

# Depew Union Free School District

District Newsletter

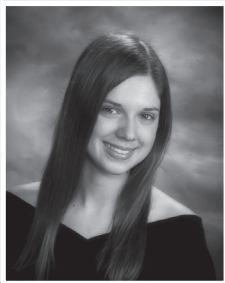
Summer Newsletter 2012

## Class of 2012 - Top Ten



### Valedictorian

#### #1 Amanda Wolf



*Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors Distinction*

**Activities:** National Honor Society, Director of Service Learning, Spanish Club Treasurer, Concert Band, Leo Club President, Musical Pit Orchestra, Church Youth Group Co-President and karate instructor at Bill Adams' Martial Arts and Fitness Center.

**Volunteer Work:** Sunday School teacher, VBS leader, violinist in church band, church youth group volunteer activities, violinist in concerts benefiting the WNY Food Bank, and YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, volunteer at Eden Heights Assisted Living Center, and Leo Club activities, including the Giving Tree and Father-Daughter dance.

**Awards/Honors:** University of Rochester's Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Top 3 Scholar Student Award, Erie Niagara School Superintendent's Association Scholastic Achievement Award, Voted Most Likely to Succeed, NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Scholarship Award, St. Michael's College Scholastic Book Award, Advanced Spanish Academic Attitude Award, Academic Distinction in Math, Science, and Social Studies Awards, and Business First All-Western New York 2nd Academic Team Member.

**Future Plans:** Amanda will major in physician assistant studies at Daemen College where she received the President's Scholarship.



(Top 10 Students are continued on page 6)

### Salutatorian

#### #2 Emily Staebell



*Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors Distinction*

**Activities:** 2011 Chinese Bridge Summer Camp for American High School Students, President of French Club, President and Captain of Masterminds Club, Narrator and Emcee of Talent Show, Mock Trial, R2R Gay-Straight Alliance, Member of National Honor Society, Musical, Marching Band,

Mixed Chorus, Participant in Lancaster-Depew Teen Idol.

**Volunteer Work:** Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk volunteer, Variety Kids Telethon volunteer, tutors middle school French students, Equality and Justice Day in Albany, volunteer for holiday shop at Cayuga Heights, Arbor Day celebration volunteer.

**Awards/Honors:** Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce Student Achievement Award, Lawrence Technical University's Excellence in Science and Math Award, University of Rochester's Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award, WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. Award, Top 3 Scholar Award, Special Mention on Business First's 2012 All-Western New York Academic Team, Induction into the Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame.

**Future Plans:** Emily will attend Cornell University's Industrial Labor Relations School where she will study social justice and international politics.

### Sixth Grade Orientation

Depew Middle School will hold orientation for incoming sixth graders on Thursday, Aug. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the middle school. A parent/guardian and the student should attend.



# Depew Union Free School District

## Poetry Café Showcases Work

The Cayuga Heights band room was turned into a poetry café in March as 30 fifth-graders read aloud their original poems to an audience of fellow students and parents. All fifth-graders were invited to compose original poems and submit their compositions to their teachers. Before school help in poetry composition was provided by Ms. Herman, a student teacher in Dawn Thurnherr's class.

The students worked hard knowing that they would get the chance to read their poems aloud in front of their peers in an open mic format. Thirty students wrote free verse poems and participated in the poetry café. Pictured is Zoe Kaminski.



The poem titles reflected a wide variety of topics from "I am" to "Neon Puff" to "The Creepy Ghost".

"We asked Marty Wimmer to showcase his instrumental groups at this event to further celebrate the arts in our grade level," said Andrea Richards, a fifth-grade teacher.

From Mrs. Thurnherr's class were Amanda Nguyen, Zoe Kaminski, Jenna Marranca, Lauren Theriault, Vunnal Blair, Emily Werts, Luke Russo, Alexis Williams; from Mrs. Thompson's class were Zoe Simon, Makayla Bishop, Elizabeth Maroshick, Jacob DiGiacomo, Nicholas Calandra, Brooklynn Brucz; from Mrs. Ziobro's class were Brandon Louie, Isabelle Beach, Natalie Corda; from Mrs. Kohl's class were Jorden Rutkowski, Tony Parker, Desmond Turner, Mike Bardol, Kelsey Sikora, Devin Reese; from Mrs. Richards' class were Thomas Sieracki, Julia Correll, Nicholas Schielke, Breana Gentile, Morgan Koch, Grace Krasteva; and from Mrs. Garrett's class was Nick Sugg.

## Message from the Superintendent

To The Depew School – Community:

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers, administrators and Board of Education we would like to thank the Depew School-Community for supporting the 2012 – 2013 fiscal plan with an approval rate of 70%. 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 two 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 2012-2013 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 of Schools

## Thanking Our Retirees

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

**William Cramer**, Transportation Department  
**Frances Kendziora**, Depew Middle School  
**Kathy Kmietek**, Sr. Clerk, Cayuga Heights Elementary  
**Angelo G. Mineo**, Transportation Department  
**Pat Willard**, Clerk-Typist, Depew High School  
**Thomas Ziomek**, Head Custodian, Depew Middle School

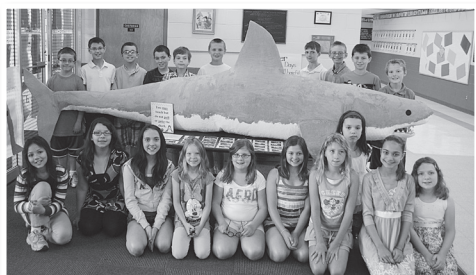




# Depew Union Free School District

## Building a Great White Shark

The lobby at Cayuga Heights Elementary went to the sharks, thanks to a project by fifth-graders in Patrick Uhteg's class. The class made a huge papier mache shark as a reward for meeting their classroom goal of reading 300 books independently. In December students started reading and recorded their progress on a shark shaped chart. Less than two months later, the students had met and exceeded their goal.



The first step in the shark project was to build a frame out of chicken wire. Students worked after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays which are late bus days so all students could participate. In addition to the chicken wire, the shark is constructed from cardboard, papier-mache and paint. Sand and glue were added to the paint to create a rough texture for the skin. The teeth are made from

cardstock and the gums of the shark are made from real gum chewed by the students and hot glued into the mouth.

Once the project was completed, the class held their own version of Shark Week where they studied non-fiction articles and texts on great whites. The project was a lot of fun and motivated the students toward their work and toward school.

## Fourth-Grade Spelling Bee

Twenty fourth-graders at Cayuga Heights Elementary put their spelling skills to the test on Friday June 8 during the annual spelling bee. Justin Cwiklinski emerged as the winner by spelling the words advocate and classification correctly. Runner up Juliana LaBruna did not make it an easy competition. The two finalists battled for 34 rounds.

All 20 contestants made it successfully through the first round. Trickier words like breakfast, captain, avenue and disease slowly whittled the contestant field smaller in subsequent rounds. Throughout the contest, students demonstrated excellent recall by correctly spelling difficult words such as strengthen, nourishment, substitute, constellation and assignment. The audience of students, parents and grandparents clapped politely for each contestant.



## Installation Dinner

Barbara Albi, Food Service Director at Depew UFSD, was installed as president of the Erie County School Nutrition Association during ceremonies on May 8. She will serve for a two-year term as president of the 800-member organization. The Depew Jazz Ensemble provided the entertainment at the installation banquet. The young musicians gave an outstanding performance that highlighted their musical talents.



## Teacher Wins Award



Salvatrice "Sally" Maroney, a literacy support teacher at Depew High School, was honored by the WNY Educational Service Council at their annual Awards for Excellence banquet. She was nominated for the award by Depew Schools Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey. She won the award based on her extraordinary commitment to the school district and because she is seen as a leader in her field and has many achievements both in and out of the workplace.

As a literacy support teacher she teaches eight sections with 90 students. She also serves as a literacy coach for the high school content area teachers. She is also the high school RtI (Response to Intervention) coordinator.

*"My most satisfying accomplishment is getting kids who are at high risk for not graduating, to find success and pass the courses (sometimes with 85+) to graduate on time."*

She is part of the high school shared decision making team and she worked on the committee to design the procedures for credit recovery, attendance and eligibility.

She earned a bachelor of science degree and 7-12 certification in English from St. Bonaventure University. She earned a masters degree in reading through a Hilbert College-St. Bonaventure program. She and her husband, Pat, have two children, Joshua and Sarah.



# Cayuga Heights Elementary

## Fifth-Grade Geography Bee

Do you know which state has a climate suitable for growing citrus fruits—California or Maine? Can you name the term for a part of an ocean or sea that cuts far into the bordering land mass and may contain one or more bays?

These were the types of questions a group of fifth-graders from Cayuga Heights Elementary were asked during the first annual Fifth Grade National Geographic Geography Bee. A preliminary test was given to all fifth-grade students and those with the 10 highest scores were chosen for the competition which was held in January. The students competed in all areas of geography including U. S. and world geography, geographic comparisons, continents, map skills, and world cultures.



Pictured are the top 10: Joseph Pagano, Thomas Sieracki, Ian Edbauer, Carl Dotterweich, Robert Heine, Joshua Goss, Stephen Paolini, Katelyn Szefer, Elizabeth Maroshick and Samantha Maroshick.



Also shown are the top three winners: Joshua Goss, third place; Elizabeth Maroshick, first place; and Samantha Maroshick, second place. Just in case you were stumped by the questions above, here are the answers: California and gulf.

## Author of “Black Lagoon” Books Brings Laughter to Cayuga

Riddles and lots of laughter filled the multi-purpose room at Cayuga Heights Elementary School on May 23 when author Mike Thaler, who is also known as “America’s Riddle King,” visited the school.

The author of the popular Black Lagoon books spoke to all elementary students during two assemblies, had a poster drawing session in the library with small groups of students and conducted a writing workshop for the older students.

During a morning assembly, Thaler previewed his working manuscript for the story “The Meatloaf Monster from the Black Lagoon.” He brought it to life with the help of the teachers and principal Michelle Kudla. He also got help from fourth-grader Dylan Quigley who volunteered for a special part that required loud burping. The students roared with laughter when their teachers had to participate and be the sound effects.



Various student projects and artwork based on Thaler’s books were displayed around the school and the students entertained him with a song written by Miss McCulloch and a story written by Mrs. Fortune’s first grade students.

His message to students was to have a dream and work hard to make it happen. He encouraged them to get good grades. He also warned them to not drop out of school and to not take drugs.

Cayuga Heights Librarian Tonya Bulas said she has been reading the Black Lagoon picture books to the younger students and the chapter books to the older students during library time. The humorous books feature Principal Mrs. Green and a crazy cast of characters that appeals to all age levels.

“Author visits are important because they let children meet the person who wrote the book they have read. Mr. Thaler’s presentations talk about ways of using imagination and being creative and that’s fun and inspiring for the students to hear,” said Mrs. Bulas, who arranged the visit which was made possible by funding from the Cayuga Heights PTO and money raised from the Scholastic Book Fairs held at school.



## Little Singers

The kindergarten students were stars during their Sing to Learn with Kindergarten concert on Tuesday, May 15. There was laughter, surprise guests and heart-felt moments as the students sang the songs that have helped them learn their letter sounds, numbers and color words. Mrs. Kudla was our special guest cookie thief. Again, a great job by all of the students on their amazing show!



# Cayuga Heights Elementary

## Fifth-Graders Bring Literature to Life in Movies

Fifth-grade students in Mrs. Ziobro's class had a great time using Windows Movie Maker as the culminating activity to their literature circle groups. Each group chose their own novel to read together in literature circles, rotating "jobs" each day. After the novels were read, each group had an assignment to create a movie of their novel depicting important aspects of the book such as sequencing pertinent events, theme, conflict and resolution. The class had a great time viewing all of the movies!



Left to right: Isabelle Beach, Nelson Phaphanthong, Jaiden Baker, Jason Angelli, Dylan Burlingame.

Left to right: Odeh Ahmad, Caitlin Foley, Phoenix Brown, Evan Bartels, Cora Stoddar.

## Teacher of the Week

Wendy Fortune, a first-grade teacher at Cayuga Heights Elementary School, was surprised in the classroom in early February when TV cameras from Ch. 7 showed up unexpectedly. Mrs. Fortune was nominated for the station's Teacher of the Week award by a parent of a student at the school. News anchor Mike Randall visited her class and presented her with a framed certificate.

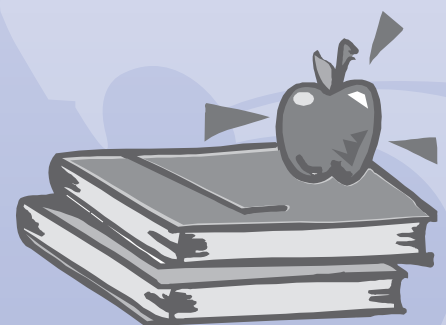
In the nomination letter, Mrs. Fortune was complimented on her enthusiasm for the classroom and dedication to students. "It was a beautiful letter," said Mrs. Fortune.

Mrs. Fortune has taught at Cayuga for 15 years in fourth grade and first grade.



## Happy Mother's Day

The morning preschool class mailed special cards for Mother's Day. They are shown in front of the U.S. Post Office.



[www.depewschools.org](http://www.depewschools.org)



# Depew High School

## Congratulations!!!



### #3 Rachael Cardinal

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma with Honors  
Distinction*

**Activities:** National Honor Society member, President of Wildcat TV, Treasurer of Science Club, Link Crew leader, HELP Club member, Varsity D Club member, Marching Band, JV Soccer, Varsity Cross Country Co-Captain, Varsity Indoor Track, Varsity Outdoor Track Team Captain, and employed at McDonald's.

**Volunteer Work:** Saint Martha's Youth Group volunteer for five years, Lancaster Youth Bureau Jury member for two years, assisted at the Kids Variety Club Telethon, volunteered at the SPCA, and assisted at the 8th Grade Orientation for Technology.

**Awards/Honors:** Academic Distinction Award in Technology, Academic Distinction Award in Social Studies, Track Sectionals, Track Division Champions, One Year Perfect Attendance Award, Academic Distinction Award in Science, Top 3 Scholar Award, Discus Awards Candidate, Clarkson University Leadership Award, RIT Computing Medal Award, Buffalo Operators McDonald's Association Inc. Award, Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame Inductee, and Emedco Academic Excellence Award.

**Future Plans:** Rachael will attend the University at Buffalo where she received the Provost Scholarship and admission into the Honors College. She will be enrolled in the six-year pharmacy program.

**Good Job!**



### #4 Devan Brady

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma with Honors  
Distinction*

**Activities:** National Honor Society (Director of Honor Roll Breakfasts), Student Senate, Spanish Club (President), Photography Club, Marching Band (Drum Majorette), Colorguard, Show Choir, Musical participant, Talent Show participant, St. John's Lutheran Church Youth Group member, (President/Publicity Chairman), Concert Band (Publicity Chairman), DECA, Senior Class Video Coordinator, two year server of coffee at Tim Horton's.

**Volunteer Work:** Sunday School teacher, assistant minister, VBS assistant, band member and youth group member at St. John's Lutheran Church in West Seneca, attended National Youth Group Gathering in New Orleans in 2009 and will attend again in 2012 to perform service projects, assisted at the Kid's Variety Club Telethon, Polar Plunge

**Awards/Honors:** Buffalo State All College Honors Scholarship, Buffalo State Presidential Scholarship, Buffalo Service Credit Union Jerry Poplawski Memorial Scholarship, Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame Inductee, R.I.T. Innovation and Creativity Award, Rookie of the Year Band, Rookie of the Year Color Guard, Academic Distinction Award English, Spanish Club Leadership Award, Top 3 Scholar Student, Visual Advertising Award in the New York State DECA Competition, Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month, Perfect Attendance Award, Girl Scout Silver Award, Voted Best Dressed by the Class of 2012

**Future Plans:** Devan will be enrolled in the honors program at Buffalo State College majoring in communications/media production with a minor in international relations.



### #5 Karen L. Thomas

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma with Honors  
Distinction*

**Activities:** Masterminds team member, Musical (grades 9-10), Marching Band (grades 10-11), Spanish Club, French Club and Cashier at TOPS.

**Volunteer Work:** VBS, Santa's Secret Shop at Cayuga Heights, Field Day at Cayuga Heights.

**Awards/Honors:** Honor Roll, Provost Scholarship at University at Buffalo, NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence.

**Future Plans:** Karen will attend the University at Buffalo where she will be enrolled in the Honors College. She is undecided about her career plans, but will be majoring in linguistics.



### #6 Luke T. Schaefer

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma with Honors  
Distinction*

**Activities:** President of National Honor Society, DECA, Spanish Club, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Mr. Depew, Varsity Soccer, Masterminds, Varsity D Club, HELP Club, Link Crew, Marching Band, President of Symphonic Band, Travel Soccer for 10 years.

**Volunteer Work:** Variety Kid's Telethon, 8th Grade orientation, PTSO Chinese Auction, assisted at a Ride for Roswell event, usher for musical.

**Awards/Honors:** WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. award, Varsity Soccer Sportsmanship award, Emedco Academic Excellence Award, DECA Bronze Level award, Clarkson University High School Achievement Award, Social Studies



# Depew High School

## Class of 2012 - Top Ten

Student of Month.

**Future Plans:** Luke will attend Daemen College where he received the President's Scholarship. He will be enrolled in the physical therapy six-year program.



### #7 Katie M. Glynn

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma with Honors  
Distinction*

**Activities:** Masterminds Club for four years, Secretary grade 12; cashier at Wegmans

**Volunteer Work:** Volunteers for various activities at Kingdom Hall

**Awards/Honors:** Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance (1 Year)

**Future Plans:** Katie will attend the University at Buffalo where she earned the Provost Scholarship. She will be studying international relations.



### #8 Sarah B. Turner

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma*

**Activities:** National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Varsity D, GAA Club, Link Crew, Varsity soccer for five years - captain 2012, Buffalo Soccer Academy, Olympic Development Program, work for Lancaster/Depew Soccer Club as trainer and work at Epic Center.

**Volunteer Work:** Top Soccer Program (helping handicapped children play soccer), traveled to Costa Rica on a week-long missionary trip, Depew Booster Club when needed, help train girls travel soccer team, Food Bank of WNY, Score for a Cure (Cystic Fibrosis) Fundraiser.

**Awards/Honors:** University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation & Information Technology, Varsity D Award, selected for Olympic Development Program State Team (Princeton, NJ), MVP Tonawanda Tournament, All Team player Depew Tournament.

**Future Plans:** Sarah will attend the University of Pittsburgh @ Bradford where she received a four-year Pitt-Bradford Academic Scholarship. She will be in the pre-chiropractic program with a major in sports medicine.



### #9 Ashley Westgate

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma with Honors  
Distinction*

**Activities:** Spanish Club for three years, Link Crew (grade 11), New Visions Connections Program at Veteran's Hospital, Indoor Track (grade 10), member of chorus for Anything Goes, part-time housekeeper at Salvatore's Grand Hotel.

**Volunteer Work:** Volunteer at OLBS for fish fries and lawn fetes, volunteer with various activities at the VA Hospital.

**Awards/Honors:** Honor Roll, Academic Distinction Award for Advanced Spanish 2011.

**Future Plans:** Ashley will be enrolled in the Honors Program at Canisius College where she received the Trustee's Scholarship. She will be studying biology and psychology and plans to become a psychiatrist.



### #10 Allyson R. Yelich

*Advanced Regents  
Diploma*

**Activities:** Two years of cross country, two years of girls ice hockey, Show Choir, Concert Choir, Concert Band, Talent Show, Musicals, Marching Band/pep band, All-County Chorus Member, Lancaster-Depew Teen Idol competitor, Student Senate Corresponding Secretary, Leadership in Action class, Leadership Conference Attendee at UB and CLSA, vocal lessons for four years, and Mixed Chorus (Vice-President).

**Volunteer Work:** Relay for Life show choir performances, participated in the Lancaster Youth Bureau volunteer program, volunteered at the Tri-community Food Pantry, helped coordinate Depew's participation in the Special Olympics - Polar Plunge, served at the Veteran's Day luncheon, volunteered with the PTSO, sold raffle tickets for the Variety Club, and served at the budget vote BBQ chicken dinner.

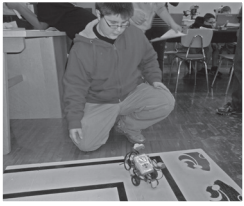
**Awards/Honors:** Art Student of the Month, Leadership Student of the Month, Music Student of the Month, Sertoma essay winner, Leadership Award for Student Senate, Academic Attitude in Art 9, Academic Distinction in Chorus 10, Musical Award for performance in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat as a Narrator, SUNY Brockport Presidential Scholar in Residence Award, and St. John Fisher Presidential Scholarship.

**Future Plans:** Allyson will attend SUNY Brockport where she received the Presidential Scholar in Residence Award. She will major in psychology.

# Depew Middle School

## Seventh-Graders Learn Robotics

Seventh-grade technology classes with Mr. Nolan and student teacher Mr. Coty have been learning about the growing world of robotics. During the unit, students learned about the history of robotics and how it has evolved over the past 50 years. They also explored how the use of robotics in manufacturing influences jobs, business and the economy as a whole.



As a conclusion, the students worked in groups to build a LEGO robot and learned how

to program them using the accompanying software. Students used different sensors to control the robots: they programmed them to listen for a sound then change direction, follow a line that represented Automated Guided Vehicles used in industry, and to use a proximity sensor to stop just before it hit something, similar to how car sensors are used to aid a driver in parallel parking.

## CPR

The school district received much media attention in March for the CPR program that all high school students participated in during their physical education classes. Paramedics from Rural Metro Medical Services taught the students the American Heart Association's hands-only CPR technique using manikins. Rural donated the manikins, AED training equipment and the time of three instructors for the week. Pictured is Courtney Thornton practicing the technique.



## Depew Dominates Tech Wars

Students in the middle school technology club and high school technology classes earned several awards in the 2012 Tech Wars competition at ECC South on May 17. The competition allowed students from schools across Western New York to compete in various design challenges where they designed and built projects.



This year Depew took home several awards. The catapult competition consisted of building a catapult capable of throwing mini-marshmallows. The catapult was graded on several aspects; the students' technical drawings, the distance it throws and its accuracy. From all middle schools that entered, Depew Middle School students Joshua Schaefer, Matt O'Hern and Max Diaz took home first place. The team of Joe Paolini and Mike Brzyski took home second place. James Steckstor and Mitchell Rayno also did well.

Depew Middle School students Aaron Schaefer, Austin Deer, Dylan Johnston, Griffin Garcia and Adam Wilson also had a very strong showing in the famous bridge design competition.

In the high school mini-marshmallow launcher contest, the team of Adam Steiner and Michael Wagner produced one of the top mini-marshmallow trebuchets. They choose to design a more complex trebuchet which earned them an extra 25 points. Matt Nichy and Brandon Williams produced one of the most aesthetically pleasing catapults which performed very well.

A first place winner at the high school level was Eric Wagner who competed in the Kidwind Turbine Challenge. In this competition students had to design a wind turbine and see whose turbine produced the most amount of power. Designs incorporated blade design and gear ratios along with blade pitch. This was Eric's second year competing and he improved upon last year's second place finish to earn first place this year.

It was a great event with hundreds of students present.

## NJHS Induction Ceremony

For many seventh- and eighth-graders at Depew Middle School, April 26 was an important day. The National Junior Honor Society ceremony was held at the school to induct 45 new members and recognize 41 of the current two-year members. This honor is very special in our Depew community and is also a nationally recognized award. With this honor comes a great deal of work and responsibility. The Honor Society students possess the leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship and service traits required to be student leaders at Depew Middle School. All of the inductees and their families should feel very proud.





# Depew Middle School

## Sertoma Club Holds Final Freedom Program

The Depew Middle School students that participated in the Sertoma Club's Freedom Program essay/poster contest saw the end of a 40-year tradition at their school.

The contest, held March 23, was the last one sponsored by the Depew-Lancaster Sertoma Club. The local chapter of the international organization has shown strong support for the middle school contest by supplying over \$25,000 in prizes. Next year the contest will be sponsored by the Middle School Character Education Council.



Eighth-grader Steve Nemeti won first place in the essay contest.



Seventh-grader Madison Addessa won first place in the poster contest.

Salvatore Carlino, a seventh-grade Social Studies teacher, has coordinated the event for the past nine years. The contest, based on the theme of Freedom in America, was open to all seventh- and eighth-graders and drew many entries. Essay judges chose the five winners based on how the essay was written and how it was presented to the audience during the ceremony.

In the essay contest, Steve Nemeti won first place, \$150 and a plaque; second place, Sara Snyder, \$100; and runners-up Katelynn Frawley, Madalyn Petherick and Patricia Russo, \$75 each.

Art Teacher Joseph Pagano, who coordinated the poster portion of the contest, said all seventh-graders submitted a poster for the contest which was judged by a panel of community members. Posters were displayed in the high school auditorium during the ceremony.

In the poster contest, Madison Addessa won first place, \$100 and a plaque; second place, Mikayla Connolly, \$75; and honorable mentions (\$50 each) Brianna Dotterweich, Emily Gammel, Samantha Szykowny.



Front row (l to r) Emily Gammel, Mikayla Connolly, Brianna Dotterweich, Samantha Szykowny. Back row is Joseph Pagano, art teacher, and poster contest winner Madison Addessa.

## DECA News

The Depew High School DECA team earned six awards at the state DECA Career Conference & Competition held in Rochester in March. Ron Jerozal earned first place in Decision Making - Human Resources; Jackie Fullington earned second place in Decision Making - Marketing; and Richie Kaczmarek earned third place in Wholesale Sales Demonstration. Three other students were named top 10 winners including Jessica Burton for Apparel & Accessories, Sarah Fullington for Public Speaking Extemporaneous, and Shane Gerace for Wholesale Sales Demonstration.

Three members of the club attended the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) held in Salt Lake City from April 27 to May 2, accompanied by DECA Advisor Ms. Jessica Leary.

Ronald Jerozal, a freshman, attended the Leadership Development Academy (LDA). "This trip was one of the most fun times I have had while meeting new people from all over the country, taking part in LDA, and touring Salt Lake City. Each were all well worth the cost of the trip," said Ron, who is running for Depew DECA President for the 2012-13 school year.

Seniors Ben Jerozal and Sarah Fullington participated in the Senior Management Institute (SMI). When asked about their experiences at ICDC, Ben said, "This trip has opened my eyes to how big the business world is, and how I can make an impact. It has also given me the skills that are vital to the business world," said Ben.

"This was the experience of a lifetime; I wouldn't have traded it for the world. It was so much more than worth it," said Sarah.

Ms. Leary stated, "It is incredible and so rewarding to see the students work so hard to qualify through the regional and state level competitions, and grow throughout the process. Students return with a new inspiration and motivation after attending a conference of this magnitude. It truly is an experience of a lifetime that can change these students' lives."

# Depew High School

## Depew Student Honored by NTHS

Depew High School student Matthew Walsh, who is enrolled in the Web Technology and Gaming program at Erie 1 BOCES Potter Career and Technical Center, was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) in March. Matthew joined more than 100 high school students from across Erie County at the induction ceremony. The mission of the NTHS is to honor student achievement and leadership, promote educational excellence, and enhance career opportunities for its NTHS membership.



## French 5 Students Help Middle Schoolers

High School French 5 students shared their knowledge about the French language with middle school students who are just beginning their coursework in the language.

The students in the French 5 class, which is the highest level that can be attained at Depew High, offered mini-lessons to sixth-graders and tutoring to eighth-graders. French 5 students can earn college credit for the course.

Emily Staebell and Vanessa Van Wyk offered French mini-lessons to Mrs. DeMarco's sixth-grade class. Pictured are Taylor Weber and Emily Post (in the back) with Mr. Woodroe's class during one of their monthly French mini-lessons. Andrea Sage, Emily Staebell, Christian Hehr and Courtney Thornton volunteered their time and energy to tutor eighth-grade French students.

## Top Three Students Earn 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, Amanda Wolf (valedictorian), Emily Staebell (salutatorian) and Rachel Cardinal (third in class) were honored at the 2012 Erie-Niagara Scholastic Dinner held at the Buffalo Marriott on Thursday, May 17. The students were given a specially designed crystal buffalo for their achievement.



Pictured (l to r) are Amanda Wolf, Rachel Cardinal and Emily Staebell holding their crystal buffalo awards.



# Depew High School



## Memory Project

Depew High School students in an advanced drawing and painting class recently completed a project where they created unique keepsake portraits for children living in an orphanage in Ecuador.

The Depew students took part in The Memory Project for the first time. The Memory Project is a unique initiative in which art students create portraits for children and teens around the world that have been orphaned, neglected or disadvantaged. These children usually have few personal keepsakes, so the purpose of the portraits is to provide them with a special memory of their youth, to honor their heritage and identity, and to help them build a positive self-image and to see themselves as works of art.

The art students at Depew received photos of the Ecuador children and then worked from those photos to

create the portraits using acrylic paints. They completed thirty-six portraits that were sent to children in Ecuador.

"Life is not measured by how much money you make, how long you live or how lavishly, but instead by how many lives you touch in your time on earth. That is why the Memory Project is important. For me this is the first time realizing that I could do something special with my talents that would help other people and make them happy," said Lauren Betzig, a junior at Depew High School, in the essay she wrote after the project was completed.

"My students worked diligently, creating some of their finest work yet in hopes to please their subjects. Throughout the project, students came in outside of class time, during lunches, study halls and after school to work. Their effort and dedication were evidenced in their exceptional results," said Jennifer Hatfield, who teaches the class.

She recently received this message from Ben Schumaker, director of the Memory Project: "My, oh my, I just wanted to let you know that your portraits are here, and they are SO awesome! SO well done! Thanks so much to you and your talented, creative, dedicated team. Wonderful work! What a treat to be able to open a package of this many portraits of such beautiful quality. The kids are really going to value these gifts!"

"This has become a treasured experience for so many who took part. It is a wonderful feeling to know that your gift of time and talent will be treasured by a friend a world away for years to come," said Ms. Hatfield, who plans to continue the project with other classes.

## Business Students Tour Holding Center

Sophomores, juniors and seniors from Depew High School toured the Erie County Holding Center as part of their business law class taught by Mrs. Eileen Cartonia. The students witnessed a K-9 demonstration by Deputy A.J. Burdzy and his dog Cirros before touring the holding center facility with Officers David Franckowski and Jeff Roberts. Depew students are pictured outside the holding center with Deputy Burdzy and his K-9 partner, Cirros.

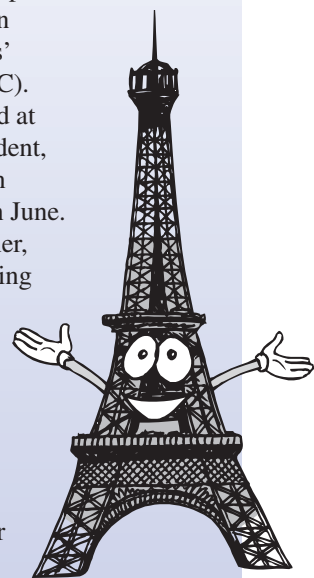


## Gullo Wins Grand Prize in Foreign Language Poster Contest

Hannah Gullo, a junior at Depew High School, earned the Grand Prize in the 2012 poster contest sponsored by the WNY Foreign Language Educators' Council (WNYFLEC).

Hannah was honored at the WNYFLEC Student, Teacher Recognition Awards ceremony in June.

As grand prize winner, in addition to receiving a \$50 cash prize and a certificate of participation, Hannah received a framed copy of her award-winning design, and had her poster duplicated for distribution to all Language Other than English (LOTE) teachers in Western New York during National Foreign Language Week. This year she was enrolled in French 4, a college credit-bearing course. Her poster focused on the theme of "Get Inspired by Foreign Language."



## DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Assemblyman Visits High School

The Depew High School cafeteria was in the spotlight on Friday, May 11 as state Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak visited the school. Barbara Albi, Food Service Director of Depew UFSD invited the assemblyman and his aide, Annalise Freling, to visit the food service program and to have lunch with some of the students involved in Student Senate. The assemblyman and his aide had a lunchtime conversation with students Wendy Nelson, Emily Fayad, Emily Post, Emily Staebell, Anastasia



Snuszka, Allyson Yelich, Jordan Kozmycz, Assistant Superintendent Susan Frey, High School Principal Carol Townsend and Mrs. Albi. They went through the cafeteria line to get their lunches and back to the conference room for a question and answer session.



## Follies

In March the high school held its annual Follies, a series of fun contests that pitted teams of students in contests such as pie eating, ice carrying and much more.

