

Depew Union Free School District

District Newsletter

Winter Newsletter 2012

Seeking Nominations for Wall of Fame

In the fall of 2011 the Depew Union Free School District developed the Wall of Fame program for recognizing the outstanding achievements of alumni of the District. These individuals are people who, after graduation, greatly contributed to the well being of our society through their hard work, talents and leadership. Each year the District will hold an induction ceremony during Homecoming week honoring new inductees.

We have begun the process of selecting our first class for induction. Nominees must be a graduate of at least 15 years. If you know of any alumni who should be considered for this honor, we ask that you provide us with a completed nomination form by Friday, March 30, 2012.

Nomination forms are available in the District Office located at 591 Terrace Boulevard, Depew, NY 14043 and found online on the district website, www.depewschools.org, under the Community tab.

A nominee will be considered for each of the following categories and subcategories:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Graduation Decade: | 2. Athletics |
| 1910 – 1919 | |
| 1920 – 1929 | 3. Scholar |
| 1930 – 1939 | |
| 1940 – 1949 | 4. Community Service |
| 1950 – 1959 | |
| 1960 – 1969 | 5. The Arts |
| 1970 – 1979 | |
| 1980 – 1989 | 6. Friend of the Alumni |
| 1990 – 1999 | |

Each nominee will be reviewed by the district committee for possible induction into the Wall of Fame. Individuals who are selected will be afforded a place on the wall with a picture and biographical information. In addition, it will be expected that the honoree address our high school students, with a reception being held in their honor.

This year's Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Reception is scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2012. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeffrey Rabey, Superintendent of Schools, at 686-5104.

Middle School Top Spellers Compete



The contestants for the spelling bee earned their spot by scoring well on a written spelling test.

The top 30 best spellers from Depew Middle School held an exciting competition Jan. 11 where they competed for the title of 2011-12 Spelling Bee Champ.

The 2011-12 winner was seventh-grader Kristiyan Iliev who received a winning medal, \$30, a Webster's dictionary and will represent the middle school in the next level of competition. See the photo on page 3.

(cont. on page 3)

Kindergarten Registration Information

If your child will start kindergarten in September 2012 at Cayuga Heights Elementary School, please call the school at 686-5003 for an appointment to register. You will be sent a registration packet to complete. Kindergarten registration will be held during the week of March 26-30, 2012 by appointment only.

Children eligible for kindergarten in September 2012 must be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 2012.



Depew Union Free School District



Dates to Remember

Feb. 20-24	Mid-Winter Recess, No School
Feb. 28	Board of Education meeting at Depew High School, 6:30 p.m.
March 8	College Information Night, DHS Café, 7 p.m.
March 20	Board of Education meeting at Cayuga Heights, 6:30 p.m.
March 26-30	Kindergarten Registration, by appointment only

Online Study Skills Links

The district guidance staff has created a Study Skills webpage that includes online links to various sites that offer a variety of exercises in vocabulary, math, Regents prep and other topics. The webpage can be found under the Guidance tab.

The guidance department has also posted community, emergency and agency resources. Phone numbers for the various agencies can be found on the webpage titled HELP is available under the Guidance tab.

www.depewschools.org

Message from the Superintendent

Depew School-Community Survey Earns Good Marks for District



During the month of November the Depew Union Free School District participated in a community wide survey. The purpose of the survey was to seek input on various topics to assist the Board of Education in its budget development process as well as to assess the status of the academic experiences of our students in relation to the District's vision, mission and goals. There were 206 completed surveys and the results can be summarized into eight categories: Academics, Technology, Athletics / Co-Curricular Clubs, Leadership and Board of Education, District Staff, Home-School Connection, Communication, and Overall Impressions.

In the area of Academics, survey respondents showed strong support of the existing programming. A majority of suggestions included how more career-relevant, technology-relevant, and advanced-learning topics could be infused into current programming in all buildings.

For the category of Technology, the survey questions garnered the highest percentage of favorable support from respondents. There is strong support that the use of advanced technology benefits students and helps them learn and it will be critical to keep pace with replacing outdated equipment.

In the area of Athletics / Co-Curricular Clubs, which creates a balanced education, the breadth and value of the District's co-curricular clubs earned slightly more favorable responses than the value cited toward the District's athletic programs, partly because co-curricular clubs can accommodate more students in contrast with athletic teams' limited openings each season.

For the category of Leadership and Board of Education, even though the questions earned a favorable response, there were larger percentages of respondents choosing the "I don't know" category or skipping the question. The conclusion to be drawn is that respondents possibly do not interact as closely with either the District administrators or the Board of Education as they do with their child's classroom teacher. The District will be considering more ways to share news of Board/administrator activities with the wider school-community.

In the area of District Staff, respondents ranked the expertise, talent, approachability of District staff as highly favorable.

For the Home-School Connection, respondents replied favorably that they feel welcome and connected to their child's school and that the District offers meaningful opportunities for parents to be involved in the schools.

In the area of Communications, U.S. mail was the preferred method to receive communication from the District, but only by a small margin above email, phone, parent portal, District web site and District newsletters. More than three-fourths of respondents use the website to find information.

For the Overall Impressions of the District, the respondents noted highly favorable responses agreeing that the District provides a safe and secure environment, which supports teaching and learning and high achievement. Respondents believe that District staff contributes to that positive environment.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey,
Superintendent

Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

Parent Resources Available Online for Common Core Learning Standards

Happy New Year! As we enter 2012 our teachers are diligently working on upgrading their instruction to the Common Core Learning Standards in all grade level, content and technical areas. Our work in teaching and learning is now guided by these standards and twelve “shifts” in instruction – six shifts in English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and six shifts in Mathematics. You can find a concise list of instructional shifts and a series of short videos on the EngageNY.org website.

For the 2011-12 school year, we have asked all teachers in our district to teach at least one unit that is aligned to the Common Core. Teachers are working in teams/departments to think through the ways each shift could impact a unit of instruction and planning these learning experiences together. As part of our District’s goal to improve academic performance, we are focusing on writing. In every classroom teachers are planning thoughtful learning experiences around rigorous texts with close readings of those texts, asking students to respond in writing to thought-provoking, evidence-based questions about the texts. As these units are completed, they will be posted on our website under the Academics tab.

Parent guides which describe the Common Core Learning Standards are posted on our Depew website (www.depewschools.org). If you go to the Community tab you will see a link for parent resources. When you open that you will find a parent guide for each grade level describing in detail the student learning expectations. Another location on our website that provides monthly updates for the Race to Top Education Reform is on the District homepage. Click on the RTTT icon to find monthly newsletters describing key priorities and activities that we are implementing with all our students.

This is truly a time of rapid change for all stakeholders: teachers, administrators, students and parents. It is more important than ever for parents to be involved in your students’ school experience. Ask everyday, what did you learn today, or what are you working on in school? And ask not just as a cursory start of the conversation but really listen to the answer. Probe deeply. How do you know? What does that mean? How does that connect to other things that you’ve learned?

Take an opportunity to read a new book together. Figure out an opportunity with your child where you can learn together through text which is exactly what we are trying to emphasize in the English Language Arts classroom and in the Science and Social Studies classroom.

All academic conversations you have with your child really matters. Those are ways that you as a parent can engage in your child’s education and work alongside their teachers to help support their academic achievement.

We have a huge opportunity as well as responsibility to make a difference for our students. Please check our district website often for resources and ideas. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to email me directly at sfrey@depew.wnyric.org

Sincerely,

Susan Frey,
Assistant Superintendent

(Spelling Bee article cont. from page 1)

Second-place winner was eighth-grader Jessica Chellino who received a certificate of merit and \$20. Every contestant received a spelling bee medal for their achievement of reaching the finals.

More than 130 middle school students in grades six to eight took a written spelling test in December to try to earn a spot in the spelling bee.



Kristiyan Iliev, on right, earned first place in the middle school spelling bee. Jessica Chellino earned second place.

Of those 130, the top 30 spellers were chosen.

The contestants from sixth-grade were Maria Birch, Leanna Bishop, Emily Brandon, Madison Ceccarelli, Dylan Lis, Madelyn Marsowicz, Alix Ostempowski, Tyler Piwowarski, Kincaid Porter, Noah Shaw, Breanna Smith; from seventh-grade were Patrick Brady, Abby Grabowski, Bailey Dlugosz, Kristiyan Iliev, Nick Mueller, Dylan Pfohl, Jarred Pride; from eighth-grade were Kristynn Bryan, Jessica Chellino, Damian Manning, Luke Mlodozieniec, Steven Nemeti, Joseph Paolini, Diana Reiner, Joshua Schaefer, Lorel Shaw, Sara Snyder, Breanna Stapleton and Jenilee Vickard.

Cayuga Heights Elementary

Kindergarten Gingerbread Houses



During December the kindergarten students enjoyed a month-long unit learning about different holidays celebrated around the world. To learn about Germany, the kindergarten classes of Mr. Ward, Mrs. Stachewicz, Mrs. Klaus, and Ms. Wilson had a tasty and fun time making gingerbread houses. Each student built and decorated a gingerbread house using a milk or orange carton covered with frosting, graham crackers, gum drops, candy canes and many other delicious sweet treats.

First-Graders Celebrate with Strega Nona



Mrs. Hoefflich's first-graders prepared for the holidays by reading two books by author Tomie DePaola; *Merry Christmas, Strega Nona* and *Strega Nona*, which earned a Caldecott Honor medal. Students designed limited edition spoon ornaments depicting the mysterious main character. In addition, the story offered multiple opportunities to practice the skills of sequencing and cause/effect. They concluded with songs which summarized the plot of this beloved tale.

Fifth-Grade Peer Helpers are on Duty



Pictured are the 2011-12 Peer Helpers: Juliana Ciesielski, Zoe Kaminski, Mackenzie Lageman, Martin Florian, Jack Piatkowski, Dylan Burlingame, Mallory Oddo, Elizabeth Maroshick, Anna Lucci, Carl Dotterweich, Joe Pagano, Chase Radecki, Nick Schielke, Paige Franger, Katelyn Szeffler, Stephanie Porter, Kelly Warzel, Rachel Wagner and Kayla Bulas.

Congratulations to the Cayuga Heights Peer Helpers for completing their training in peer mediation. The peer helpers recently took the Peer Helper pledge and received their blue and white badges for the 2011-12 school year. The fifth-grade students were chosen last year by their fourth-grade teachers based on their ability to interact with classmates in a positive and productive manner. They began training at Cayuga over the summer and continued during the months of September and October. Training focused on communication skills, listening skills, and problem-solving techniques. The students will use these skills throughout the year to help defuse 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 a Peer Helper, who can be identified by a blue and white badge.

Cayuga Heights Elementary

Fifth-Graders Decorate Themselves



Fifth-graders at Cayuga Heights took their holiday decorating one step further this year and introduced the first annual "Decorate Yourself Day". Students came to school adorned in ornaments, tinsel and even some lights. Santa suits, antlers and blinking Rudolph noses could be seen wandering the halls. Prizes were given to the top four students who showed the most flare and embodied the "Decorate Yourself" spirit. Congratulations to Alexandria Fazio, Matthew Martin, Elizabeth Maroshick and Haylee Oliver.

Elementary Students See Special Performances



As part of the Cayuga Heights school-wide celebration of Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 24-28), morning and afternoon announcements promoted healthy and drug-free choices. Special performances by Glenn Colton and The Hill Brothers highlighted the importance of making positive choices and enjoying healthy activities. Pictured is Glenn Colton who performed two shows for kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade classes. Fourth- and fifth-graders saw the Hill Brothers perform an interactive and entertaining show.

There were activities for each grade level; kindergarteners created coloring pages with healthy themes, first grade made healthy activity posters, second grade had a poster contest, third grade created a wall of healthy messages, fourth grade entered decorated grocery bags in a contest sponsored by Tops Markets, fifth grade students decorated cut-out hands to show that "hand in hand, we take a stand against drugs".

Spooky Night Candy Assembly Line



Mrs. Malush's fourth- and fifth-grade class was happy to lend a helping hand by filling over 500 bags of candy to help prepare for Spooky Story Night. The students worked together and formed an assembly line to get the job done quickly and efficiently. They did a great job and were happy to help prepare for this fun evening!

I-Care Classroom Program

In October, kindergarten classes participated in the I-Care Program. This program is designed to increase student knowledge of simple peace-making and conflict resolution skills. Students were taught ways to respond appropriately to conflict and to demonstrate kindness and caring toward their classmates.

The school counselor visited classes for six weekly sessions to help students learn the I-Care Rules:

1. We listen to each other.
2. Hands are for helping, not hurting.
3. We use I-Care Language.
4. We care about each other's feelings.
5. We are responsible for what we say and do.

Depew Middle School

Two Middle School Musicians to Play in NYS Honor Band



Pictured (l to r) Sarah Snyder and Katelynn Frawley.

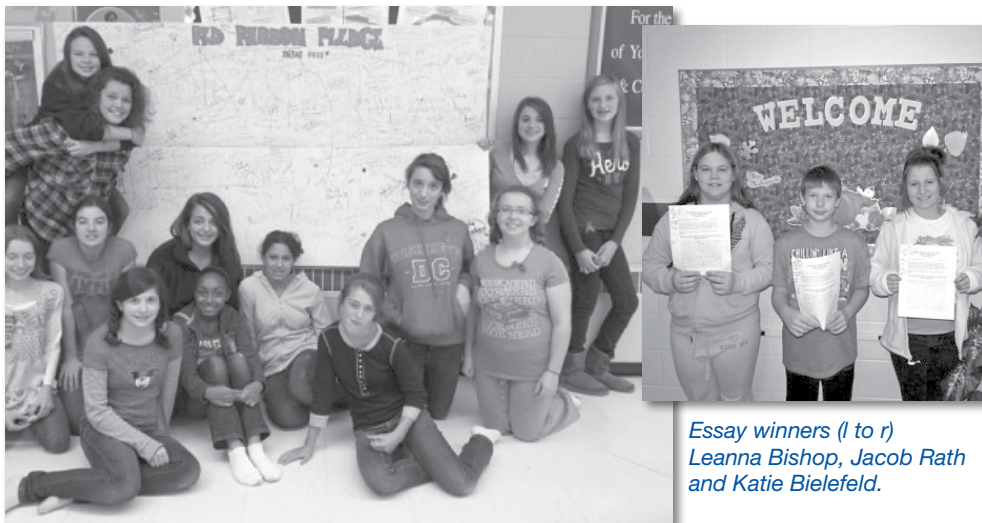
In about a month, two eighth-grade girls from Depew Middle School will have the privilege of playing with an elite musical group - the New York State Band Director's Association Honor Band at its spring symposium in March 2012. Sara Snyder, who plays bass clarinet, and Katelynn Frawley, who plays clarinet, were nominated by their school band directors based on the following terminology from the NYSBDA application: "Wind and percussion students who demonstrate outstanding musicianship, accomplishments and exceptional musical interest."

"This is another wonderful opportunity for these girls to perform with other highly talented and motivated students from all across New York State. Both girls are constantly looking for challenges and experiences to enhance their musical talent and abilities," said Barbara Czosnyka, a middle school music instructor.

Both girls play multiple instruments. They are both in the eighth-grade band. Katelynn also plays French horn. For the Middle School Jazz Ensemble,

(cont.on page 10)

Middle School Essay Winners Announced



Essay winners (l to r) Leanna Bishop, Jacob Rath and Katie Bielefeld.

Many middle school students stepped up to an essay-writing challenge in October as part of Red Ribbon Week to comment on the topic of "How can leading a drug-free lifestyle help you achieve your dreams and goals?" The three grand-prize winners, Leanna Bishop, Jacob Rath, and Katie Bielefeld, should be proud of their efforts.

Mrs. Westfield, Mrs. Ryder and Mrs. Malczewski organized a variety of school-wide activities to help students take a strong stand against drug use during Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 24-28). Many clever and insightful drug-free posters were developed and hung about the school. Students wore red ribbons and signed a drug free pledge. A bake sale raised \$170 for Kids Escaping Drugs. The following companies supported the initiative: Tim Horton's (Transit/Broadway), Renee's Bakery, Wegmans and Target.

Red Ribbon Week began due to the efforts many years ago of a Drug Enforcement Officer named Enrique Camarena. His mother tried to talk him out of joining the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration but he wanted to make a difference. While on duty in Mexico, he gave his life fighting for a drug-free society. Each year individuals honor Mr. Camarena and his ardent opposition to drugs by wearing red ribbons during the last week of October. Many pay homage not only to Special Agent Camarena, but to all men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our nation's struggle against drug trafficking and abuse.



Depew Middle School

French Week and More

Seventh- and eighth-grade French students in Mrs. Harshany's and Ms. Proctor's classes have had a very busy few months.

During National French Week, the students were able to enjoy a day of chocolate fondue, then a trip to Old Fort Niagara during French Heritage Day, an annual bowling tournament against the Lancaster Middle School French students and a field trip to a Buffalo Sabres hockey game against the Ottawa Senators.

The French culture of Christmas traditions were celebrated with the wonderful Bûche de Noël Yule log cakes. Students were able to sample two types; a chocolate cake filled with chocolate chip chocolate mousse filling and a vanilla cake filled with raspberry mousse. Some of the eighth-graders entertained the other students by singing French Christmas carols.

The 3 Kings Day was celebrated Jan. 6. The students make a special Galette des Rois cake and the student who found the "bean" in the cake became King for that class.

Students are now looking forward to celebrating Mardi Gras in February, National Foreign Language week in March and the Quebec trip in May.



Technology Program Receives Grant

The technology education program at Depew Middle School received a \$250 mini grant from Northrop Grumman Amherst Systems to conduct science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) experiments.

The grant money will be used to fund experiments in the flight and aerospace unit. Eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to design, build, and test balsa wood gliders in their technology class to reinforce the principles of flight and aircraft design.

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



NJHS Happenings



Depew Middle School students in the National Junior Honor Society toured a local TV and radio station in October. The first stop was WKBW Ch. 7 where students watched a live taping of AM Buffalo. Students toured the studio and learned the steps taken to create a successful news broadcast. After a pizza lunch, students toured Entercom radio and met Shannon Steele, a disc jockey from Kiss 98.5. Students learned how the radio station sells commercials and how they get companies to sponsor ads.

In early November, students collected unwanted Halloween candy to send to the troops overseas. NJHS members did a good job of promoting the candy drive to collect over 100 pounds of candy. In January, students were involved in the Decades Dance for grades 6-8 and a new charity for the year, Bottles for Babies, where loose change was collected to donate to families in need with infants.

Depew High School

Language Students Celebrate Holidays



Nearly 100 high school students attended the French and Spanish clubs' annual holiday party in December. Everyone enjoyed the French holiday cakes (called *buche de Noel*) made by several French Club members with various traditional and original designs. Pictured holding a cake is Beth Thomas, Kevin Stevens and Emily Staebell.

Come See 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'

The high school music department will present the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, on March 9-10 in the high school auditorium. Over 100 students from the high and middle schools are preparing for their roles in the cast, orchestra, stage crews and various committees.

Show times are Friday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 10 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 pm. Tickets will be available at the school, the door or by calling 686-5067.

Information about ads/patrons can be found on the district website.

National Honor Society Induction



Depew High School's National Honor Society Elizabeth Earle Chapter inducted new members on Nov. 21 during the annual induction banquet at Hearthstone Manor. The students have demonstrated academic achievement with overall averages of 90% or better, have shown positive character traits, and are involved in clubs and activities, often holding leadership positions, that benefit both the school and community.

Inducted were Tiffany Basset, Kaylin Carter, Nicole Champagne, Melissa Cotese, Hannah Gullo, Abby Heltman, Nathaniel Hyman, Joelle Kaczmarzyk, Brittany Londos, Ryan Mietus, Brady Orcutt, Jessica Prible, Brian Rybak, Adam Steiner, Kevin Stevens, Rebecca Struwe, Ryan Sullivan, Natalie Vona, Victoria Williams and Garrett Zmich.

Another part of the evening included the induction of an honorary member. This year, Mr. Kevin Grzybek, a member of the high school science department was chosen. In addition to teaching the living environment class, Mr. Grzybek is co-advisor of the talent show and involved with the music department.

Irish Classical Production Brings Literature to Life



In mid-December, high school AP English students got into the holiday spirit by attending a performance of James Joyce's Christmas story "The Dead" at the Irish Classical Theater in downtown Buffalo. Students thoroughly enjoyed the acting, singing, dancing, and the poignant story of loved ones, loss and bittersweet memories.

Depew High School

French Students Tour Fort Niagara



In early November, high school French 3 students enjoyed a field trip to Fort Niagara in Youngstown. They took part in the Fort's interactive exhibit, The French on the Niagara, in celebration of National French Week. The field trip was made possible by a grant from the high school PTSO.

DECA Students Qualify for State Competitions

DECA Advisor Jessica Leary accompanied 19 high school students to the Region 12 DECA Competition at Lewiston-Porter High School, Jan. 8. This event was attended by nearly 500 students from 16 schools throughout Western New York. Depew had a total of 14 winners who have qualified to attend the New York State DECA Career Conference & Competition in Rochester in March.

Winners included Region 12 & Chapter DECA President, Jessica Burton who competed in Apparel & Accessories; Cassandra Flanders and Marnae Gerace who competed in Retail Merchandising; Shane Gerace, Richard Kaczmarek and Torrey Rueger who all competed in Wholesale Selling; Brooke Rackley and Sara Keller who competed in Job Interview; Ben Jerozal and Sarah Fullington who competed in Public Speaking – Extemporaneous; Evan Synor (Sales Demonstration); Ron Jerozal (Decision Making – Human Resources); and Jackie Fullington (Decision Making – Marketing); and Dominic Gargiuolo (Radio Broadcast Advertising).

Fall 2011 Scholar-Athlete Teams

Members of 10 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.

Boys Golf	90.640
Girls Soccer	92.125
Girls Cross Country	92.147
Boys Volleyball	92.169
Boys Cross Country	92.401
Girls Volleyball	92.840
Girls Swimming/Diving	92.972
Football	93.682
Boys Soccer	94.058
Girls Tennis	96.183

Giving Tree Helps Depew Families

The holiday season was brighter for 264 students from 170 families thanks to the efforts of the district's Giving Tree program. Donations of gift cards and other gift items from staff and the community are given to families in need. This year, local businesses were very generous with donations for the program and we thank them, said Jim LiPuma, director for pupil personnel services.

Information for Parents about Teen Depression

Depew schools joined with six other local school districts in January to promote a program for parents about adolescent depression and suicide.

The program was titled "Out of the Darkness" and included a resource fair with displays and information from community service agencies, a panel discussion and a question and answer time. Many of the resources from the agencies present that night are on the Depew schools website, www.depewschools.org. They can be found by clicking the Guidance tab, Guidance Dept. functions, HELP is available.

(Two Middle School article cont. from page 6)

Katelynn plays piano and Sara plays electric bass. Katelynn performs in the Southtowns Youth Orchestra on clarinet.

"This is the first time we have considered nominating students for this group. These girls have such talent, that we wanted to keep looking for experiences for them to reward their constant hard work and dedication to music," said Mrs. Czosnyka. "They will be playing music that is on par with many high-level high school and college bands."

UPK News



The Universal Preschool students at Lord of Life Child Development Center have been having fun in and out of the classroom this year! Students have been busy learning their addresses, telephone numbers, the alphabet, and phonemic awareness. They have also been learning to spell and write their first and last names using upper and lower case letters. This year students have gone on fun field trips to pick apples at Becker Farms (pictured) and to see Rudolph at the Lancaster Opera House. Still to come in the next few months will be snowshoeing at Reinstein Woods, clowning around at the circus, jumping for joy at Leaps and Bounce and the one students are most excited about – a real Tae Kwon Do lesson!

Second-Grade Caroling Event Spreads Cheer



During the holiday season the second-grade team at Cayuga Heights decided to spread holiday cheer through song. Each class spent time practicing a variety of Christmas carols. The students in the classes of Miss Mangin, Mrs. Hyman, Mrs. Maddigan, Mrs. Fatta, Mrs. Cerifko, Miss Brown, Mrs. LeBoeuf, Mrs. Smaczniak and Mrs. Ball joined together to create a large chorus. The kindergarten and first-grade classes were invited to listen to the carols. The audience even joined in to sing some of the holiday favorites. The event was a wonderful experience that the second grade team hopes to continue next year!

Depew Union Free School District

Fourth-Graders Built Longhouses



The students in Mrs. Jasinski, Mrs. George and Mrs. Janiga's fourth-grade classes constructed longhouses together in December. The project correlates with a unit on the Iroquois Indians for Social Studies. Parents came to the classroom to help with the building and many students provided the supplies needed for the project. A special thanks to Ms. Liz Czechowicz and student teacher Ms. Denise Hockman for their hard work.



Depew's Food Service Director is in the News

Barbara Albi, Depew's food service director, was quoted recently in newspaper articles and on radio stations in her efforts to bring healthy foods to children. On Jan. 4, she was the source for an article titled, "School lunches get an upgrade in Depew schools." You can find a link to the news stories online at www.depewschools.org.

Superintendent, HS Principal Jump in the Lake



If Depew High School students were able to raise \$1,500 for the Polar Plunge that benefitted Special Olympics, Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey and High School Principal Carol Townsend said they would take the plunge into Lake Erie with the students.

The students raised \$2,431 for Special Olympics, so on Saturday, Dec. 3 the superintendent, high school principal, student senate advisors and the high school class officers jumped into Lake Erie at Woodlawn Beach State Park in Hamburg as part of the Polar Plunge.

The challenge began when the Depew High School Student Senate asked each class to raise \$250. The stakes were increased when the principal said she would join the group if \$1,200 were raised. The superintendent would join if \$1,500 were raised.

According to the Polar Plunge Web site, the student senate raised \$995; senior class, \$430; junior class, \$323; sophomore class, \$260 and the freshman class, \$423.



DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

591 Terrace Boulevard
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

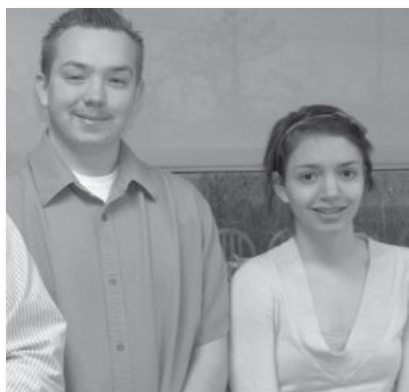
John Spencer - President
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Diane Benczkowski, Trustee
Nancy Fumerelle, Trustee
Michael Fusani, Trustee
Patrick Law, Trustee
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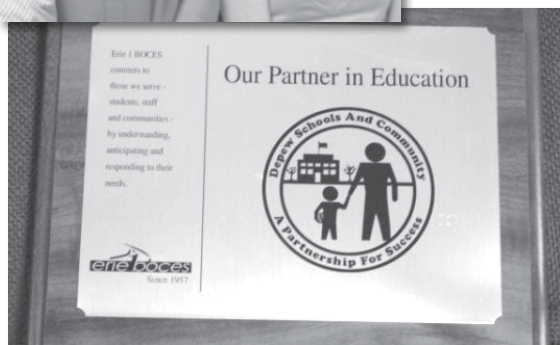
www.depewschools.org

Depew Schools are Recognized



The Depew Union Free School District was recognized for their longstanding efforts to regionally partner with neighboring school districts through a collaborative known as Erie 1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). Board of Education members were present at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center on Aero Drive as they heard from a two Depew students and accepted a plaque on behalf of the district.

Joshua Swigonski is a senior at Depew High School and is enrolled in Erie 1 BOCES' Criminal Justice program at the Harkness Career & Technical Center in Cheektowaga. He spoke to the Depew School Board about the opportunities afforded to him by attending the regional program. Ashley Westgate is a Depew High School senior enrolled in Erie 1 BOCES' New Visions program at the Veterans Administration Hospital. She shared how the class has given her first-hand insight to selecting a medical career path.



Approximately 86 Depew students attend BOCES instructional programs for alternative education, career and technical education and special education. Through this collaborative partnership, the school district has been able to contain spending while affording students additional opportunities for learning. Thirty-seven of those students are enrolled in 14 of BOCES' 27 career and technology programs. From dental labs to electrical systems, BOCES provides classes at three, state-of-the-art, regionally-based centers.