaborate design. Students were also taught how to create and bind a book that could later be used for a journal.

One of the students’ favorite activities was choosing favorite color dyes to drop into a container of water. After students swirled the colors around, they put a piece of white paper into the water. When the paper was taken out of the water, it was a beautiful replicate of the colors each student chose. These sheets had to dry and were delivered to our school a few days later for an exciting closing to our field trip.



Abigail Gammel swirling dye for paper-making fun.



Abigail Catlin and Natalie Witt at work on making and binding a book.

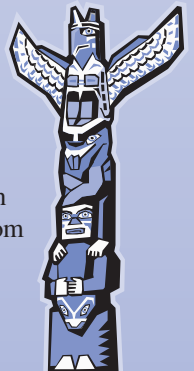


Reindeer Day!

Mrs. Cierzo’s and Mrs. Worley’s third-grade students enjoyed the holiday festivities by having a Reindeer Day. The students took part in reindeer-themed activities to spice up the holiday. Students were engaged in decorating their own cut-out cookies with A LOT of frosting and sprinkles, made reindeer food and a reindeer craft ornament. The students also had fun playing games like Pin the Nose on the Reindeer and Roll-A-Reindeer!

Fourth-Grade Native American Projects

The fourth-grade students in Mrs. Schebell and Mrs. Lorenc’s classes were busy learning and researching about Native Americans. With the help of parents and grandparents, students gathered materials and created replicas of several of the distinctive arts and crafts of the Native Americans in New York State. Students worked together to create wampum belts, longhouses, totem poles and dream catchers for this in-class assignment. These projects were then displayed in the classroom as students continued to learn about people who once lived in our community.



Second-Graders Experience Greek Culture

As a culminating activity to their units on Greek culture and mythology, the second-grade students participated in Greek Day. The students dressed up in togas, read Greek stories, watched Hercules and tasted some Greek treats. It was a great celebration enjoyed by all.



Depew Middle School

Young Musicians Visit Depew Schools

For the 18th year, Depew Schools hosted the Erie County Music Educators Association's Annual Elementary, Jazz, and Jr. High Vocal Solo Festival bringing more than 1,700 students to its campus on Jan. 11. Students from forty schools across Erie County participated.

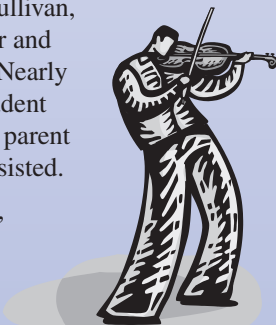


The festival offered young musicians the chance to prepare musical solos and to perform them in front of adjudicators. The adjudicators critiqued the performances and offered encouragement and suggestions for improvement. Students with the highest scores earned seats in county-wide musical ensembles.

George Kroetsch and Barbara Czosnyka, Depew Schools band directors, were the festival coordinators and were assisted by music department colleagues, Heather Lovelace, Kelly Salas, Diane Sullivan, Marty Wimmer and Janine Yelich. Nearly 130 Depew student volunteers and parent helpers also assisted.

Year after year, participants, parents and teachers from

across Erie County and beyond say how impressed they are with the manner in which the Depew UFSD handles this important festival.



“The Sound of Music” to be Performed at DHS in March



The Depew High School music department will present the popular Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “The Sound of Music” on Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 15 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Over 100 students are involved in this production including Cayuga Heights Elementary and Depew Middle School students who have been cast as the youngest children of Captain von Trapp.

The musical is based on the true story of the widowed Captain von Trapp who meets Maria Rainer when she becomes governess to help care for his seven children. Some of the well-known songs from the show include “My Favorite Things,” “Do-Re-Mi,” “Climb Every Mountain” and “Edelweiss.” The production is a beautiful story that the whole family will enjoy.

The ticket booth opens Monday, March 3. Tickets are \$10 for the 7:30 p.m. performances. The 2 p.m. matinee seats are \$8 with special pricing of \$6 for senior citizens and children under the age of 12. You may visit the ticket booth or order tickets by phone (686-5064) beginning March 3. Get your tickets early for the best available seats.

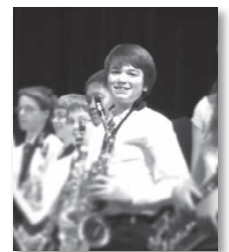
Kraus Earns All-County Seat



Kailah Kraus, a sixth-grader at Depew Middle School, has been asked to participate in the Elementary All-County Band. She was originally named an alternate for All-County Band following her Jan. 11 audition where she received a score of 99. Kailah is the first sixth-grader from Depew to be in the Elementary All-County Band in a very long time. Her accomplishment is even more noteworthy because she recently switched instruments from trumpet to clarinet for this school year.

Piowarski Earns All-State Seat

Eighth-grade alto saxophonist Tyler Piowarski was selected to represent Depew in the NYS School Music Association (NYSSMA) Junior High Area All State Band on Nov. 1 and 2 at Akron High School. This gave Tyler the opportunity to perform with students from schools all over Western New York. Tyler has participated in numerous ECMEA All County solo festivals, NYSSMA solo festivals, and was chosen to participate in the ECMEA Junior High All County Band last spring. Tyler is the first chair alto saxophonist in grades 7/8 and is also a member of the middle school jazz ensemble.



Helping Out

The Junior Class Officers donated a basket to the ‘We Heart Nolan’ fundraiser in October. Nolan is a young child battling very serious health issues. The movie night basket included snack food, popcorn, movie passes, and other assorted gifts that could be used for a movie night-in or a movie night-out. The high school held a pajama day fundraiser for students and staff in November and purchased gifts with the proceeds for both Nolan and the Pittsburgh Children’s Hospital.

Depew Middle School



Red Ribbon Activities



Pictured are the essay winners (L to r) Juliana LaBruna, Taylor Hale and Nicholas Schaefer.

Depew Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week with activities, guest speakers and poster contests coordinated by Mrs. Westfield, Mrs. Ryder, and Mrs. Malczewski, the middle school counselors. The activities tried to give students a deeper understanding of the ill effects that tobacco, alcohol and drug use can have on a person's life.

In October, sixth-graders saw a presentation entitled "There is no Magic in Drugs." The presenter, Mr. Karvell, addressed other topics pre-teens contend with today such as making positive

choices, striving to be healthy, thinking of consequences before acting, understanding that true friends don't push you to be involved with dangerous activities and tolerating others who have differences.

Mrs. Westfield stated, "It's wonderful to have other professionals come in and share similar messages with our students about the importance of making healthy choices and saying no to drug use." A huge thank you to Mr. Karvell for his efforts as well as the Buddy Knaus Amvets Post #14 for their financial support of this presentation.

Also in October, two trained speakers from a program called "Face 2 Face" shared their personal stories with all Depew Middle School students. "Face 2 Face" is a program offered by Renaissance House's Kids Escaping Drugs Campaign. It is designed to put a face on drug and alcohol addiction and assist with education and intervention. Recovering addicts and their families share personal stories. Both speakers, Jimmy and Rachael, shared their heartbreaking, but also inspirational stories of drug addiction and recovery.



Pictured with the guest speakers are students Darren Piniewski, Hayden Monnin, Marcianna Cardona, Madison Catalano, and Chloe Parkinson.

Mrs. Malczewski commented, "Our students are very lucky to have the opportunity to listen to the stories of these brave speakers. They are able to learn from the speakers' mistakes and are better equipped to make positive social choices because of it."

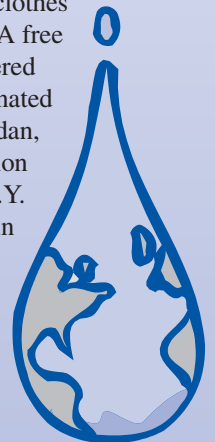
The Red Ribbon essay winners were sixth-grader Juliana LaBruna and eighth-graders Nicholas Schaefer and Taylor Hale. They received a Target gift card, donated by the local store. Thank you to the store as well as the associates who assisted in judging numerous essays this year.

Some of the other activities included a bake sale where \$133.60 in proceeds went to Renaissance House, drug free pledge signings, anti-drug poster development, and morning announcements about the ill effects of drug use. Individuals were encouraged to wear red as well as their "Wildcats Elect to Be Drug Free" ribbons. Counselors would additionally like to thank our local Wegmans store as well as Panera Bread for their generous and continuous support of the Red Ribbon initiative.

7th Grade Fundraiser Supports Clean Drinking Water in South Sudan

During the holiday season, the seventh-grade classes at Depew Middle School wanted to give back. This year, they aimed globally. After finishing the novel "A Long Walk to Water" that details Southern Sudan's struggle for clean drinking water, Depew seventh-graders, along with their teachers, decided to sponsor a pajama day for the school.

The staff and students wore their pajamas, sweats, and assorted comfortable clothes to school on Nov. 26. A free will donation was offered and proceeds were donated to Water for South Sudan, a non-profit organization based in Rochester, N.Y. run by the novel's main character Salva Dut. The organization builds wells in South Sudanese villages without access to clean, fresh water. The class, who ran the fundraiser in conjunction with the high school junior class, raised nearly \$300 for the organization!



Depew High School



Teachers from China Visit Depew High

In November, Depew High School hosted teachers from China for three days. They enjoyed visiting with students and teachers in many different classes but especially enjoyed the arts. Students in Mrs. Sullivan's choral classes performed for them and in return, they sang to the students. The Chinese teachers were part of an exchange program through the Confucius Institute at the University of Buffalo.

French Club Activities

DHS French students took advantage of the Oct. 4 early dismissal day to enjoy some cultural activities. Emily Law, president of the French club, organized the event by baking Quebecoise Tarte au Sucre and showing film excerpts of "Les Miserables." Everyone enjoyed the traditional sweet pies and the excellent film.



AP English Students Take Theater, Art Field Trip

Depew High School seniors in AP English attended a field trip in November to enjoy the fine arts in downtown Buffalo. They enjoyed a performance of the play "The Little Foxes" at the Irish Classical Theatre. They also visited the CEPA Gallery's "Art of Sport" installation and took part in a hands-on exhibit titled "Fastball."



They placed a baseball in a pitching machine and delighted as the work took shape through the destructive power of a ball impacting the studio wall at 60 mph.



Students were part of the creative process. They placed a baseball in a pitching machine and delighted as the work took shape through the destructive power of a ball impacting the studio wall at 60 mph.

DECA Qualifies for State Competition



DECA Advisor Jessica Leary accompanied 10 DHS students to the Region 12 DECA Competition held at Lockport High School on Sunday, Jan. 12. This event was attended by approximately 500 students from 17 schools throughout Western New York. Depew had a total of nine winners! These students have qualified to attend the New York State DECA Career Conference

& Competition to be held in Rochester on March 5-7. Pictured top row, Katie Orzechowski, Dylan Haak, John Mietus, Collin Kazmierczak, Ron Jerozal. Bottom row, Advisor Jessica Leary, Rebecca Walsh, Emily Law, Brooke Rackley, Sara Keller and Jacob Bleasdale.

French Students Visit Fort Niagara

High School French 3 students enjoyed a field trip to Fort Niagara to take part in the annual interactive exhibit of "The French on the Niagara." Students toured the fort and learned the Fort's French history. There were guest speakers, period music and samples of the food served during the eighteenth century. The bus transportation was made possible by a generous grant from the DHS PTSO.



Depew High School



DHS Inducts 28 in NHS Ceremony

Depew High School inducted 28 juniors and seniors into National Honor Society during a student-run ceremony at Hearthstone Manor. Mr. Paul Parrinello, a DHS chemistry teacher, was inducted as the 2013 Honorary Member.

Current NHS members ran the ceremony and escorted the new inductees as they received their certificates from Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey, Assistant Superintendent Susan Frey, Assistant High School Principal James Lupini and the evening's guest speaker Thomas Keane, a 1983 DHS graduate and recent recipient of the district's Wall of Fame award.

Junior students inducted were Emily Bassett, Jacob Bleasdale, Heather Brady, Logan Brunner, Alexis Marie Dwyer, Sarah Federowicz, Abigail Grace Gullo, Dylan Haak, Marla Hairston, Sara Keller, Hannah Koterak, Berkeley Kozuch, Emily Law, Jamie Pawlak, Brooke Rackley, Ryann Radka, Alyssa Reformat, Patrick Siembida, Elizabeth Sieracki, Sarah Steiner, Eric Wagner, Richard Wisniewski and Gillian Wittig. Senior students inducted were Nicole Becker, Matthew Federowicz, Dylan Grant, Melissa Green and Joelle Kozirowski.

DHS Hosts 11th Annual Talent Show

A treasure trove of talent hit the stage in November during the Depew High School annual talent show. "Discovering a Treasure of Talents: A Little Off Broadway 11" featured 22 performances from students and faculty who sang, danced, acted, narrated and flipped through acts and scripts that they created. Vocal numbers included tunes from the Broadway shows of The Phantom of the Opera, Cinderella, Wicked and Matilda. Proceeds from the show are used for the character education programming and for next year's talent show production.



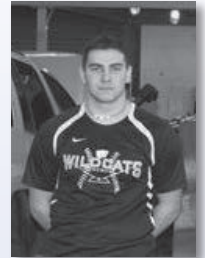
Language Students Hold Holiday Party

Nearly 150 High School French and Spanish club members attended a holiday celebration in December. In addition to enjoying pizza, pop and door prizes, students tried traditional French Christmas yule log cakes made by French Club members. This year, we welcomed back several DHS alumni who made Bûche de Noël cakes for this annual DHS holiday tradition.



Kutner Places First In Auto Tech Contest

At NFADA's 2014 Ron Smith Memorial Auto Tech Competition, Kyle Kutner, a Depew High School junior enrolled in an Erie 1 BOCES auto technician program, earned a first place award.



Kutner, working with a partner from Alden High School, earned first place in the Tire Rodeo portion of the competition. Kutner attends E1B Harkness Career & Technical Center.

The competition is organized by the Niagara Frontier Automobile Dealers Association (NFADA), hosted by Erie Community College Vehicle Technology Training Center (ECC-VTTC) and supported by local dealerships, educational institutions, and local businesses. It is open to 12th grade automotive students from all seven western New York counties. The senior winners of these regional contests, along with their high school instructor, receive an all expense paid trip to New York City to compete in the nationals at the National Automotive Technology Competition.

Depew High School

2013 Wildcats Reach the NYSPHSAA Class B Semi-final

2013 was a record-setting year for the Depew Wildcat football program as they became the first team in Depew history to reach a state semi-final. After finishing the regular season with a 5-2 record, the Wildcats made a strong run in the playoffs winning four straight games, before losing that semi-final game to Section IV's Maine-Endwell who went on to win their third, consecutive state title.

"I am extremely proud of this team," said Brian Wilson, head coach. "The regular season losses to Alden and Lancaster were truly disappointing, but I give our team a lot of credit for the way they responded each time. The way this team was able to battle through the injuries and adversity we had was pretty amazing. We had players step up week after week, sometimes in unfamiliar roles, and they played with great effort. I really feel that was the key to this year's success and a great playoff run."

Offensively the team was led by running back Rodney Turner who set a school record for points in a season with 110 (18 td, 1 two-point conversion). Junior Dylan Sekuterski stepped in at quarterback in week 2 for Anthony Buono (broken collar bone) and played extremely well completing



"It was a really memorable year. I think we exceeded our expectations. We grew together as a team and developed a really strong bond."

— Rodney Turner, team co-captain

57% of his passes for 1,071 yards and 10 td's. Dylan's favorite target was his brother, senior Derrick Sekuterski (21 catches). Senior Cody Penner (16 catches, 7 td's) added many big plays. Senior tight end Nick Yelich also had a strong year making big catches and blocks all year long. The Wildcats were led up front by the dominating blocking of senior offensive linemen Mike Lamb, Dylan Grant and Steve Kasprzak. Senior Dan Golba and junior Nick Perrine also made significant contributions from their running back positions.

Defensively, the Wildcats were anchored by the strong line backing unit of Derrick Sekuterski, Nick Yelich and Rodney Turner. The three combined for an astonishing 177 tackles. The defensive line was led by seniors Bryce LeAir (sacks), Dan Sutch and Mike Lamb and juniors Josh Sugg and Matt Haniszewski. Sophmores Malik Elbanna and Jakob Grant were moved up from the JV at mid-season and played very well in the defensive front. The secondary was led by seniors Dan Golba, Jake Coburn and Cody Penner. Juniors Mike Thornton, Bobby Burns and Quincy Majerowicz contributed.

Senior Jake Coburn handled the punting duties and juniors Mike Thornton and Tyler Anna did a great job in the kicking game.

"We really were a family. We played for each other and it enabled us to find ways to get the job done!"

— Derrick Sekuterski, team co-captain

Post season honors include All-State: second team, Nick Yelich; third team, Rodney Turner; honorable mention, Mike Lamb. Buffalo News All WNY: second team, Mike Lamb; third team, Nick Yelich, Dan Golba; Honorable Mention, Derrick Sekuterski, Rodney Turner, Dylan Grant. Section VI Class B South All-Stars: first team, Rodney Turner, Nick Yelich, Mike Lamb, Dan Golba, Derrick Sekuterski; second team, Dylan Sekuterski, Cody Penner, Dylan Grant, Nick Perrine, Steve Kasprzak, Jake Coburn; Honorable Mention, Bryce LeAir, Mike Thornton, Jakob Grant.

Scholar Athlete Teams Fall 2013

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.

- Girls Tennis; 95.667
- Football; 95.566
- Girls Golf; 94.725
- Girls Volleyball; 93.829
- Boys Volleyball; 93.609
- Boys Golf; 93.521
- Girls Soccer; 92.773
- Boys Soccer; 90.044
- Boys Cross Country; 90.464

Sensory Integration and the Benefits of Swinging

The occupational therapy department at Depew Schools is in the beginning stages of developing a pilot program that will

incorporate modalities to assist children who are having difficulty with sensory processing within the classroom. Children with sensory processing difficulties are unable to focus, fidget in their chair and have problems keeping their hands and feet to themselves.

This school year selected students come to the OT/PT room at Cayuga Heights Elementary first thing each morning for a quick “dose” of sensory input. In less than 10 minutes, each student moves through a set of stations that uses swinging, joint input and heavy-work exercises. At the end of each week a simple checklist is filled out by the teacher, to determine whether or not the child’s focus is better, less, or no change.

Swinging, jumping, spinning and rocking help a student’s body organize and regulate their sensory systems. These movements can become calming and regulating tools. Studies show that rocking, spinning and other physical movement through space helps children’s brain development and their ability to pay attention by stimulating the vestibular (inner ear) system.

Benefits of Using a Swing: Swinging is similar to rocking which most children and adults find comforting and calming. Those who are diagnosed with Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, ADHD, PDD, and other disorders can also benefit from using the swing. The repetitive, soothing and relaxing motion of a hammock swing provides closeness, which is a feeling that many autistic children like. Since children with ADHD need more motion than the average child, it is especially satisfying for them to swing.

The amount of vestibular input needed varies depending on the child. It is most important that the sensory processing needs of the child be monitored/controlled to determine what is right for them under the direction of an occupational or physical therapist.

The OT/PT department is excited to have begun this program and looks forward to helping students discover new ways to improve their focus, attention and behaviors in school.



Logo Design Challenge

Project Goal:

For Cayuga Heights, Depew Middle and High School to update our present logo to better

represent the values, vision and mission of our district.

Students, staff and parents at all buildings are

welcome to submit ideas. Each building Shared Decision Making Team (SDMT) can submit up to 3 designs by March 5, 2014 which will be voted on by a joint SDMT (team with representation from all buildings) and then forwarded to the District CDEP Team who will approve.

The new logo should be based on the district vision and mission statement and any other factor that represents the well rounded educational experience that students receive at DUFSD. Some examples include: Inspire, challenge, achieve, school pride, lifelong learners, well rounded citizens, etc.

Vision Statement:

Provide an engaging learning environment focused on achieving excellence.

Mission Statement:

Challenge and inspire students to achieve at the highest level and become responsible citizens.

Submit a 2” – 3” design in black or blue grayscale electronically to: jhatfield@depew.wnyric.org.

The district reserves the right to modify the chosen design to meet production specifications.



Nominations Open for Alumni Wall of Fame

Nominations for the Depew School Alumni Wall of Fame are being accepted until April 4, 2014. The Alumni Wall of Fame program recognizes outstanding achievements by alumni who, after graduation, greatly contributed to the well being of our society through their hard work, talents and leadership. Nominees must be a graduate of Depew High School at least 15 years. The induction ceremony will be held in October during Homecoming week festivities.

The nomination forms are available in the District Office located at 5201 S. Transit Road and online under the Community tab at www.depewschools.com.

Each nominee will be reviewed by a district committee for possible induction. Individuals who are selected will have their name engraved on a glass plaque displayed in the high school cafeteria. In addition, honorees may be asked to address Depew High School students and participate in a reception held in their honor.

Alumni can be nominated in the following categories; Graduation Decade, Athletics, Scholar, Community Service, The Arts and Friend of the Alumni.

DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

Dave Sheff, President
Barbara Staebell, Vice President
Nancy Fumerelle, Trustee
Michael Fusani, Trustee
Patrick Law, Trustee
John Spencer, Trustee
Justin P. Young, Trustee

Jeffrey R. Rabey
Superintendent of Schools

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

www.depewschools.org

Kindergarten Registration Information:

Call School to be Placed on List



Kindergarten registration for the 2014-2015 school year for Cayuga Heights Elementary School is scheduled to take place between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on March 24-27, 2014. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before December 1, 2014.

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.**

On May 22, 2014, there will be an Orientation Program for those new kindergarten students registered for the 2014-15 school year. The program includes discussion of school procedures, a short familiarization bus ride, and a visit to the classrooms.