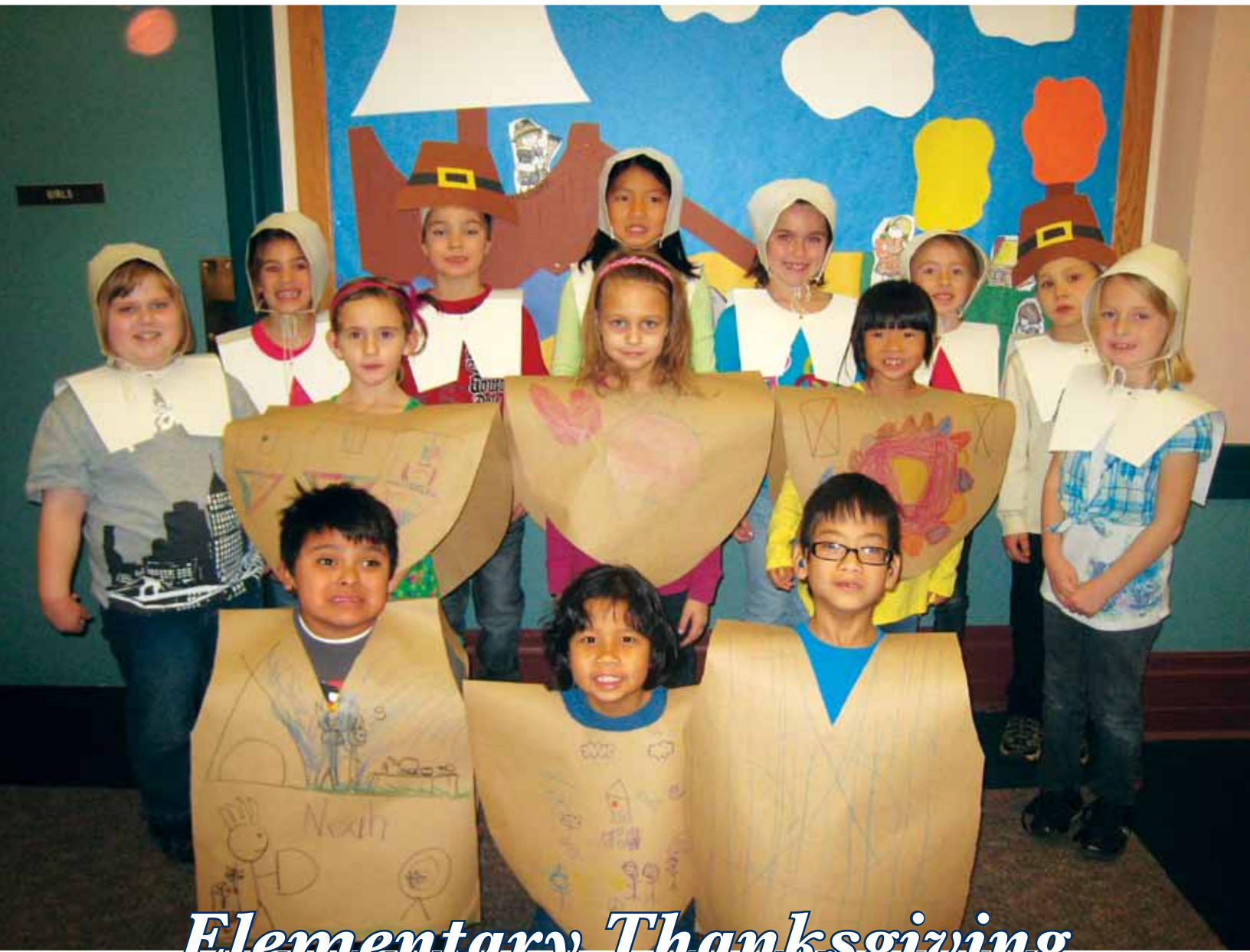


THE WESTERN Pennsylvanian

Volume 126 | Number 2 | Winter 2013

Newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania School For The Deaf



Elementary Thanksgiving

On page 9

**Bright Lights
Memorable Moments**

On page 5

**Making New
Friends**

On page 8

**High School Students
Give Back**

On page 10



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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Upcoming Events

March

22	End of Third Grading Period
28	Students dismissed at 12:30 pm
29	Spring Break Begins

April

7	Residential Students Return
8	Classes Resume

May

13	Long Weekend - No Classes Residential Students Return Classes Resume
14	May Day
27	Memorial Day - No Classes Residential Students Return

28	Classes Resume
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June

6	Class of 2013 Graduation
7	Last Day of School Students Dismissed at 12:30 pm

Supervisions



We recently lost one of the finest members of the WPSD "Family" when Dan Emerick passed away. Dan was a PE teacher at WPSD for 34 years and was beloved by students, staff and parents. He retired last year but continued to be active and supportive of the School.

I met Dan in 1986 when I worked for Gallaudet and he was there participating in an outreach conference. His participation meant Gallaudet would give him and WPSD \$2,500 to help start the Western Pennsylvania Senior Citizens group. I remember Dan very clearly because he was

so committed to establishing this group. I saw him again in 1993 when I interviewed for the WPSD position and he remembered me and made sure I supported WPSD's involvement with Senior Citizens. So, here we are, many years later...the senior citizens are still thriving thanks to Dan.

One of the reasons Dan was interested in deaf senior citizens was because his mom and dad were deaf. He adored them and was an example of what a loving son should be. Dan was a good, caring person. Everything I write and read about Dan includes the term "caring" and that's because he put others before himself in a sincere and genuine way.

Many years ago Dan was diagnosed with testicular cancer. This was a very tough challenge for him, but, his bout with cancer was a lesson for all of us. He showed us how to deal with it in a humble, determined way. I was, and am, in awe of the courage and inner strength he displayed. Afterwards, his commitment to wellness was a result of his concern for his friends, colleagues and students and, in his quiet way, he made every effort to keep us informed of ways to stay healthy. Each week he submitted articles about wellness to our staff newsletter, the Keystone Connections. He never once had to be reminded to submit something and I think he had many articles ready to share even after he retired.



Continued on page 4...

The Western Pennsylvanian and Bear Tracks are publications of the Programs of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. It is one source of communication with parents, alumni, teachers, friends of the school and other schools for the Deaf.

Editor
Don Rhoten

*Western Pennsylvanian
Managing Editor*
Vicki Cherney

*Bear Tracks
Managing Editor*
Jessica Marks

continued from page 3...

He was always positive and upbeat and I can't remember seeing him greet anyone without a smile. He was particularly supportive of special needs students and active in the Special Olympics. He was always supportive and encouraging. I honestly never heard a cross word about Dan from anyone, which is pretty incredible!!! In turn, Dan never spoke ill of anyone or was ever anything other than gracious and supportive.

Something I was particularly proud of was the fact that Dan was a die hard Pitt fan. Heaven knows that being a loyal Pitt fan isn't the easiest thing in the world to be, especially with some of our football teams...but Dan never wavered! Hail to Pitt!!!

But the most impressive and obvious of Dan's characteristics was his deep and devoted love of his family. He loved and cared for his parents in a very tender and gentle way. He adored his wife Nancy and daughter Shannon. He was proud of the fact that Shannon was studying to be a doctor. His love for them was unconditional and knew no bounds.

We plan to work with the family to decide on a way to keep Dan's memory and spirit alive. Hopefully, we'll be doing something in the Spring.

Dan loved his job and WPSD. He always put our students first. He is one of the reasons WPSD is such a special place. We will miss him terribly.



What's Happening?

Bright Lights and Memorable Moments.

By Kevin McDonough

Early in the morning of December 11th, the Class of 2014 departed for the annual junior class trip to New York City. We arrived in NYC after a 6-plus hour bus ride from WPSD, and began our tour. At the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the students explored the galleries and gained an understanding of artwork and the impressionist painters, such as Van Gogh and Monet. A docent and an interpreter from the museum led the tour. We then headed to the bright lights of Times Square and dinner at the Hard Rock Café.

Wednesday morning found us shopping at FAO Schwartz and the stores along 5th Avenue before heading to Radio City Music Hall for the "Christmas Spectacular." The students loved the interpreted performance. Following the show, we went to Rockefeller Plaza to see the famous Christmas tree and ice rink. The rest of the afternoon and evening consisted of visiting "Ripley's Believe It or Not" museum, touring Little Italy and Chinatown and taking the elevator to the top of the Empire State Building to see the view.

The last day of the trip, the class visited the Ground Zero Memorial in the Wall Street district. Although many of the sections of the Memorial are not yet complete, the somber atmosphere of the area struck the group. On the way back to the bus, students noted some of the damage wrought by Super Storm Sandy throughout the Wall Street neighborhood.

Once we were back on the bus, we headed home to WPSD reflecting on all we had seen and the many wonderful experiences and memories.



The Director's Challenge

by Marybeth Lauderdale

Deaf adventurer Joel Barish treated elementary through high school students and staff to his "No Barriers" presentation on November 5. A great Deaf role model, he showed our students that the sky literally is the limit if you are willing to be curious, work hard, and persevere!

Following the presentation, I hosted the Director's Challenge contest asking students to write about what they learned from Joel. The prompts for each school were:

- Elementary: Write about your favorite part of Joel Barish's presentation, and why it was your favorite.
- Middle School: Write about your favorite country that Joel Barish visited, and tell why.
- High School: Where would you go next, and what would you do, if you were to join Joel Barish on his next expedition, and why?



Congratulation to the winners:

Elementary: Olivia Larson
Middle School: Dylan Zurawski
High School: Samantha Gibbs

A Look at Real Life Economics

On December 5th, the Senior Economics classes took a field trip to the Columbia Northwest factory in Mt. Pleasant, where Aliner and Somerset campers are assembled. Ned Collins, CEO of the company, shared the history of the company and then took the students through the assembly line so they could see how the campers are built, step-by-step. In class, the students had been learning about various topics including partnerships becoming corporations, supply and demand, competition and advertising. This field trip gave them the opportunity to see how all these business processes play out in real life situations.

The students also had the opportunity to visit the Kecksburg UFO monument right across the street from the factory. Many residents say that a UFO actually landed here back in 1965!



Happy Holidays...

The 2012 holiday commercial featured our students and the opportunities provided by WPSD through access to technology. The commercial was videotaped by the WPSD media department and aired during the month of December on local Pittsburgh network stations (KDKA, FOX and WTAE) and on Nickelodeon, The ABC Family Channel, CNN and CNBC through a variety of Greater Pittsburgh area Comcast channels. If you didn't get a chance to see it on TV you can still watch on our website at <http://www.wpsd.org/latest-news/wpsd-holiday-commercial-2012/2795/>



WPSD Cares Food Drive

The 2nd annual WPSD Cares Food Drive was a huge success! WPSD students and staff donated a total of 466 pounds of food to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Their generosity benefitted many Pittsburgh families. A friendly competition was held between the departments, to see which one would bring in the most food: the Elementary and Children's Center team was the winner!

MAKING NEW FRIENDS AT HOME

Through a wonderful collaboration with the 4th grade class at Edgewood Elementary, WPSD 3rd and 4th grade students are building new friendships. Mrs. Siegfried's class and our students meet every three weeks alternating between the two schools. WPSD students teach Edgewood students how to sign the ABCs, numbers, colors, nouns, and verbs. All the students are learning how to communicate effectively with each other and have developed some great friendships.



MAKING NEW FRIENDS ABROAD

The Oak Lodge School for Deaf Children in London, England and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) have set up a weekly cross-cultural exchange using FaceTime technology. High school, middle school and elementary school students are learning about British Sign Language, culture, traditions, food, currency and how students learn in the United Kingdom. In turn, Oak Lodge students are learning about American Sign Language, culture and traditions. Students from both schools are gaining a greater appreciation of the differences between the two countries despite a shared spoken language.



Planning is underway for the WPSD 11th grade students to travel to the United Kingdom in early May to visit the Oak Lodge School. Students are making preparations by obtaining passports for travel and will begin a class in British Sign Language during the second semester. FaceTime sessions with Oak Lodge School will continue through the spring. Two Oak Lodge staff members, Mr. Darryl Bedford and Mrs. Diane Upcraft-Goldbourne visited WPSD in the fall of 2012 and have been collaborating with WPSD so that we can offer this opportunity to our students.



Our "Thirteen Colonies" Presentation

by the WPSD 5th Grade Class

In social studies class, we, the 5th grade, learned about the Thirteen Colonies. Our teacher, Mary Noschese, divided us into 3 groups; The New England Colonies, The Middle Colonies, and The Southern Colonies. First, we researched our colonies by reading our textbook, reading books from our learning center, and studying photos. "It was so much reading, but together we learned what really happened back then," explained Xiaoli C.



Next, we worked together on laptops to create a PowerPoint presentation. Lara G. felt privileged to use the school's technology. She states, "Creating PowerPoint presentations was cool! We were able to design the slides like we wanted." Then, we designed posters to hang on the wall with photos. "We enjoyed working together to create sentences that represented our photos," affirmed Emily O. Last, we prepared recipes from our colonies' time period. Dylan Z. recognized, "it was a little hard following a recipe on our own, but it was fun, too." Dani F. giggled then explained, "we made a mess in the kitchen and it was hard, but it was fun and our cookies were delicious!"

On December 12, 2012, we presented our information to our WPSD supervisors and former teachers Ms. Brittany Lustic and Ms. Christie Homell, and the 3rd and 4th grade students. "I felt proud that my group did all of the hard work independently. We felt like real teachers," expressed Rosie S. Another student, Summer O. admits, "I was a bit nervous to stand in front of all those people, but I learned that my group was successful because of our hard work." James C. sums up the whole experience by confirming, "It was a lot of hard work, but our group partners and Mary helped when we struggled so that our presentations were awesome and food tasted good!"



Our Special "Thank You" to:

- Ms. Marybeth Lauderdale for writing to us afterwards!
- Mrs. Kathy Betz for providing recipe information
- Mr. Donald Mazreku and Mary Noschese for allowing us to do this assignment
- The 3rd and 4th Grade Teachers and Students for paying attention
- All of our WPSD Supervisors that attended

Annual Holiday Craft Sale

The students in Mrs. Auden's and Mrs. Magness' classes participated in making crafts for the annual WPSD craft sale. They worked hard at making a variety of crafts including mint serving trays and light up snowmen. The children practiced skills such as counting, sorting, matching, cutting, stringing beads, pasting, etc. to complete their beautiful crafts. All of the students enjoyed making their crafts and putting them out for display for staff and family members to purchase. Their efforts will be rewarded with a special trip from some of the proceeds of the sale.



High School Students Give Back While Learning More About Our Environment.



Environmental science students have been studying biodiversity and why it is important for healthy ecosystems. On November 28th they traveled to Frick Park and met with folks from the Environmental Center. After a brief presentation explaining the importance of native species populations and an introduction to two of the area's many invasive species, students were given the chance to help make a difference.

First, they learned how to properly and safely use several different tools, then the students split into teams and worked together to remove many invasive Honeysuckle bushes and Japanese Jetbead plants (*Rhodotypos scandens*) from the park.



It is important to remove the invasive species so that native plants have an opportunity to re-colonize. WPSD students also cleaned up litter and removed fencing to improve the look of the park. The area they were working in has been a restoration focus for several years. The efforts of many volunteers, including our students, have had a tremendously positive impact on the ecological balance in that section of the park.

VITAC Holiday Card Competition

This year's holiday card competition, sponsored by VITAC, was a huge success! For the past twenty-two years, students from WPSD have been asked to design the VITAC corporate holiday card. The students enjoy this activity in hopes that their design will be selected. And this year was no exception!

After VITAC employees reviewed all of the pictures, the winning design and eight honorable mentions were selected. The designs were used to create the VITAC digital holiday card, which is sent via the internet throughout the United States.



The VITAC team then traveled to WPSD on December 12th to present the awards. As the student body watched, Ms. Debbie Hammond, Director of Client Sales and Services, and Ms. Marie Hoffman, Marketing Program Specialist, presented the awards. This year's winner was Kierra Oyler. Kierra is a student in the Elementary School Department. The eight honorable mentions included Bernie Elliot, Olivia Clinger, Xiaoli Carr, Alexandra FrancisAmber Jones, Somalya Robinson, Lonnieka Fisher and Kiara Rivera-Ramos.

The students received a certificate of recognition and a monetary gift. All of the students who designed a picture received a certificate of participation. Ms. Hammond then presented Ms. Dotty Scharschu, the art teacher, with a generous contribution for the art program. The WPSD holiday performance followed the presentation.

VITAC, the leader in the captioning industry, is headquartered in Canonsburg. VITAC is a national leader in providing vital access and captioning services for television programs, commercials, videos, sports events, satellite and on-site conferences.



Carnegie Museum Party

By: Pamela Magness, 3rd Grade Teacher

On December 3rd, Mrs. Auden's and Mrs. Magness' class visited the Carnegie Museum of Art for the annual 'Holidays in Harmony' celebration. This festivity is hosted by the Women's Committee of the Museum. While there, the students saw beautiful Christmas trees in the main hall. We also enjoyed a holiday sing-a-long featuring one of our very own staff members, Tony Remis, who signed "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"! The students danced along with professional dancers from the Pittsburgh Ballet. It was a memorable trip!

Students Explore Wind Energy

Julie Ann Mountain and Erin McNeil-Mascaro

The ninth/tenth grade science classes traveled to the Edison Power Wind Farm in Somerset County. Students were able to get up close and personal with a wind turbine that was 258 feet tall and were even permitted to go inside! They met technician Jeff Sampeer who showed them the safety equipment and tools used to maintain the turbine. Although it was difficult to sign while wearing the heavy-duty safety gloves, Kai, Michael and Hannah were up to the challenge. Dajion wanted to climb to the top but Jeff said special certification was required to do that.

Students were curious about communication between workers in/on the turbine and on the ground. Although they sometimes talk on phones or walkie-talkies, most of the time workers use hand signals. Soon they will be using iPads so a person up near the blades can use FaceTime to see what is happening in the base control room, near the transformers, or on the ground. We predict that we may be seeing some deaf or hard of hearing students working in the energy field in the future. How cool would it be to meet a deaf engineer who helped Pennsylvanians get their electricity? Students were interested in the technology and they all asked excellent questions, showing their science smarts!



SignShine

On Tuesday, December 5th, Signshine traveled to North Hills High School to educate students there about Deafness. SignShine members presented a program they developed that parodies popular television shows. For example, "Dr. Oz", played by Senior L.J. Morrone III, answered questions about communication issues and Deafness. Junior Roche Tolbert taught signs such as 'rain', 'sun' and 'snow' by pretending to be a weather forecaster and discussing various weather events around the country. The Disney Channel showed an ASL version of Rapunzel, which helped debunk myths about Deafness. The show finale is a video of the students performing The Script's "Hall of Fame."



After the performance, SignShine members and students taking ASL classes at North Hills High School had a chance to interact and enjoy a pizza lunch together.

So far this year SignShine has performed the National Anthem at a Duquesne University basketball game and brought their show to Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood. They look forward to performing at a University of Pittsburgh basketball game and several elementary schools during the spring semester.

SignShine is a sign language entertainment group comprised of deaf and hard of hearing students from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. The group has been performing since February 1995, promoting Deaf awareness while providing entertainment through outreach programs at schools and other scheduled performances.

SignShine performances provide information about Deafness, teach the manual alphabet, and demonstrate and encourage the use of signs through their songs, skits, poetry, narratives and traditional Deaf ABC stories. Each performance is followed by a question and answer session during which members of SignShine share their feelings and experiences about their Deafness while responding to audience questions.

GAA Holiday Party

The Girls' Athletic Association hosted the Elementary Christmas party again this year. The members, who are all girls from the high school department, helped the Elementary students make a craft to hang on the Christmas tree while listening to some Christmas music. Next, the students enjoyed coloring Grinch coloring pages while watching some of the movie. Jessica (11th grade) and Kira (12th grade) then signed the story, How the Grinch Stole Christmas. After the story, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived with some elves! Santa was so happy to see the children and had each one sit on his lap to tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Then, the elves gave everyone a gift before we all enjoyed holiday cookies and milk. What fun!



RED RIBBON WEEK

Say "NO" to Drugs and Alcohol

WPSD observed Red Ribbon Week from November 12-16th. The Red Ribbon Campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of young people.

Activities at WPSD included:

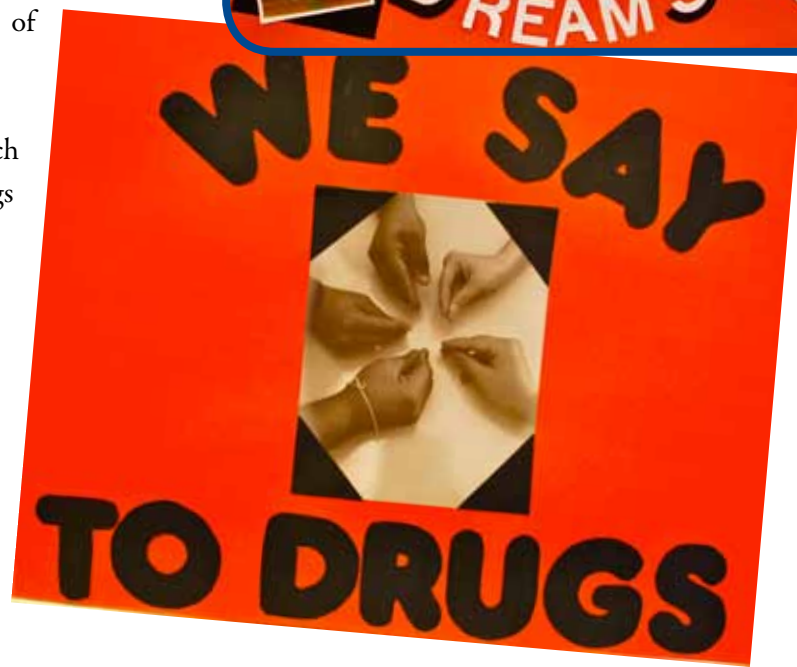
- Red Ribbons were distributed to Middle School and High School students.
- High School and Middle School Students made posters that promote a drug-free lifestyle.
- Children's Center and Elementary students received Drug Prevention coloring and activity books that were reviewed with them,
- Students and staff were encouraged to sign a Drug-Free Pledge Banner.
- Red foods were served in the cafeteria, including a special Red Ribbon treat.
- Prevention facts on drug and alcohol abuse were distributed on a daily basis.

Each day students and staff were invited to wear different clothing representing drug and alcohol prevention themes:

- PLAY IT SMART, DON'T START-Favorite team jersey/colors
- RED RALLY-Red clothing
- WORK TOGETHER FOR A DRUG FREE SCHOOL-Blue and Gold/WPSD

The Red Ribbon Campaign was started over 25 years ago when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered DEA agent Kiki Camarena. This began the continuing tradition of displaying Red Ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs.

WPSD will continue its efforts to teach students about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.



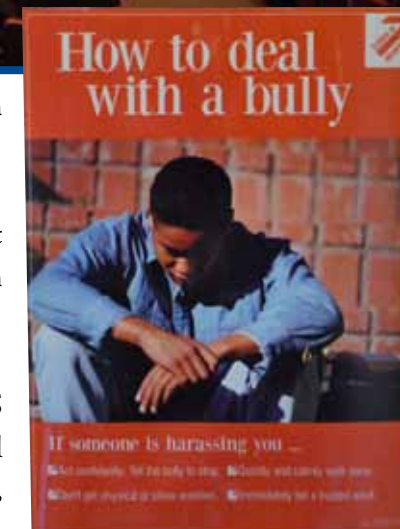
School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program Bullying Prevention

WPSD has adopted a proactive behavior framework called the School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program. The purpose of this program is to establish a school climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

On December 10th, a Positive Behavior/Bully Prevention Assembly was held for Middle School and High School Students. A video, created by students in the WPSD media class, discussed the definition of bullying, showed examples of bullying behavior and suggested what to do if you are being bullied or if you see someone else being bullied. They did an incredible job! The Counseling staff then reviewed this information with the students.

Meetings will continue with the students to discuss and teach what is and what is not bullying behavior, as well as how the students can respond to bullying and/or problem behavior.

WPSD has other programs in place to support positive behavior, including ROARS (a program to assist students to become Ready, Organized, Accountable, Respectful and Safe) and a Character Education Program, called HEROES. This program, established several years ago, helps students gain more understanding of different character education traits, using current and historical figures, and their character traits, as positive role models.



Keep up with what's happening at WPSD!



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK (WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WPSDPROGRAMS).



TWEET WITH US @WPSD_LIONPRIDE



OR SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS (EMAIL SBARTLEBAUGH@WPSD.ORG TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST)



LIKE WPSD ON FACEBOOK. HELP US TOP THE 1000 MARK.

Residential

With more than 68 students in the Residential Program, the WPSD dorms are busy places! In addition to after school programs, homework and dinner the kids and staff participate in lots of other activities:

October 29, 2012

The Haunted Halloween tour was canceled due to weather but the kids enjoyed Trick or Treat in the school building and games and a dance in the boys' dorm. The party was a blast with loud music and full of fun games for all kids.

November 1, 2012

Our residential students went to the circus at the Consol Energy center. They saw clowns, big cats, acrobats, and much more! Lots of lights and flares for a wonderful performance!

November 15, 2012

Residential students and staff enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner. Peer mentors wore nice dresses and suits and carved the turkey. We all left the tables with full stomachs and smiles on our faces.

November 20, 2012

Residential high school students who had earned special privileges using "Level System" reward system went to Butler, PA to watch captioned movies. The atmosphere was full of joy and nail-biting when watching the action movies with captions.

December 6, 2012

Residential middle school students went to the mall. Their "Level System" reward allowed them to shop and eat at the mall. Students had fun walking and shopping.

December 10, 2012

Residential elementary and middle schools students went to Clinton, PA to see the "Lights Up!" display. The students took many pictures of the beautiful holiday scenes.

December 12, 2012

Residential students celebrated the date: 12/12/12 by counting dozens of items and looking for the number 12. Refreshments and drinks were provided at the snack bar. ILP students hosted the games and a dance. They decorated the game room with number 12. Karissa Dreher won the musical chair game. Kierra Oyler and Sami Reno won the "Simon Says" game.

December 19, 2012

At the annual "Grab a Bag" party the residential girls played games and met Santa Claus and his elves. The girls also exchanged small gifts with their secret pals.



WELCOME

...to our Newest Employees

Five new employees were recently added to the Programs of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf; three at WPSD, two at The Scranton School and one in the Camp Hill office.

Brian Kelly is the new Principal for the Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. Brian holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Marywood University and a Master's degree in School Counseling from Gwynedd-Mercy College. Read more about Brian in this issue of "Bear Tracks".

The other new hire on the Scranton campus is **Dean Pettinato**. Dean a graduate of Lock Haven University with a Bachelor's degree in Health & Physical Education, was hired as the new Physical Education/Health Teacher. He was a substitute teacher at Abington Heights School District and the Assistant Baseball Coach at Arcadia University prior to accepting the position at SSDHHC.

WPSD welcomes new staff members Adam Jugan and Edward Tissue.

Adam Jugan, a graduate of WPSD, attended Triangle Tech where he earned an Associate's degree in Specialized Technology. Prior to being hired at WPSD for the overnight housekeeping position, Adam worked as a housekeeper for the new UPMC East Hospital.

Edward Tissue was recently hired as the overnight Security Guard at WPSD. He has an Associate's degree in Business from CCAC. After a four-year stint with the United States Marine Corp as an Infantry Squad Leader, he worked as a security officer at Saddleback Memorial hospital. Edward is currently the J. V. Offensive Coordinator at Plum High School and plans to continue in that capacity while he fulfills his overnight job duties as a Security Guard for WPSD.

Rana Oweis was hired as a part-time teacher for the Choices for Children Program. She will be working out of our Camp Hill office. Rana has an Associate's degree in Special Education from Lehigh Carbon Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Deaf Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

We wish all of our new hires a long and successful career with the Programs of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.

Alumni Corner

Lights, camera, and...action!

Can you imagine yourself being in front of a camera and working with famous actors and actresses? One of our WPSD alums is doing that right now in Hollywood, CA! Her name is Amber (Stanton) Zion, a proud Class of 1997 graduate of WPSD, who aspires to become a successful, full-time actress in the Hollywood movie business.

Following graduation from WPSD, she went on to NTID and received an Associate's Degree in Graphic Design in 2000, and a BFA Degree in Graphic Design in 2002 at RIT. Amber also received a degree in performing arts from RIT and is certified by NTID in performing arts.

She says her biggest accomplishments in life include completing her post-secondary education at RIT and moving to California to pursue an acting career. A few months after moving to California, she got an acting gig playing as a dead teen on the CSI-NY program called "Silent Night." In that program, she worked with Marlee Matlin, Russell Harvard, Troy Kotsur, and Gary Sinise.

Amber is also very proud of working with Sean Berdy (currently an actor on "Switched at Birth") on the movie "Ice Age: Continental Drift" as an ASL translator. For the first time in history of the 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, a movie will be shown in ASL. Berdy and Zion play characters that appear in the picture-in-picture style and is only available on Blu-Ray 3-D.

Amber may be best known for her performance in a 30-second commercial for "Kay Jewelers." In the commercial her hearing boyfriend is apologetic for not being a good signer, and surprises her with jewelry at Christmas. This drew a roaring applause from the WPSD community!

Amber's goal over the next 5 to 10 years is to be a successful, full-time actress. When the acting job is slow, Amber keeps herself busy by doing side projects, both short films and



music video. She also has a steady job in Graphic Design. For the past six years, Amber has been working as a Graphic Designer for Avanquest, a leading developer and publisher of cutting edge software technology.

Her best memories of WPSD include participating in the after-school sports program and thanked the teachers at WPSD for their awesome dedication in guiding and helping achieve her goals after graduation at WPSD. Her favorite memory is a trip to Alabama for Space Camp!

Her advice to current students of WPSD is a quote that inspired her when she was a young girl: "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." by Anatole France. Amber always tells people if they believe in pursuing their dream and it will come true. This quote helped Amber to where she is in her life today.

Our thanks to Amber Zion for taking the time out of her very busy life in California, and our congratulations for her many, many accomplishments. For all of the Amber Zion followers, please visit her website: www.amberzion.com.