

the western PENNSYLVANIAN



NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
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Farewell to
Don Rhoten
PG 9-10



Hearts
and Crafts

PG 10



ReadQuest

PG 5



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- 9 Last Day of School
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JULY

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- 17 WPSD Block Party

OCTOBER

- 7 WPSD Auction & Gala



Editor: Don Rhoten
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The Western Pennsylvanian is a publication of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. It is one source of communication with parents, alumni, teachers, friends of WPSD, and other schools for the Deaf.

Supervisions

A note from CEO, Don Rhoten

This is my final column for the Western Pennsylvanian and Bear Tracks. After 23 amazing years as CEO of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, I will be retiring on June 30, 2016.

When it comes time to turn off the lights and close the door, I know I will be smiling from ear-to-ear just recalling all of the wonderful students, families, colleagues and friends we have encountered over the years!

Back in 1972, I met Dr. McCay Vernon at Western Maryland College (Now McDaniel College) and it was the start of my career in Deaf Ed. I was a lost soul back then. I was looking for direction in my life and "Mac" introduced me to the world of Deafness. You just never know how one life can touch another. I will be forever grateful for his influence.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to meet some incredible people and to make lifelong friends along the way. The field of Deaf Education is full of very bright, capable people who have committed their lives to making life better for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. I am so proud to have known them and to have worked with them in this fulfilling mission.

When The Rhotens moved to Pittsburgh in 1994, WPSD was already a very special place. The staff, students, parents and the entire school community were warm and welcoming to us and still are. We found the WPSD staff to be very competent and committed to our students and still are. And we immediately discovered that the WPSD students were exceedingly bright, caring and special and still are!

What I have always tried to do throughout the years has been to give the students and staff the tools needed to optimize their learning and growth, while building the foundation for an institution that is "built for the long run" and able to accommodate the many changes occurring in our field.

Our students continue to be our most valuable assets. We recognize and embrace the fact that each child is distinctive and unique. We realize that "one size does not fit all" and individualization is the truly the key to the success of each and every child. We live and breathe the belief that we have "200 children and 200 programs"!! WPSD and The Scranton School will never force our students to learn one way. It is our greatest responsibility to recognize the desires and needs of parents and their children. No one is more vested in the success of our students than their parents.

For an organization to grow and thrive, it must take risks. WPSD has not been reluctant to be entrepreneurial when the benefit of our students was in play. We purchased property around our campus as well as founding

new campuses in Camp Hill and Scranton. With risk comes the possibility of great rewards. And what greater reward is there than the creation of a thriving new school we proudly call, The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children.

The Rhotens have been blessed to work at WPSD and live in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. Making new friends and having strong ties to the Scranton area is icing on that cake! I want to thank all of the parents, students, staff, alumni and board members for their trust in us. Your friendship and support will always be precious to us and will never be taken for granted.

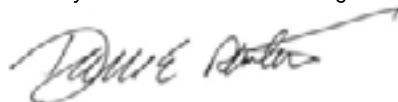
Steve Farmer will assume the CEO position effective July 1. I am thrilled with his selection and think he will do a super job! It is easy for me to hand over my responsibilities to him. I wish him and his family nothing but the best!!

The Rhotens will still be around. We plan to spend lots more time with our family, especially our five grandkids. We're very excited about buying a new home and moving out to the country, just a few minutes from our son Mike's home. We'll be spending the winters in our beloved St. Augustine (sure won't miss those 4am text messages about the February weather in Scranton!!). We'll be traveling on trains every chance we get! We have a long list of places we've never had the time to visit. And you can look for us near bike trails, navigating the Allegheny River or sitting on the closest beach!

I hope our paths cross at the WPSD and Scranton galas, the various skeet shoots and golf outings (when you see a 4 foot divot, you'll know I am nearby!). You can count on Cathy and me attending every Scranton car show and as many softball tournaments as we can get to. And, we will never stop being your friends and supporters. If you need us, you'll know where to find us!!

I have been blessed. My family has been blessed. We love our schools and the students, parents, colleagues and friends that make them so very special. Thanks and best wishes to you all!!!

Always remember, and never forget.....you guys are the best! Smile!



Don Rhoten, CEO

Programs of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf



What's Happening?

Latest News Around the WPSD Campus

ReadQuest

Our Elementary, Middle and High School students took part in ReadQuest, celebrating the power of reading. Students were encouraged to dress in comfortable clothes - even pajamas were permitted - and catch up on their favorite books, while relaxing on cozy bean bag chairs and pillows. Everyone enjoyed the activity in this fun-filled environment. Some students even set reading goals for themselves, earning rewards for their achievements. ■



Read Across America

Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss! Our Children's Center celebrated Read Across America by participating in fun and creative activities inspired by the author. They made Dr. Seuss related crafts, and watched special guests including Mr. Kevin McDonough, Mrs. Carrie Rain, Mr. Tony Remis and Mrs. Angel Maher perform ASL stories. The children even ventured to eat green eggs and ham! The festivities were topped off with Mr. Don Rhoten and Mrs. Rain building a cake that resembled the famous hat from Dr. Seuss' "Cat in the Hat." All the children received a book as a special gift to encourage their love for reading. ■



Passes and Pom Poms

Middle School Basketball Tournament

We are so thrilled with the accomplishments of our Middle School boys' and girls' teams in the tournament hosted by the Maryland School for the Deaf. The girls' team clinched the championship, defeating Kendall Demonstration Elementary School by a score of 27-18. This win broke Kendall's seven-year championship streak! The boys fought hard in their match-ups, coming away with 4th



place. In addition, the boys' team won the free-throw competition. Three of our girls, Danielle, Ayesha and Alisha, and one of our boys, Dylan, made the All-Tournament team. Congratulations to all! ■



Girls' Basketball Season by Val Wojton

Our Lady Lions, under the tutelage of first year head coach, Michelle Vigliotti and assistant coach, John Fisher, were over .500 for the season (winning 14 games and losing 13). They finished with a 7-7 record in the SouthWestern Christian Athletic Conference



(our home league). During the Mid-American Classic in December at WPSD, we won two games and lost one. We repeated the same record at the Ohio School for the Deaf Homecoming tournament weekend. We traveled to Rochester School for the Deaf for the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA) Tournament, emerging with a 3rd place trophy. Alyssa Hulme and Kai Miller were named to the All-Tournament team. Go Lady Lions! ■



Boys' Basketball Season by Val Wojton

The boys' team's record of 8-20 does not reflect all the positives that happened this season. The boys learned a lot, developed their skills and continued to experience the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. We finished with a 1-2 record during our Mid-American Classic. We repeated the record in the Ohio School for the Deaf tournament. As for the SWCAC league (our home league), we barely missed clinching a playoff spot, finishing with an overall 5-7 record.

In the ESDAA Tourney, we were unable to come away with a win but our battles were hotly contested. We lost each game by only a small margin. Seth Reeves was named to the All-Tournament team. ■



Intramurals by Mary Ennis

This Spring, the residential students began playing intramural volleyball. Everybody got involved, from high school to lower school. Younger students helped with score-keeping and many of them played. The first two weeks of play determined the Tournament brackets. Many of the students were competitive and played hard until the end. They learned the importance of working as a team. Some of the weakest teams became the strongest. Many demonstrated sportsmanship and encouragement.

Coach George D'Amore and his team won the championship for the 4th year in a row. The staff and students were amazing. Thanks to all the players, the coaches, the scorekeepers, the fans and the parents who made special travel arrangements in order for their children to participate. I cannot wait to do it again next year. ■

Cheerleading Season by Linda Langer, Head Coach

Wow! I can't believe the basketball season is over! It went by so quickly, but it was a great season for the cheerleaders. We started our season with two new teams consisting of 10 rookies and 10 veterans. It was the largest number ever in my coaching years. The cheerleaders all have worked really hard and I'm very proud of them. We had so many exciting opportunities this year, including participating in the 2nd Annual Cheer Clinic with the Serra Catholic High School Cheerleaders. The team also sold cookies at a few home basketball games. We got a new mascot costume! We placed third at the cheer competition at the Lexington School for the Deaf (LEX). The Tribune-Review wrote an article and filmed a video segment



on our team! As the article in the newspaper stated, deafness does not affect a cheerleader's enthusiasm or ability. I'm looking forward to the next season with more new exciting opportunities! ■



Farewell to Don Rhoten



In 1994, Don Rhoten emerged as the School's 9th superintendent. Immediately he elevated the standards of our academic programs with the goal of meeting and surpassing public school curriculum standards. Mainstreaming opportunities for our students were expanded. A completely renovated Applied Studies program for our special needs students was put in place. In 1996, the Applied Studies department area was completely revamped with its focus on education, on-the-job training and home living skills development.

Mr. Rhoten made students the top priority in all aspects of School and Residential life. Along with updating our academic standards via curriculum and technology, he also encouraged students in other ways. For example, he challenged students to read a set quantity of books in a restricted amount of time. If they achieved this goal, he would shave his head. The students met the challenge, and he kept his promise. On stage, in the Auditorium, in front of the entire School, his head was shaved.

In 1995, sign language proficiency standards were established for all staff. AICE (All-Inclusive Communication Environment) was also established to ensure the communication needs for every student were met.

The safety of our students and School has always been one of Mr. Rhoten's top priorities. He understood it all begins by making our school safe. For this reason, in 2001, School security was greatly enhanced. Mr. Rhoten looked beyond the School gates, taking an interest in partnering with the surrounding communities. WPSD purchased properties along Walnut Street, tore down, renovated or repurposed these buildings as WPSD offices, parking lots and housing for our employees, students and their families, among others.

Beginning in the early 2000s, at Mr. Rhoten's direction, many renovations began to take shape on campus, including, but not limited to, the Auditorium, the Learning Center, the TV Studio, and the Children's Center, providing advanced, Deaf-friendly state of the art equipment and technology. In all, 19 existing space renovations have occurred on the WPSD campus during Mr. Rhoten's tenure.

In 2009, with enthusiastic support from our Board of Trustees, Mr. Rhoten established a new school in Scranton - The Scranton School for Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Children. If this had not occurred, as the Scranton State School for the Deaf was being closed by the state, there would have been no Deaf school option with a residential component for Deaf and hard of hearing students in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Later, the School moved to a beautiful 100-acre campus in nearby Clarks Summit. Our campus in Clarks Summit just completed its third major renovation as it continues to grow and thrive.

The only "new build" project was recently completed in 2014. Our spectacular Residence provides excellent living and learning conditions in a 40,000 square foot beautiful home-away-from-home for our students.

In 2001, WPSD purchased a building in Camp Hill and the Office of Outreach was established to expand our contacts and communication to the eastern part of Pennsylvania, so they too, would know all that our programs have to offer deaf and hard of hearing children of all ages. In addition, we also have a preschool program in Hershey, PA.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Rhoten has worked tirelessly to increase the School's recognition and public awareness through a variety of fundraising projects. This mission has led to benefits for the School, the improvement of School programs, and ultimately, the betterment of our students. He was a major contributor in creating, and participating in, these events, which brought in funds to reach these goals. Some of these events include School's sporting clay shoot, auction and gala, golf outings, bike rides near Little Boston and Cumberland, Maryland, and the marathon.

In every situation and circumstance, our students were Mr. Rhoten's first priority. ■

**MR. RHOTEN MADE
STUDENTS THE TOP
PRIORITY IN ALL ASPECTS
OF SCHOOL AND
RESIDENTIAL LIFE.**





Hearts and Crafts

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the WPSD Children's Center, Elementary and Middle School students read Valentine's Day-themed books, decorated and munched on tasty treats, worked on crafts and shared in the excitement of exchanging cards and goodies with friends and classmates. ■





Family Literacy Workshop

by Karen Roudybush

On a Saturday morning in February, children, parents, family members and friends enjoyed getting "Hooked on Books About Safety." We spotlighted amazing books that included: *To The Rescue*, *This is My Town*, *Going to the Firehouse*, and *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. Each family received copies of the books and a DVD that showed talented WPSD storytellers signing these stories. Our Campus Security Director, Michael Del Cimmuto, along with the Edgewood Police and Volunteer Fire Company, brought vehicles for children to explore and provided valuable information to support deaf and hard of hearing children during emergency situations. Christie Homell and I shared tips for communicating and using books to support learning before an emergency happens. From three-alarm salsa to emergency vehicle races, everyone engaged in reading and related activities that reminded us how to be safe. ■





Family Learning Weekend

by Sally Wellman

Family Learning Weekend 2016 was a huge success! The theme of the weekend focused on the social and emotional development of children with hearing loss. On Friday evening, children enjoyed pizza and movie night while parents engaged in a panel discussion with the WPSD counseling staff during dinner. Later, the parents attended presentations from WPSD Board member Denise Brown and Ben Moonan from the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH). They talked to the parents about ways they can best advocate for their children. The parents then proceeded to the Lion's Den snack bar for a fun activity where they practiced how to be expressive when using ASL.

A literacy workshop was held on Saturday morning. Three books were discussed that involved feelings and emotions. The parents were taught how to tell the stories to their children. Fun activities followed that corresponded with the books for the parents and children to enjoy. The counseling staff presented a workshop called "Ages and Stages" which outlined the principles of Love and Logic. Denise Brown was the Keynote speaker for the afternoon session. She delivered a speech called "Blueprint to Success," which

encouraged parents to be involved in their child's education and explained how to obtain services for children with hearing losses.

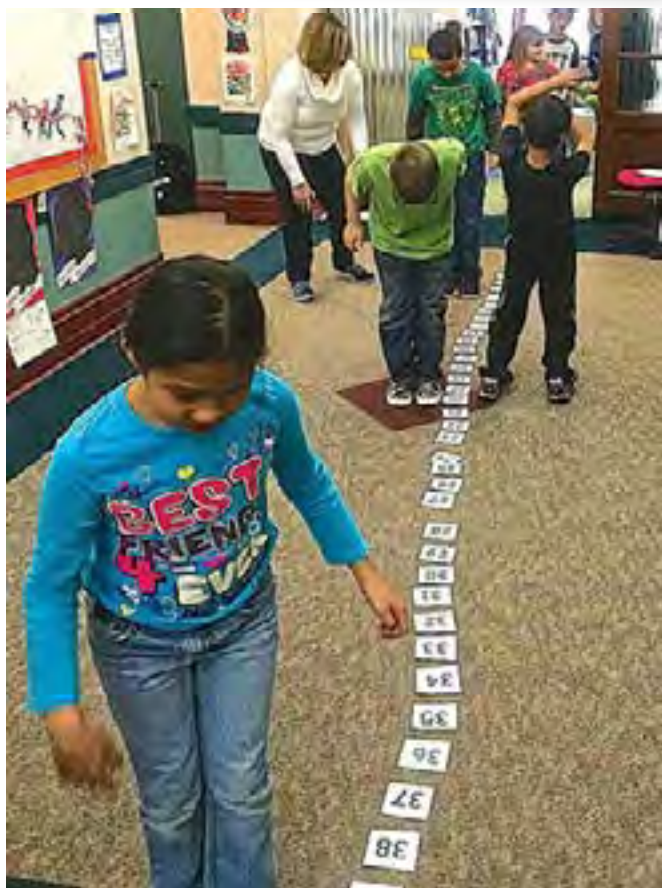
It was a great weekend and a number of parents expressed that it was extremely informative and beneficial. ■



Discovery Days Happenings

by Tara Nikou

Students in the Discovery Days Toddler Group enjoyed many fun activities over the past few months. For instance, February brought a winter-related research project. They answered the question: Are gloves better? The students felt blocks of ice, which were shaped like penguins. The toddlers found that touching bare ice proved chilling! Using mittens and gloves made the ice much less cold. Using gloved hands, they helped the penguins "fly" by sliding them down a ramp into the "ocean." The toddlers also created environmentally friendly valentines. Mixing birdseed, flour, and cornstarch, they molded ornaments into a heart shape. After a few days of drying time, their ornaments were hung on trees. The toddlers showed a little love to our furry friends that live outside in the cold! ■



Leap Year Fun



The Elementary School enjoyed celebrating Leap Year with a number of activities that recognized this very special day that only happens every four years, always in February! Check out their four fun activities for the "Celebration of Fours."

Leap Year was extra special with a field trip to Frick Museum for a "Leap Into Action" workshop provided by the very talented Attack Theatre. Students evaluated exceptional works of art to inspire the making of an original interpretive dance sequence. The imagination of these beautiful minds is limitless. ■



Math Team Performance Adds Up Nicely in RIT Competition

by Debbie Husar

The Middle School Math Team consisting of Derek, Emily, Danielle and Xiaoli traveled to Rochester, NY to participate in a math competition against other deaf students from across the United States and parts of Canada. There was a team competition as well as an individual written test. Overall, the Lions placed 12th out of 32 teams! Individually, our students placed 22nd, 33rd, 39th and 68th out of 120 students. We are very proud of their efforts.

In addition to the tests, students also participated in an Amazing Race to solve math puzzles. They were placed in groups with students from other schools. Danielle was on the first place team, and Derek was on the second place team. While there, the students also toured the RIT campus and participated in some social activities including swimming in the hotel pool and going to a trampoline park. ■

Applied Studies Build Life Skills

by Alisa Whyson

The Middle School Applied Studies students have been very busy this year! In addition to their community service at the Edgewood Church and Edgewood Library, they help clean, do dishes and reset the cafeteria after lunch period Mondays through Thursdays at WPSD.

Since we are always working, we have also started "MSAS Services" to provide helping hands with collating, sorting, distributing, and any other job WPSD staff may need in the course of their days. On Thursdays we grocery shop locally or go places in the community to practice skills. Finally, we have "Yummy Pizza" sales once a month, making our own sauce and assembling hot fresh pizzas. Orders average 20-23 pizzas per month!

We are always looking for more opportunities to apply academic and practical skills learned to real life learning experiences! ■





Bots IQ Team Battles “Relentlessly”

by John Foust

This year's rookie team competed in the preliminary and finals competitions respectively on March 18 and April 8 and 9. A lot of hard work and effort was expended throughout the planning, design, and building process that began in late August 2015 and continued throughout both competitions. All the while students were devising and modifying the robot, named “Relentless,” to become as competitive as possible.

In the preliminary round, our record was five wins and two losses, placing 11th out of 75 teams! In the finals, we went zero and two. More important than our record are the reasons behind WPSD taking part in the Bots IQ competitions. The team's participation helps to expose the students to a host of vocational skills that may be utilized

throughout their lives and develop their interests to help them determine their futures' direction.

Some of the major skills gained and enhanced are measurement, drawing on the computer via CAD programs, hand and power tool use and coordination, hands-on use of tool and die machining equipment and team cooperation and compromising. Most of all, the realization that a finished product can be produced from an idea, a sketch on a scrap piece of paper, computer generated prints, and teamwork are what really matter.

In my opinion, the WPSD Bots IQ team is always a winner, regardless of their competitions' record. It's all about and for the kids! ■



10th Graders Travel to “The Big Apple”

by Pauline Dunbar

In February, the WPSD 10th grade class along with four staff members and our tour guide, Bud Geissler, spent three exciting days in New York City. The days were packed with activities and learning. The first two days, it rained non-stop but that didn't dampen our spirits. In the city, we visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Times Square, the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Paul's Chapel, Trump Towers, Wall Street, the popular Nintendo and Lego stores, the 9/11 Memorial site, Battery Park, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. We also saw the Blue Man Group at a small theater.

There were several highlights of this trip, many being historical. The 9/11 site, as well as a few other sites, provided a rich learning experience for our students. The memories will last forever. The 10th grade class would like to thank WPSD for this opportunity. ■

Academic Bowl Gets Students Buzzing

by Julie Ann Mountain

Four amazing girls represented WPSD in the Northeast Regional Academic Bowl competition held at the New York School for the Deaf (Fanwood) in White Plains. Quizzed on typical high school course content (literature, math, science, social studies, and art) and world awareness (popular culture and current events) our students showed an impressive breadth of knowledge this year. Our veteran player, Samantha, led first year players Ruth, Rain and Cassie as they buzzed-in quickly for the first rounds, guessed wisely for the second rounds, and rallied together to complete the question set for the third rounds. The WPSD team started with a very strong win, earning 61 points, and continued to play well throughout the entire competition.

Although our win-loss record was 4-4, our overall point total was the second highest in our pool and when we faced the team that eventually placed second in our pool (and fourth overall), we beat



them in a very close, exciting match. We were disappointed that we did not earn a place at the National Competition, but we supported our deaf friends by watching the championship game when it was streamed live in April. Our extended team also intends to continue practicing and scrimmaging as several students are vying for the opportunity to be one of the four players who will represent our school for the 2016-2017 competition. This year marks 20 years of Gallaudet's Academic Bowl competitions. WPSD has been taking part in these competitions for more than a decade and is proud to have students participate in such a positive, enriching endeavor. ■



“Doesn't Discriminate’ is a visual way of showing how cancer does not pick and choose its victims based on color, ethnicity or how high you are on the economic scale. Cancer doesn't care about any of that. It doesn't care if you are rich, poor, black, white, European, American, African, etc. It doesn't discriminate.”

- Samantha Gibbs

Student Art Piece Draws Recognition

by Fran Flaherty & Samantha Gibbs

Samantha Gibbs, a senior at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, was one of 17 women artists selected to participate in a pop up exhibition entitled “French Liaisons.” This show was the visual arts companion that completed the programming for a debut performance of Kassia Ensemble, a newly formed chamber group in Pittsburgh, comprised exclusively of women. The performance and exhibition theme was “Empowering Women in the Arts.” Sam's piece entitled “....doesn't discriminate” was completed in 2015 as part of her Digital Fabrication in the Arts Apprenticeship, a new program at WPSD. ‘Doesn't Discriminate’ began as a sketch for Sam's 3D printed sculpture of androgynous heads tiered on a mini staircase painted like the planet earth. ■

Distinguished Guests

Catherine Palmer and Elaine Mormer Visit WPSD

We were honored to host Dr. Elaine Mormer from the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Catherine Palmer, Director of UPMC Audiology and Professor at the University of Pittsburgh! We are always proud to show off the variety of programming we offer our students. ■



Chris Moore from WQED Visits WPSD

In celebration of Black History Month, we were honored to welcome Mr. Chris Moore, a prestigious on-air personality from WQED, to the School. Mr. Moore spoke to our Middle and High School students, stressing to them the importance of never giving up and being true to oneself, even in the face of adversity, and even when life is unfair. Students said they found his presentation to be very inspiring and encouraging! ■



Alumni Spotlight

Maggie Donaldson - Class of 2013

When did you start your schooling at WPSD?

I started in their playgroup program at 18 months old and then I started pre-school at the age of three.

What are your fondest memories of WPSD?

The class trips were always wonderful. I always had a great time with my teammates at our away games or competitions, and enjoyed the educational trips with my classmates. I also really enjoyed being a part of the many clubs that WPSD offered. Not only did they keep me very busy, but they helped me grow as a person and gave me essential skills that I still use in college today.

What have you been up to since graduating from WPSD?

After I graduated in 2013, I went to the Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf where I was part of the RIT Cheerleading team for two years. We cheered for the RIT Men's Basketball games and competed in collegiate cheerleading competitions. I joined the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority where I was privileged to attend the national convention in Virginia. I also played on the Deaf Basketball and Volleyball teams where I got to know a lot of my fellow students. I helped teach students ASL through a weekly event called No Voice Zone. I graduated last December with a degree in Laboratory Science Technology and I am now in my first semester as a third year student at Gallaudet University as a Chemistry major with a minor in Physics.

What struggles have you encountered, post-WPSD?

I have not really had any struggles since I graduated, because WPSD provided me with all of the essential tools and information I needed to be successful after graduation. I never lived in the dorm at WPSD, but I had spent some time there with my friends and I had an idea of what life would be like when I lived in a dorm at college. I was lucky to attend an university that had both hearing and deaf students, so communication was not a problem. All of my classes have been taught by either deaf professors or have been accessible through interpreters or C-Print.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is having been chosen to intern at the Dow Chemical Company in Collegeville, PA as a Research and Development intern specializing in Plastics and Polymers. The people I worked with were wonderful and I had no problem communicating with and learning from them. We set up a weekly program where I taught my colleagues ASL and they enjoyed learning a new language. I learned a lot from that experience and enjoyed working in the laboratory.

What advice would you give to current and future WPSD students?

Take advantage of all of the opportunities available to you from WPSD. Make the most of all learning experiences including classrooms, field trips, sports competitions, and lectures. WPSD was my second family. I grew up there. They taught me my first language, ASL, taught me about deaf culture through classes and deaf role models, and gave me the foundation to learn and follow my dreams. Time in school can sometimes seem long and pointless, but believe me, the time will fly! So make the most of your school years by developing friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. I believe WPSD helped shape me into the person I am today and I believe they can do the same for you! I am WPSD proud! ■



“I have not really had any struggles since I graduated, because WPSD provided me with all of the essential tools and information I needed to be successful after graduation.”

Board Spotlight

Barbara Boylan

Tell us about yourself.

I'm really much better at asking other people about themselves. I've worked as a radio reporter and anchor since college. I've been at KDKA-AM for a while - 35 years in July. My husband, Michael Del Cimmuto, and I enjoy hiking; we have several national parks on our "bucket list!" We also did a motorcycle tour around Lake Superior a few years ago and have talked about doing it again. I confess: my vices are dark chocolate and good wine.

How did you first become involved with the School?

I was on another board with someone who was a WPSD Board member. He mentioned the School and we started talking about language acquisition and ASL. (I'd actually taken an ASL class in college.) A few weeks later, I received a letter from Don, asking if I would like to tour the school. I did and when I was asked to join the Board I was thrilled to accept.

What is your proudest accomplishment as a WPSD Board member?

That's a tough question. I've been on the board since 1998. There have been so many projects, from classroom upgrades to construction of the new Residence. That doesn't even take into account everything that's happened with Camp Hill and Scranton. I guess my proudest accomplishment comes every June, watching our students graduate and knowing that I played a tiny supporting role in making that happen.

What surprises you about WPSD?

I am constantly amazed at the speed and frequency with

which I can get lost on campus. I swear the place is like Hogwarts. I know we have at least one ghost and I suspect the staircases move.

Seriously, what surprises me is how WPSD has grown to serve children and their families all across the state. Every once in awhile I will see a map showing the locations of all the families. It's pretty impressive.

What do you tell people about WPSD?

WPSD is not a "deaf" school. It's a school that teaches amazing children who happen to be deaf or hard of hearing. The goal is to provide the best education, using whatever means available, so that each child can reach his or her potential. But it's not just about academics. WPSD tries to give its students experiences that will help them grow and succeed after graduation. ■



Sporting Clay Shoot

We had a wonderful time at the WPSD Sporting Clay shoot at Seven Springs!

The weather may have been unseasonably cold and snowy but all teams made the best of it. It was a fun event filled with healthy competition and enthusiasm.

Congratulations to the top winners! **FIRST PLACE** went to **Mike Mele**, **SECOND PLACE** to **Anthony Mele, Jr.**, and **THIRD PLACE** to **Deb Bucciero**. Our deepest thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Gold - A. Martini & Co. • Silver - PNC Bank, N.A.



The WPSD 2016 Golf Tournament

Please join us for the 2016 WPSD Golf Outing on Monday, June 20th. Tee off time is 12:30. The cost to golf is \$300. Ticket and Sponsorship information can be found on our website - www.wpsd.org. Please contact Sarah Bartlebaugh at sbartlebaugh@wpsd.org for more information. We look forward to seeing you there! ■



Join Us for the Fall Gala

Friday, October 7th
from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
at the Edgewood Country Club

Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
AUCTION & GALA

Contact Sarah Bartlebaugh for more information at
412.244.4207 or sbartlebaugh@wpsd.org

Monthly Giving An Easy Way to Support Our Students!

Monthly giving provides a convenient, individual and affordable way to support our students. Contributions are made automatically through a checking or savings account or with a credit card.

Becoming a monthly donor is easy. Visit the "Support Us" tab at wpsd.org, select "monthly giving" and choose the amount and frequency that fits your budget and goals. Every donation is a tax-deductible contribution.

For more information contact
Matt Campion at
mcampion@wpsd.org. ■



Camp Discovery 2016

Ages 6 to 11 - 6/27 to 7/1

Ages 12 to 18 - 7/5 to 7/9



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