

Depew Union Free School District

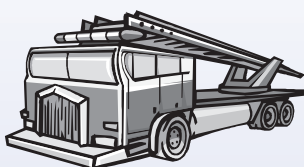
District Newsletter

Fall Newsletter 2012



Riding a Fire Truck to School

Two Cayuga Heights Elementary students earned a special ride



to school in a fire truck on Friday, Oct. 12. Fifth-grader Mary Stockman and third-grader Courtney Elsaesser and her mom, Tammy, were picked up from their homes and dropped off at school. The girls' names were drawn because they participated in a reading incentive program through the Cayuga Heights Involved Parents (CHIP) group which is part of the building's Shared Decision Making program.



Courtney Elsaesser



Mary Stockman

Talent Show Celebrates 10th Birthday



Remembering past talent shows captured in yearbook photos are (l to r) Christian Hehr, Jessica Prible, Dakota Ward, Tiffani Bassett, assistant director Amy Proctor and director Kevin Grzybek.

Getting up on a stage to perform may not be for everyone, but for more than 800 Depew High School students who have participated in the annual talent show since it started 10 years ago, it has meant more than just singing and dancing.

For many of the performers, what started as a fun school event ended up teaching them skills they can use the rest of their lives. For 10 years, a group of dedicated high school students have been putting on the annual variety show that usually has the audience laughing at the narrator's skits and sometimes singing along with the performers.

This year's show marks the 10th anniversary with a theme of "Let's Celebrate." It will be held Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$5 presale and \$7 at the door.

Students auditioned for the show during a day-long session in October.

"All students get the same support, everyone is pushing one another to do better," said Kevin Grzybek, a biology and anatomy teacher who is the show's director.

Yet, just like popular reality talent shows, there are some students who audition who are not ready to be on the stage. "We sometimes have to tell a child that they are not there yet ... we encourage them to be involved in another way like stage crew," said Grzybek. Many of the students who started with the talent show on stage crew stuck with it to also work on the musical and other productions.

Amy Proctor, a French and ESL teacher in all three Depew schools, is the assistant director.

Working on a live show means everyone has to adjust when something unexpected happens. An incident a few years ago that Grzybek and Proctor can laugh about now was when the grand piano was being rolled

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Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Superintendent Wall of Fame Honors Alumni



To the Depew School – Community, On Thursday, Oct. 11, with over 100 people in attendance, the Depew Union Free School District began a new tradition in the newly renovated High School cafeteria by inducting 25 distinguished alumni into the Wall of Fame.

Those of you familiar with Depew Schools know that tradition is so very important to its culture and this inaugural event will become a critical part of the cultural fabric that celebrates the lives of the Depew Alumni elite. From this point forward, each year during Homecoming Week, alumni will be honored on the Wall of Fame for all current and future students to experience. The individuals who were inducted are people who, after graduation, greatly contributed to the well being of our society through their hard work, talents and leadership. Their achievements are in the realms of Scholarship, Leadership, Community Service, and Character and this honor bestowed upon them was a wonderful way for the school and community to recognize and celebrate the choices, and sometimes the sacrifices, each of them has made. The four pillars of elite Depew Alumni, in which each of our inductees have excelled in, are scholarship, leadership, community service, and character, which are not random characteristics, but the core of a fulfilled and fulfilling life. The most important thing to remember is that each of these characteristics is the sum of many individual decisions. They embody a positive attitude backed by purpose.



My hope is that for each current and future student to reflect on the names of the Wall of Fame and then cultivate this same attitude in their own lives. The inaugural class of the Wall of Fame alumni represents 21 graduates from 1933 through 1995 along with four special Friends of the Alumni, who have had a significant impact on the lives of our Depew School-Community. This group of special individuals represents historians, emergency service providers, elected officials, research testers, community service members, educators, secretaries, real estate agents, professors, social workers, veterans and fallen military heroes, coaches, Board of Education members, custodians, performers, bankers, chiropractors, clinical pathologists, professional athletes and medical doctors. These are only their vocational titles; it does not in any way represent what they, as individuals, have truly become and offered society, which in many ways is so much more commendable and valuable.

As a school leader, I understand that it is my sole responsibility to prepare young people to be successful in life. For the most part, society relates this success in life to what

career pathway one ends up on; I tend to disagree; what I stress, is not just a prestigious career, but a life; a family life, a spiritual life, a life of service, a life of commitment and dedication to a cause, a life of being a positive role model, or a life of happiness.

These individuals have demonstrated success on many of these levels and have positively represented this school-community wherever they have gone; this is why they were chosen to be honored. The 2012 Depew Alumni Wall of Fame is an engraved glass plaque located in the newly renovated High School Cafeteria, which will be on display from this point forward for all current and future students of the Depew Union Free School District to experience and reflect.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Superintendent



Mildred Whittaker is escorted to the podium to receive her award.

Wall of Fame Inductees 2012

Alumni

Dr. Martin Terrell
Joseph Rybak
Adolf Kotz
Mildred Whittaker
Dr. Joseph Gizinski
Raymond Morningstar
Arthur Domino
Richard Buckenroth
Janice Baron-Wozniak

Sebastian Constantino
Michael Salvatore
Donald Majkowski
Rose Maria Capaccio
Dr. Darren Caparaso
Dr. John Dzik
Dr. Darlene Dzik
Terrance Buchwald
Sgt. Cari Anne Gasiewicz

Dr. Kelly Jackson
Glenn Jackson
Dr. Eric Springer

Friends of the Alumni

Frank Paul Constantino
Duane Connors
J. Emmett Dawson
Edmond Paliwodzinski



Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

Depew APPR Plan Wins State Approval

The New York State Education Department approved the District's Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) plan on Oct. 3, 2012. Currently, Depew is one of only seven districts in Erie County to have its plan for implementing the Annual Professional Performance Review approved by the State.

Countless hours went into developing the plan and the Depew Teachers' Organization and the Depew Administrator's Association are thanked for their leadership and cooperation in devising the plan.

Now comes the work of implementing the complex plan. We repeatedly tell our faculty "we are all in this together."

The district submitted its plan for state approval in mid-July. Districts across New York were expected to implement APPR for the 2012-13 school year. The letter from the State Education Department announcing our approval is shown.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Frey,
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction,
Curriculum and Personnel

Picking Pumpkins on a Farm



The universal prekindergarten class from the Lord of Life site has been busy, busy, busy! In early October, we took a field trip to Becker Farms to feed the animals and learn more about farms. 'Pp' was the letter of the week, so we made sure to pick pumpkins from the pumpkin patch, as well!



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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October 3, 2012

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Superintendent
Depew Union Free School District
591 Terrace Boulevard
Depew, NY 14043

Dear Superintendent Rabey:

Congratulations. I am pleased to inform you that your Annual Professional Performance Review Plan (APPR) meets the criteria outlined in Education Law §3012-c and Subpart 30-2 of the Commissioner's Regulations and has been approved for the 2012-2013 school year. As a reminder, we are relying on the information you provided on your APPR form, including the certifications and assurances that are part of your approved APPR. If any material changes are made to your approved APPR plan, your district/BOCES must submit such material changes to us for approval. Please see the attached notes for further information.

Please be advised that, pursuant to Education Law §3012-c, the Department will be analyzing data supplied by districts, BOCES, and/or schools and may order a corrective action plan if there are unacceptably low correlation results between the student growth subcomponent and any other measures of teacher and principal effectiveness and/or if the teacher or principal scores or ratings show little differentiation across educators and/or the lack of differentiation is not justified by equivalently consistent student achievement results.

The New York State Education Department and I look forward to continuing our work together, with the goal of ensuring that every school has world-class educators in the classroom, every teacher has a world-class principal to support his or her professional growth, and every student achieves college and career readiness.

Thank you again for your hard work.

Sincerely,

John B. King, Jr.
John B. King, Jr.
Commissioner

Attachment

c: Donald Ogilvie



We also learned about fire safety. One of our lessons was how to leave a building on fire safely. We went on an EXIT sign hunt and then painted our own EXIT signs. The children came up with the idea to hang our EXIT signs around school where the real EXIT signs are located.



Cayuga Heights Elementary



New Library Books

Students at Cayuga Heights will have 150 more library book titles to choose from this school year. Thanks to Target and First Book, the library was the recipient of a \$500 grant which is part of Target's effort to give back to the community and provide schools and libraries with resources to bring learning to life. The grant funded over 150 new hard-cover fiction and non-fiction books. The books include familiar characters such as Judy Moody, The Cat in the Hat, and popular Disney characters, plus brand new series and titles such as *The Kingdom Keepers* and *Ponyella*.

Book Fair

Once again the Scholastic book fair has come and gone. Every year students at Cayuga Heights are thrilled to visit the book fair in the library. The book fair is a great way for students and parents to see what new and exciting books are available. Some of the popular titles this year included the *I Survived* Series, *Barbie and the Popstar*, *A Perfect Time for Pandas* from the Magic Tree House Series, and Junie B. Jones is back with an all new title, *Turkeys We Have Loved and Eaten (and Other Thankful Stuff)*. The Scholastic book fair is always a successful fundraiser and with the money raised more books and DVDs are able to be purchased for the library.



Young Students Learn Chinese

The youngest students at Cayuga Heights will learn to write, speak and read basic Chinese this school year as part of a two-year partnership between Depew Schools and the Confucius Institute at the University at Buffalo.

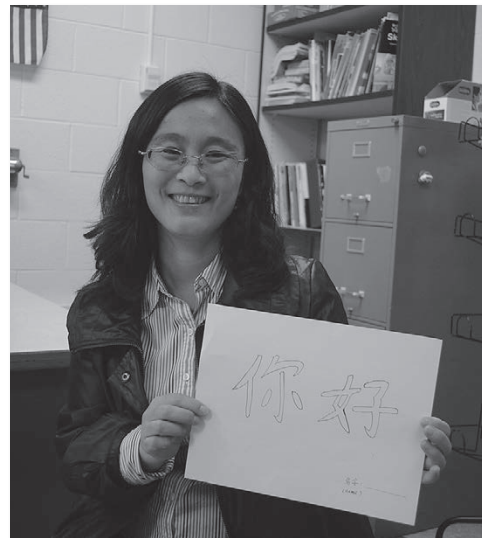
Lan Wei, a teacher on loan from the Confucius Institute, will spend this year instructing kindergarten and first-grade students in the Mandarin dialect of the Chinese language. In her weekly visits to each classroom she will teach them the Chinese pronunciation and symbols of words they use daily in their classroom, such as numbers, colors and simple phrases like hello.

She will also instruct them about the culture and customs that are important in China. The Chinese Moon Festival is an important traditional event in China much like Christmas and Thanksgiving in the U.S. The Moon Festival is full of interesting stories that she shared with students. Throughout the year, they will do craft projects and sample traditional foods from China.

Wei has taught the Chinese language at the university level for 16 years. She said teaching the younger children is fun.

The Confucius Institute is dedicated to promoting the teaching of Chinese language and culture in Western New York and has teachers on loan with other local schools.

Depew Schools began developing a connection with the Confucius Institute in 2010 when Superintendent Jeffrey Rabey traveled to China as part of the institute's Chinese Bridge program which offers study tours for educators. While there, Rabey toured private and public schools and many historical and cultural sites. In June 2011, the institute extended the program to include Board of Education members and other administrators throughout Western New York and therefore Depew Board of Education vice president Barbara Staebell participated in the Chinese Bridge program. This commitment by the District then allowed Depew students to enroll in the Chinese Bridge High School Summer camp



Teacher Lan Wei teaches her students the symbols used in the Chinese language.



in the summer of 2011 and two students from Depew were accepted.

In fall of 2011 students from Beijing's Capital Normal University presented Chinese traditional music and dance to middle and high school students in Depew. In September 2012 another performance was given to Depew students and one of the performers is pictured.



Cayuga Heights Elementary

Fire Prevention Assemblies at CHE

Members of the South Line Fire Department visited Cayuga Heights in October to teach students the importance of creating an escape map for their home and remind their parents to replace the batteries in the smoke detectors. Each grade level at the school attended an assembly to learn more about fire prevention.

Using the theme of “Know Two Ways Out”, the firefighters told first-grade students they should know two ways out of their home. They explained it was important for the family to develop a plan and an outside meeting place should a fire ever occur in their home.

They explained that most fires happen in the kitchen and the laundry room. They told the first-graders and their teachers that lint in the dryer can catch fire if the lint traps in the dryer and on the exterior of their house are not cleaned out regularly.

They chose five children to dress in kid-sized firefighter uniforms. Pictured are Angelo Bruno, Aubrey Corbett, George Steves, Gaige Hughey and Mackenzie Nawojski.



Choral Students Perform with BPO

Students from Cayuga Heights fifth-grade chorus performed as an opening ensemble at the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's Community Spotlight series on Saturday, Nov. 10. This event was an opportunity for 24 students to showcase their talents as musicians and get the Depew Schools' name out into the greater Buffalo community. Following their performance, the students attended the BPO's concert entitled Broadway Romance. Each student was hand-selected by Miss McCulloch, director of the fifth-grade chorus, following a week-long audition process. The performers were Kelsey Piatek, Xoie Ferrentino, KJ Zielezinski, Sonya Mattler, Ashley Lopez, Breanna Borgosz, Justin Cwiklinski, Lauren Paradis, Mary Stockman, Bailey Moskal, Tyler Connors, Jillian Szykowny, Mitchell Vannelli, Collin Coburn, Starr Robinson, Marcianna Cardona, Jersey Phillips, Sarah Rolling, Samuel Beutler, Trey Hoerner, Aniya Willis, Kenneth Che, Nathan Knight and Danata Biscotto.

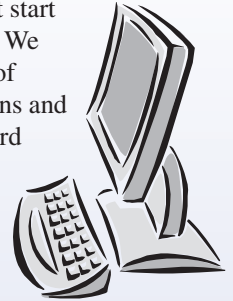
Watt Farms Field Trip

The kindergarten classes at Cayuga Heights took their first field trip to Watt Farms in September. They picked apples, learned about bees, pressed apple cider, rode a train to the orchard, fed farm animals and played in a hay maze!



Computer Lab News

We are off to a great start in the computer lab. We began with a study of computer applications and are working very hard on many different skills and tasks. The computer lab students have learned how to center, bold, bullet and underline text, as well as change font sizes and properly open and save documents. They are doing a wonderful job!



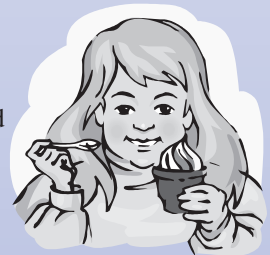
In the weeks to come, we will be working on using search engines to locate important information related to what they are learning in their classrooms, as well as use this information to create informational and fun presentations and projects.

Please feel free to check out our teacher webpages at www.depewschools.org for additional resources you can utilize at home.

Summer Readers Earn Ice Cream Party

Last June students at Cayuga Heights were encouraged to participate in the Summer Reading Awards Program.

Students in each grade level were asked to read and respond to a specific number of books. On Friday, Sept. 21, students who participated were awarded with an ice-cream party. Approximately 215 students participated in this special reading program!



Depew Middle School

U.S. Marine Tells DMS Students 'Courage is Contagious'



U.S. Marine Corp. Mark O'Brien shows students how his artificial leg works.

A U.S. Marine Corporal and Purple Heart recipient spoke to Depew Middle School students in September about bullying, leadership and life lessons and wants them to remember three words: courage is contagious.

Those words may help them decide to do what is right when faced with a situation of bullying or cheating.

U.S. Marine Corp. Mark O'Brien, who at the age of 21 lost an arm and a leg during his second tour of duty in Iraq when a rocket propelled grenade ripped through the armor of his Humvee, told the students that everyone has a value system of right and wrong that they learned, first from their parents and later from teachers and other adults.

"By the end of the day, your value system will be challenged," he said, adding that they might see someone being bullied and will face the decision to either walk by or help the student.

There was total silence in the high school auditorium when O'Brien confessed that he was a bully. He said he bullied another boy for 6 ½ years, making him cry at least three times a week. He said he had been bullied in fourth or fifth grade and when he got to middle school, he did

not want to get picked on again so he chose someone else to pick on.

"No one stood up to me to stop it," he said, calling himself a jerk for being a bully. He said his parents never knew he was a bully until his mother heard one of his bullying presentations.

In his senior year in high school, he decided to stop the bullying. He invited the boy he had bullied to go golfing and started to get to know him.

After he was home recovering from his injury, that boy was one of the first to call him. "He was a lawyer and I was in a hospital bed with one arm and one leg," he said.

He told the students several stories about the military where his commanders made courageous decisions to lead by doing the right thing.

"If you are the bully, what gives you the right to pick on someone because he looks different or is not athletic," he said. He also commented on cyber-bullying saying, "If you are sitting in your house in the protection of your room making fun of someone that is being a coward."

"If you are the kid that is getting bullied, get help. It gets better. Go to your parents, your teacher or your principal," he said.

In response to a question from a student,

he showed them how his mechanical arm is strapped to his chest and shoulder and controlled in part by flexing his chest muscles. He pulled up his pant leg to reveal his artificial leg and described how the computer chip in the knee helps control his movements.

This program represents another piece in the district's continuing effort to proactively address the topic of bullying and relationships. Over the past several years, numerous prevention and intervention programs have been presented to students at all grade levels to help them develop skills and strategies to stand up to bullying and create positive relationships.

These on-going efforts have led to a 21 percent drop in the number of reported bullying incidents and disciplinary actions in recent years, according to James LiPuma, director of pupil personnel services for Depew Union Free Schools. "We always try to be proactive and teach basic foundation skills to students but we can't always expect kids to know how to handle every situation that is new," he said.

Marine Corporal O'Brien's military honors include Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Induction into the NYS Veteran's Hall of Fame.



O'Brien kept the students at attention with stories about his time in the military.

Depew Middle School

Breakfast Eases New Students' Transition

In an effort to help ease their transition to Depew Middle School, Joanne Ryder, school counselor, facilitated an information breakfast meeting for seventh- and eighth-grade students who were new to the district. Mrs. Ryder discussed with both students and parents a wide variety of topics from lockers, lunches and the bell schedule, to sports and clubs, to the school's stance on bullying, as well as other pertinent issues that might face new students.

Students were introduced to each other so that on opening day they were able to walk through the door knowing a few familiar faces (and that they share the same feelings of being a "new kid"). Mrs. Ryder was hopeful that the lengthy discussion and a tour of the building helped soothe anxieties in parents and students alike. The students will be invited back to participate in a counseling group specific to new student issues and will meet regularly throughout the school year. Parents were encouraged to call or stop in should any concerns arise.

Pep Rally Brings out Spirit

Middle school students rallied their wildcat spirit at the annual DMS wildcat pep rally on Oct. 10 to cheer on the modified football team for their game against Lancaster. The audience enjoyed a band performance directed by Mrs. Barb Czosnyka as well as a performance by the eighth-grade chorus directed by Mrs. Heather Lovelace. Along with supporting the football team, DMS students in other sports were recognized for their efforts.



The Pep Assembly was coordinated by Student Council Co-Advisors Dawn Thurnherr and Sal Carlino, along with student council officers, President Elizabeth Maroshick, Vice President Stephen Paolini, Secretary Katelyn Szeffler, and Treasurer Nick Sugg. The event was emceed by Mr. Carlino and Jim Woodroe, who have been sharing the duties for many years in this highly anticipated yearly event.

Events included a Minute to Win It competition between all grades and the teachers. In the end, the eighth-grade won the competition. The modified cheerleaders, coached by Meghan Bible, also showed off their talents in helping to raise the spirits of the football team with a cheer routine. Finally, the wildcat football team came out to center court of the high school gymnasium, and captains Hunter Shipley and Nathan Hopkins gave inspiring speeches for their teammates.



Diaoramas Showcase Favorite Novel Scenes

Mrs. Hoeflich's class started the year by reading the novel *Sixth Grade Can Really Kill You* by Barthe DeClements. This humorous tale depicts life in sixth grade from Helen's point of view. Her pranks throughout the story made the students laugh and, at the same time, show empathy toward her character. Students were assigned to build mini-dioramas of their favorite scenes and the finished products showcased their creativity. Pictured is work by Elizabeth Maroshick, Chase Radecki, Lindsay Klaffka and Samantha Maroshick depicting scenes of setting off firecrackers in class and putting toothpaste on the teacher's chair. Luckily, there are no "Bad Helens" in our class.

Board of Education Meetings at 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 20	Depew High School
Dec. 18	Depew High School
Jan. 15	Depew High School
Feb. 26	Depew High School
March 19	Depew High School
April 16	Depew High School
May 14	Budget Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, Depew High School
May 21	Budget Vote and Election, Cayuga Heights Elementary, Noon - 9 p.m.
May 28	Depew High School
June 18	Depew High School

Tentative Budget Work Sessions

The board will hold budget work sessions on Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 5 and April 9. These are tentative dates.

Depew High School

Eagle Scout Brings Cayuga's Dream Garden Back to Life



Torrey Rueger and many volunteers put in 427 hours of work to bring the Dream Garden back to life.

The Dream Garden that Torrey Rueger worked on as a young student at Cayuga Heights Elementary School has come full circle as he recently completed his Eagle Scout project on the garden that beautifies the front of the elementary school.

When Rueger, now a junior at the high school, was in kindergarten, he joined a group of students who helped now-retired teacher Elizabeth Czechowicz ready the Dream Garden each year before the budget vote. So when it came time for him to develop a project for his Eagle Scout badge, he knew what he wanted to do.

"I wanted to make the garden look as good as it used to," he said.

The garden was started by Mrs. Czechowicz in 1999. It was her dream, at that time, to make the front of the elementary school look better. "Now it's a neat little focal point for the district," she said recently. She said over the years it has been a spot that families use while their children play on the playground and brings pride to staff and students as they enter the building.

Over a two-day period in early July, Rueger and volunteers worked to trench, weed, plant new flowers, make name signs identifying each plant, prune existing plants and mulch the beds. Other updates to the gardens included installing painted bird feeders and houses, a fun painted chair planter, a recognition sign for Mrs. Czechowicz and

another for the years of service from Cub Scout Pack 468, Torrey's Eagle Project Plaque, many colorful painted rocks to provide year-round color to the gardens, a tic-tac-toe board made from a stump and painted benches.

Landscaping improvements were also made to the beds that line the front of the building and the smaller bed next to the Dream Garden.

Rueger was helped by his mom, Mary Beth; dad, Randy; brothers, Brandon, 24, and this twin Seth, 16, as well as his Boy Scout Troop #352, Cub Scout Pack #468, scouts from other local units and several neighbors.

More than 427 hours of work was put into the project. Rueger presented a photo book to the Depew Board of Education in October that explained the work done and to help future gardeners identify the plants in the garden.

As part of the Eagle Scout requirements, he had to complete a workbook with information about the project during various stages -- before it began, during the improvements and after the project was completed.

Thanks to him, the community can continue to enjoy the Dream Garden.

Mark Your Calendar for Holiday Concerts

The Music Department cordially invites you to enjoy the sounds of the season by attending our holiday concerts during December. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, Dec. 4:
Middle School Concert #1:
6th grade, HS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 6:
Middle School Concert #2:
7th - 8th grade, HS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 10:
MS & HS Jazz, HS Show Choir Concert,
HS Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12:
Cayuga Heights Concert #1:
5th grade, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 13:
Cayuga Heights Concert #2:
4th grade, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 17:
High School Concert, HS Auditorium,
7:30 p.m.

Commended Students in 2013 National Merit® Program

Jessica Addesa and Maeghan Glynn, both seniors at Depew High School, have been named Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2013 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).



High School Principal Carol Townsend is pictured with students Maeghan Glynn and Jessica Addesa.

Depew High School

Field Trip to Historic Buffalo Sites

Seniors in economics and participation in government classes recently attended a field trip to downtown Buffalo to learn more about the past and future of the Nickel City. With guides from Buffalo Tours, approximately 130 students took a two-hour walking tour around the commercial district, discovering the rich history of this



region through analyzing its architecture. Along the way, they were able to see not only landmarks like the Guaranty Building, the Buffalo Savings Bank and the Ellicott Square Building, but also current redevelopment projects like Statler City and the Hotel @ the Lafayette. A buffet lunch was enjoyed at the Pearl Street Grill, another historic structure that demonstrates the success of reusing older buildings. The field trip was organized to help students complete a cross-curricular research essay assignment on specific efforts that have been made to revitalize the city of Buffalo. In their social studies and English classes, students will be working on either examining a specific structure or initiative that has been designed to improve the local economy or proposing new ways to use vacant or underutilized buildings.

Talent Show Celebrates 10th Birthday *continued from page 1*

into the backstage wings and some piano strings broke. Grzybek recalls he told the master of ceremonies to stall while he ran and got another piano from the chorus room. "No one in the audience knew anything was wrong," he said.

Christian Hehr, a senior, wowed the audience last year with his KISS tribute band. He and the 8-member band he plays with hope to have another big number planned this year. This year in addition to being "talent" in the show, he serves as the student director managing the money and public relations.

The shows are popular, drawing between 300 and 400 audience members and generating up to \$2,000 each year. Over the past 10 years, more than 800 Depew High School students have participated and approximately \$20,000 has been raised. The majority of the proceeds go into the Character Education program at

the high school which pays for various guest speakers and a field trip for juniors to the Niagara Falls airbase to use the drunk driving simulator. A portion of the proceeds also pays for printing costs of next year's poster, programs and tickets designed by art teacher Jennifer Hatfield.

Dakota Ward, a senior, co-narrated the talent show last year and hopes to get that role again. Using the show theme, students write the narrator script and the skits that are performed between talent acts. Dakota, who wants to be a broadcaster or work on late-night talk shows, said he has learned over the years what an audience thinks is funny.

Tiffani Bassett has been a solo vocalist in the talent show since she was a freshman. "It made me step out of my comfort zone," she said, adding that she was terrified at first but her confidence has grown. She said she learned to work together with other performers as a team.

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DHS French Club Activities

The DHS French Club has many interesting and educational activities lined up this year! We held our introductory meeting in September and our Wendy's Community Night fundraiser in October. In November members enjoyed learning about Luxembourg, popular French music and "les clips" of music videos with guest speaker, Monsieur Dany Jacob. In December, we'll celebrate the holidays with our annual French cake contest. Pictured are this year's French Club Officers: Hannah Gullo and Justin Leach, co-presidents; Tiffany Bassett and Victoria Williams, co-vice presidents; Priscilla Ouattara and Catie Veiders, co-secretaries; Tori Amorosi, treasurer.

Jessica Prible, a dancer, said she made some very good friends during the talent show and her confidence in herself grew.

Even the teachers join the fun, as some of the acts are student-teacher acts.

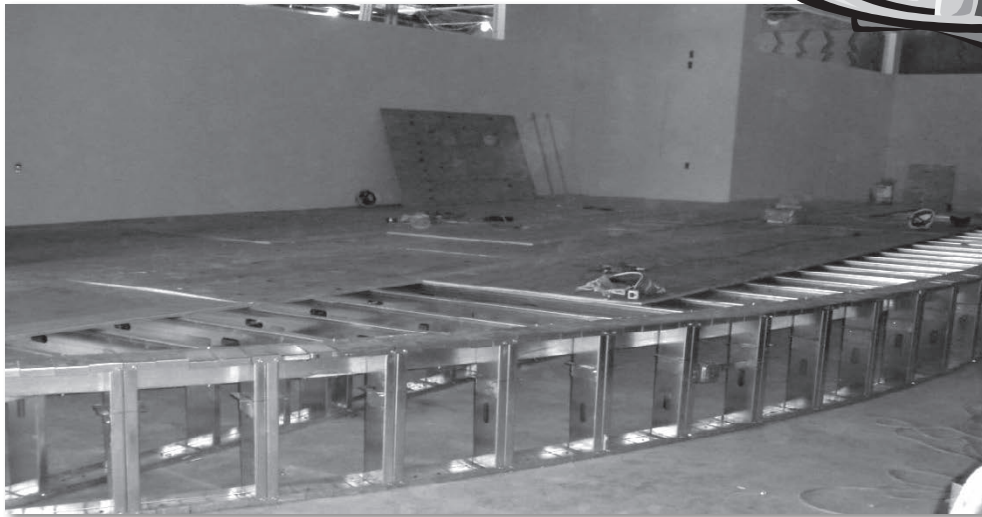
Mark your calendar for Nov. 15 to watch the talent show cast and crew make history and support a worthy cause.

Depew Union Free School District

Spirit Week



Capital Project Updates



Updates on the \$15.9 million capital project are made to the Board of Education during monthly meetings. The project, which was approved by residents last May 2011, includes work and renovations at all buildings. The updates, an explanation of the scope of work and photos can be found on the district website, depewschools.org, under the District tab, Capital Project 2011 page.

Update from the Oct. 16 board meeting:

The enabling phase of the capital project has continued to be ahead of schedule and under budget. The High School Cafeteria is near full completion, as we are only waiting on windows and the remaining stage railings and railing in-fills. Full completion is scheduled for Nov. 29, with the exterior window installation. The High School Fitness Room drywall installation is completed and finishing has started. The new District and Business Office suites' drywall finishing is complete, the split system for air conditioning has been installed and the priming of the walls has started. In the Middle School, the new Special Education suite's ceiling tiles are completed and the final coat of paint has begun. Phase Two of the capital project is being finalized prior to going out to bid within the next couple of weeks for the beginning of work scheduled for May 2013. This is probably one of the best

bid environments and time lines for bid submissions, which will be great for the District's dollar value.

Update from the Aug. 21 board meeting:

The enabling phase of the Capital Project is well under way. Since Wednesday, July 27, 2012 the following activities have taken place in each of the buildings:



High School:

Asbestos abatement was completed and cleared on Aug. 3, 2012.

The demolition in the classrooms for the new District and Business Office suites has been completed and the renovation to these spaces has begun with an expected completion date of Nov. 30, 2012.

The Cafeteria demolition is complete and renovations have begun with a completion date of Sept. 30, 2012. While renovations

are being completed, there has been a temporary wall built. Based on the occupancy requirements of 15 square feet per person, the required area for the cafeteria for the start of school is equal to 1,650 square feet. Per the High School enrollment and scheduling, the maximum enrollment will be 110 people. Our design has a total of 1,834 square feet, which will allow 122 occupants. The occupancy sign in the cafeteria, which will identify this information, will also be changed.

Middle School:

Asbestos abatement was completed and cleared on Aug. 10, 2012.

The three (3) folding wall - partition rooms have been painted and the final partition installation has started with an expected completion date of Aug. 31, 2012.

The demolition in the classrooms for the new Special Education Office suites has been completed and the renovation to this space has begun and the expected completion date is Nov. 30, 2012.

Cayuga Heights Elementary:

All abatement and demolition has been completed in the 12 rooms where folding walls were removed. The new partitions have been installed and are being painted. The anticipated completion date is Aug. 25, 2012.

Next Steps:

The bid process for the next phase will take place in November for work to begin in the spring of 2013.

DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

591 Terrace Boulevard
Depew, New York 14043

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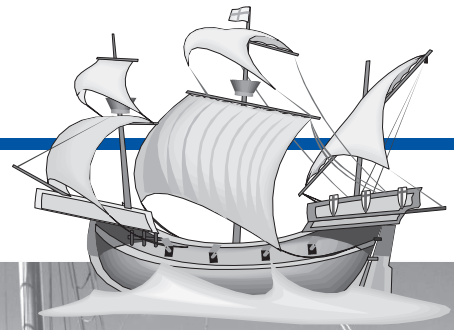
Science Students Sail Lake Erie

Students in living environment and earth dynamics science classes put their classroom knowledge to use during a September field trip on the Spirit of Buffalo, a 43-foot schooner. The students, teachers and crew sailed to explore Lake Erie using scientific tools and measures.

Mrs. Owens' and Mr. Eaton's science students were engaged in hands-on, inquiry based learning. Students helped with the sails, learned about nautical map reading, calculated speed in nautical miles and took turns driving the boat. Students were guided

by the skilled crew of aquatic educators and took samples of the bottom of Lake Erie, sifting through the soft clay to discover living organisms and invasive species that are present in the Great Lakes. Students collected samples of plankton on the water's surface and examined them under microscopes onboard the sailboat.

This field trip, sponsored by Buffalo Urban Outdoor Education (BUOE), was possible because Mrs. Owens attended a week-long workshop, The Great Lakes Academy, last summer. This grant-funded workshop has a goal to increase awareness of the Great Lakes and local watersheds by providing educators with experiences and tools to use in the classroom. This free program for the district includes



classroom resources and up to 10 classroom sessions with educators from Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center and the BUOE organization. Classroom visits include activities that will expand student understanding of the aquatic and land ecosystems. The field trip, resources and classroom sessions meet the science curriculum and Common Core standards.