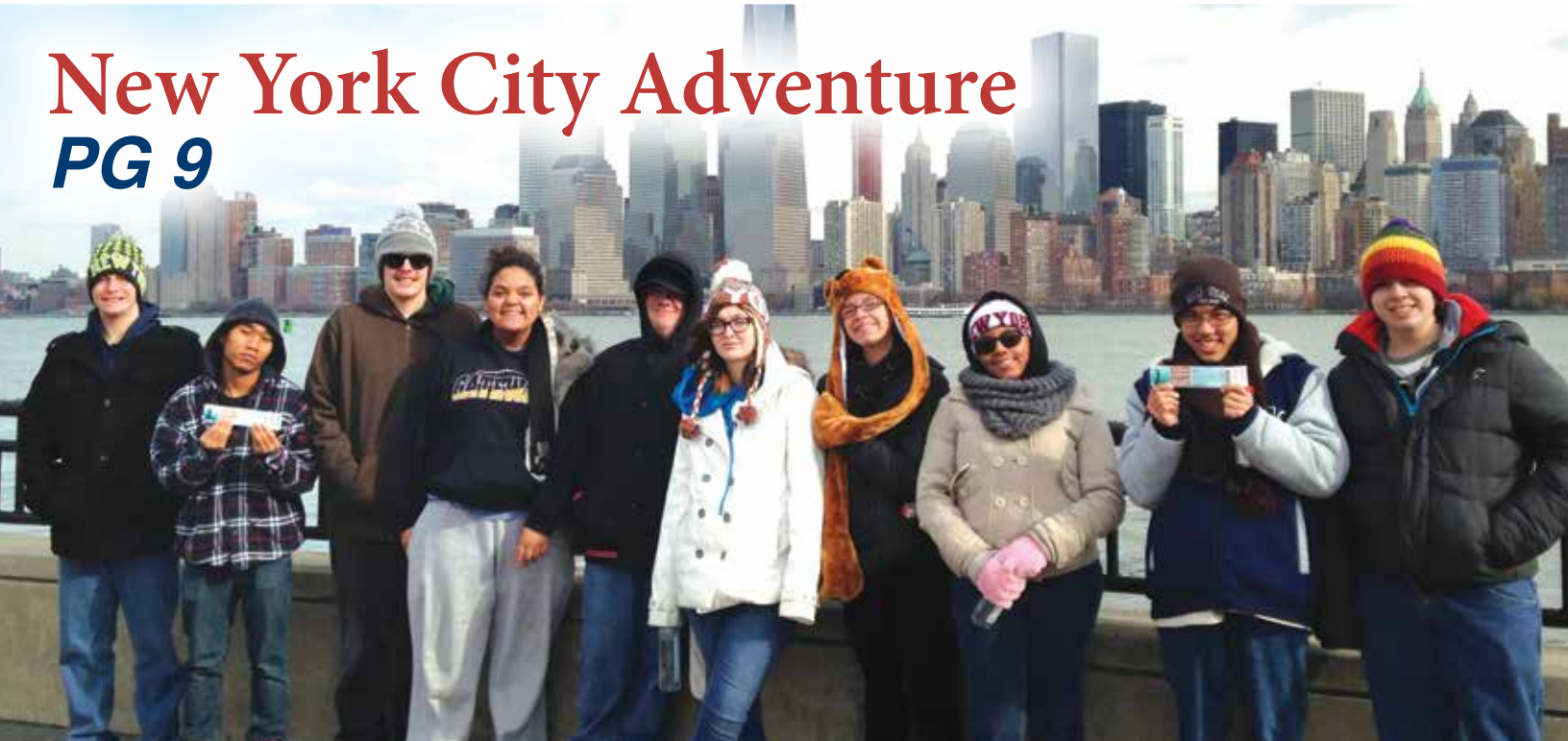


the western PENNSYLVANIAN



NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
VOLUME 128 #2 WINTER 2015

New York City Adventure PG 9



MINI SIGNSHINE TROUPE

PG 8



ECOSTEWARDS AT WPSD

PG 13



the western PENNSYLVANIAN

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WPSD DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- 16 Long Weekend – No Classes
Residential Students Return
- 17 Classes Resume

APRIL

- 2 Students Dismissed
at 12:30 PM
- 3 Spring Break Begins
- 12 Residential Students Return
- 13 Classes Resume
- 24 WPSD Sporting Clay Shoot

MAY

- 11 Long Weekend No Classes
Residential Students Return
- 16 WPSD Softball Invitational
in Scranton
- 22 May Day
- 25 Memorial Day No Classes
Residential Students Return

JUNE

- 10 2015 Commencement Ceremony
- 11 Last Day of School Students
Dismissed at Noon
- 22 WPSD Golf Tournament

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.

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TRIBUTE

"We will miss him tremendously and our entire school community profoundly thanks him for teaching us all to reach higher and to dream big and to be the very best we can be every day!"

A TRIBUTE TO GREGG BOWERS

by DON RHOTEN

"If your actions inspire children to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are indeed worthy of the title "Teacher."

- Robert John Meehan

On December 31st, Gregg Bowers retired after 37 years of exceptional service to WPSD. For the past five years, Gregg has served in the role of Chief Operations Officer. Before that, Gregg was the Dean of Students for over three decades. And whatever title he ever happened to hold, he will forever best be known for his untiring dedication, his selfless service and his ceaseless devotion to his students, "Gregg's kids."

By intentionally living out the most admirable of characteristics, he taught us all so well. He was in every way, an exceptional "Teacher" to one and all.

Providing a safe and secure environment for our students has always been WPSD's number one priority. Doing it the right way, requires constant diligence and attention to details. The residential program can often be the most vulnerable component of any school for the deaf. Being a great Dean of Students comes with a ton of stress... it may be the most demanding job on campus. For Gregg to survive and thrive in this position for more than 30 years, speaks volumes about him as an outstanding administrator and exceptional educator.

Week in and week out, year after year, every Monday through Friday, Gregg started work well before 7am and often didn't arrive home until well after 8pm! Every Sunday, he greeted students when they returned back to campus and stayed with them until their bedtime. If he was lucky, Gregg may have had the occasional Saturday off...unless there was an athletic event or a homecoming celebration or a science fair...then

he was on the job! There was practically always something happening on campus...

While serving as Dean of Students, Gregg impacted the lives of so many. He was truly a taskmaster, often strict, but with high expectations for each and every student. If a mistake was made, it was called out and the student faced appropriate discipline. Yet those kids who he frequently "held accountable" are the very same adults who, when returning as visiting alumni, seek Gregg out to spend time

happily reminiscing with him. They will forever be "Gregg's kids" and he will always be there for them. I can't count how many times Gregg has given up an evening or a weekend to provide assistance for alumni in need. It's that brand of dedicated generosity that sets him apart. That's just the way Gregg is, and that's the way he'll always be.

The students gained so much from Gregg, but they were not alone. During his time as Dean of Students, he earned the trust and confidence of the parents of residential students. They surely appreciated the often stern, but always fair manner in which he cared about the safety and well-being of their children. The calls parents received from him may not have been the most pleasant ones

for a parent to receive, but, because of his personal integrity and his unquestioned devotion to their kids, those parents became lifelong friends. It is not at all unusual for Gregg to receive a call from parents of students who graduated 20+ years ago seeking his advice and guidance.

For 34 years, Gregg and his wife, Kathy called the WPSD campus home - living in an apartment in the main building and a house on Walnut Street. Their daughter, Sarah, grew up with the WPSD students and now works in the School's Office of Institutional Advancement.





In 2009, Gregg began transitioning from the Dean's responsibility to the newly created Chief Operations Officer position. His considerable skills and his vision of providing comprehensive services to deaf children everywhere became an invaluable part of the establishment of The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. During the summer months of that year, he basically spent the entire workweek in Scranton meticulously forging the foundation of the brand new school. His responsibilities included the preparation of the former SSSD campus for our arrival and the planning of the new residential program. Considering the "challenging" condition of that campus, this was a huge undertaking! Gregg assisted in the search for a new campus and, along with Bill O'Neill, planned the transition from the SSSD campus to our permanent Clarks Summit facilities. Until his retirement, Gregg continued to travel to Scranton on a regular basis. That stemmed mostly from his sense of genuine "ownership" of the new school and his true commitment to its students, parents and staff.

There was never a job too demanding for Gregg. As COO, he was on call 24/7, 365 days-a-year and it was not at all uncommon for him to be on campus at any hour of the night. Broken pipes and misbehaving boilers don't follow a 7am to 5pm schedule!

No one ever took the safety and security of our students more seriously than Gregg. Being responsible for the security department was something Gregg took very seriously. If there was any problem that came up within the community, every guard was instructed to contact him, without hesitation, at any time of the day or night. They did and Gregg was on it.

Anybody who knows Gregg knows that he is never shy about his political views. And while they all happen to be the total opposite of my own strong political views, I have to give him credit for "stepping up." As a resident of Edgewood for almost 60 years, he served with distinction on the Edgewood Borough Council.

Gregg wasn't always "all work and no play". He was always a lot of fun to be around. During the 18-hour days in Scranton, under very stressful conditions, we were able to mix a lot of smiles into that hard work and that made it all bearable. What an amazing team that was...Gregg, Connie Stepien, Jessica Marks, Tim Harris, Cathy Rhoten and Bill O'Neill... Gregg was always there to lighten the mood.

And when Gregg liked something? He stuck with it! When he found a restaurant or a meal that brought him satisfaction, you could always count on him to "stay the course"! Whether it was meatloaf at Muggs or cheeseburgers from JJ Bridges, he never varied from them! Right up to his retirement, he was ordering those bacon cheeseburgers and fries for lunch from the same restaurant nearly every day!



Personally and professionally, I will miss him immensely. He served the interests of the school first and foremost. He would offer his best advice and recommendations. And even when he disagreed with a decision I made, no one was more loyal and supportive than him. I always knew he "had my back" and that's something that I will always deeply appreciate.

Gregg's departure is the end of an era at WPSD. He was a major reason that WPSD is a special place. We will miss him tremendously and our entire school community profoundly thanks him for teaching us all to reach higher and to dream big and to be the very best we can be every day!



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

LATEST NEWS AROUND THE WPSD CAMPUS

GAA in the Community

The members of the Girls' Athletic Association (GAA) collected and assembled 45 bags from items donated by the students and staff of WPSD. Then they delivered the bags to the UPMC East Cancer Center. The girls were able to meet with the staff and some patients and explain how they had collected donations of tissues, lotions, chap stick, puzzle books, fuzzy socks, reusable water bottles, etc., to make care bags for them to help them through this time. Each bag had a label that said:

“Assembled for you by the Girls' Athletic Association (GAA) through donations from the students at the Western PA School for the Deaf. Stay strong. Have hope. YOU are our HERO!”



Battle of the Books

by DEREK FORRESTER and OLIVIA LARSON, WPSD STUDENTS

This is our first year for Battle of the Books (BOTB). We meet every Monday with our teammates during ISP. This is a program set up by Gallaudet University for Middle School students, 6th to 8th graders in a Deaf or Hard of Hearing program. There are schools from all over the United States involved. During our first meeting, we all decided on what expectations we would have for the team. For example, we will have good grades, show good sportsmanship, keep our AR percentages at a high level, and read the books before January 5th. We also picked ones that followed ROARS.

During our meetings, we have discussions about our three chapter books. The Buff team is reading *Crossover* (Poetry), *Out of My Mind*, and *Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. The Blue team is reading *I Funny, Flora and Ulysses*, *Sarafina's Promise*. Our team chaperone, Mary, cannot help us with study guides, ideas, or the readings. Neither can our parents or staff. They can only help with the vocabulary. So far, we have discussed events from the stories, character traits, setting, conflict and climax of the stories, and theme. In December, we had a scrimmage against the Scranton Bears! We read a different fiction story and a poem. Then, we battled each other with questions from our chaperones. It was a lot of fun and a good experience for us. We will have three matches to get into the playoffs. All of the points from each match are added together. We feel confident that we will do well. We are looking forward to the challenge. Good luck to the Scranton Bears, too!



Elementary Classes Present Science Fair Projects



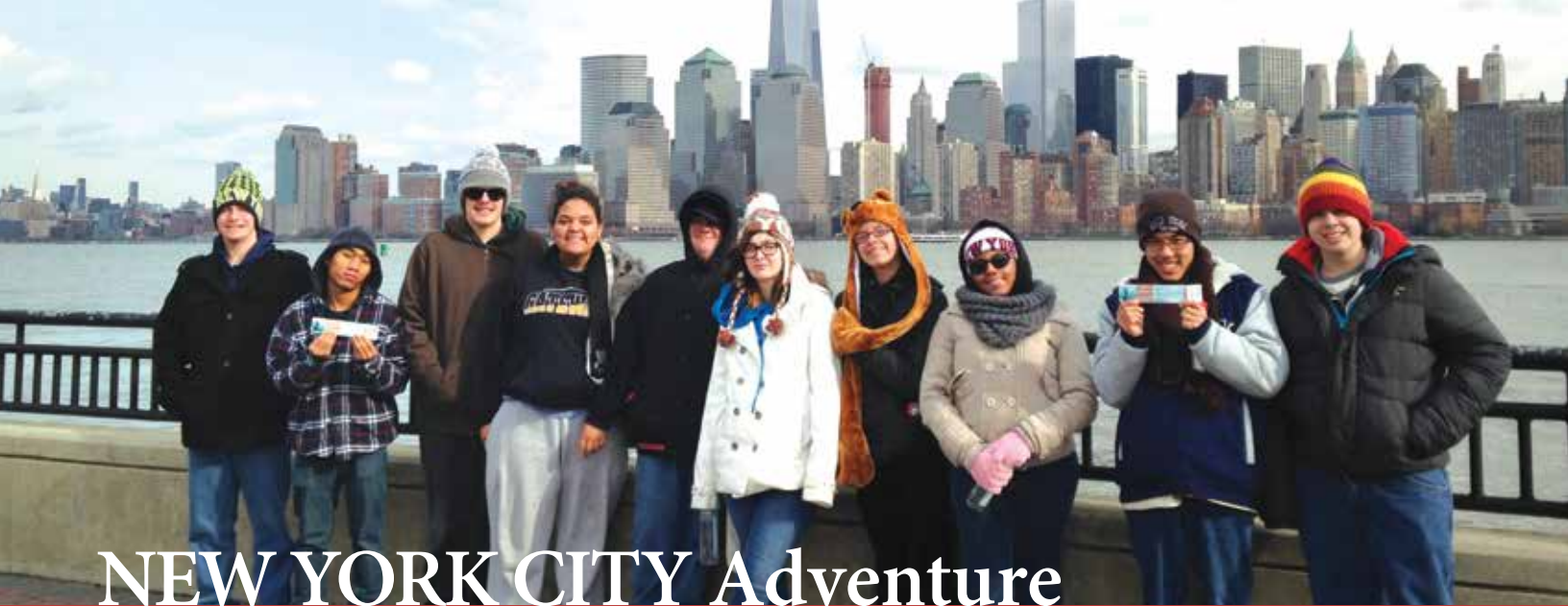
Students from the Elementary Department gathered in the MiniMax theater to present their science projects to their peers. The presentations were superb, and showcased how well our students are learning the scientific method as well as working as a team. The best part was how the students in the audience were excited to ask questions, and how excited the class teams were to field those questions! There's a lot of great learning and academic expectation going on here!



The GAA hosted their annual holiday party for the first through third graders with crafts, stories and a visit from "Santa."



In December, the Mini Signshine troupe visited Edgewood Daycare and performed a holiday show for the staff and students.



NEW YORK CITY Adventure

by KEVIN MCDONOUGH

On December 9, 2014, the 10th grade class departed from the WPSD Pittsburgh campus for a trip to New York City. After a six-hour drive we arrived in Manhattan to begin our adventure. The first stop was the Metropolitan Museum of Art where we learned about the intricacies of Greek pottery, the realism of medieval Renaissance art and the impact of religious beliefs on art during that era, and the art of the 19th century Impressionist era and the motivations of artists such as Van Gogh and Monet. After dinner at Bubba Gump's restaurant we went to one of the city's most popular tourist spots - The Empire State Building. The students were disappointed that part of the observation deck was closed off due to the high winds.

Wednesday morning found us at Rockefeller Center to check out the famous Christmas Tree and ice rink before heading to the Radio City Music Hall for their Christmas spectacular. After the show, the toured Wall Street, Ground Zero, the Ground Zero Chapel at St. Paul's. From Ground Zero we walked to Little Italy for dinner at Puglia's before heading back to the hotel.

We wrapped our visit on Thursday with a visit to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty at Liberty Island before hopping back on the shuttle bus for the long ride home. The students enjoyed the trip immensely and took home an experience of a lifetime.



WPSD Boy Scouts

by GARY FREILINO

The Boy Scouts of Troop 802 have been very active since school started in September. They performed a flag retirement ceremony on September 11, 2014 to honor all that had served and were lost on 9/11. Later in the fall, the boys kept the “out” in Scouting by attending the Fall Fun Days at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg, PA. Upon arrival, the boys donned helmets and harnesses and climbed the 40+ foot-tall COPE tower followed by an exhilarating ride down on a zip line. On the archery range they were instructed on the techniques needed to shoot an arrow and then took a hayride around the camp.

The whole purpose behind Scouting is to give teens and adolescents a structured environment that builds their self-esteem, so that when challenges arise in their lives, they can face them confidently. By taking advantage of these opportunities our Scouts can apply what they have done and learned to all aspects of their life.



Bots IQ 2015

by JOHN FOUST

The Bots IQ team has been working diligently on designing and now machining components for their robot. After several months of designing a robot from scratch, the students now realize what is involved in designing a finished product. Unforeseen problems pop up, store bought components aren't always the exact size and there's always those sticky competition regulations: specifically the weight restriction.

The team is now heavily involved in a partnership with New Century Careers, a teaching machine shop for the postgraduate or adult student. We travel to the shop on Pittsburgh's southside to cut, drill and machine the robot's body components to the specifications listed on their CAD drawings. Luckily, we have three volunteers who selflessly and readily share their machining and mechanical expertise.

Two of the New Century Careers machinist volunteers are Tim Brandis and Bob Pollice. Our third volunteer is a former WPSD staff member, Tony DiMenno. All three have been a tremendous help to the success of WPSD's Bots IQ program.

WPSD has been in a partnership with NCC for the past eight years. With full supervision, our students are permitted to set up and run various machines like the milling machine, lathe, power saw, press and band saw. This hands-on experience gives the students the opportunity to determine whether becoming a machinist is a potential career path consideration.

Our team motto is "find a way" and somehow we always do. Isn't that the true nature of this program? Problem solving is a part of our daily lives and the students need to realize this, accept it and deal with adversity and conflict.

Look for the 'bot on the RAMPAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGE!!!!



The 2015 Preliminary Bots IQ Competition will be held at the Westmoreland County Community College, just south of Greensburg, on March 13. The 2015 Finals Competition will be held at the California University of Pennsylvania in California, PA on both April 24 and 25.

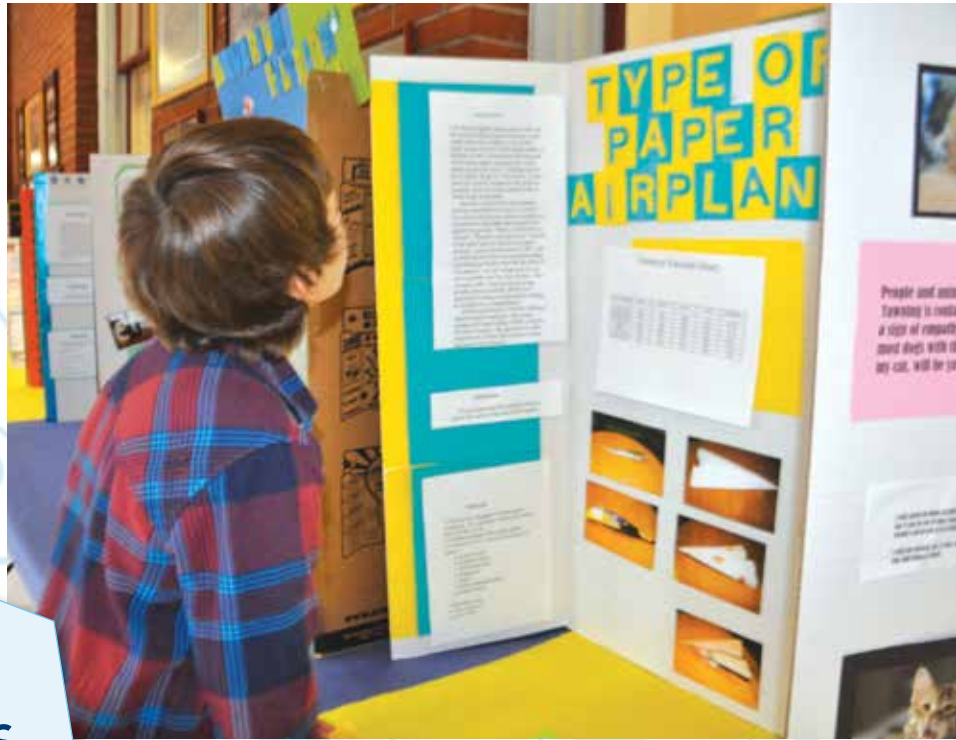


Science Is All Around Us...

Nearly 80 students from Grade 5-12 participated in WPSD Middle School/High School Science Fair in December 2014.

All experiments were judged on scientific thought, originality, and clarity. Everyone did fantastic job!!

Many thanks to WPSD residence supervisors, WPSD/SSDHCC staff, and parents for their support and guidance.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!! MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

- 1ST PLACE:** Dylan Zurawski • Grade 7 WPSD student
“Turn Milk into Plastic” Experiment
- 2ND PLACE:** David Harclerode • Grade 8 SSDHHC student
“Do Athlete’s Shoes Affect Jumping Height?”
- 3RD PLACE:** Jenna D’Amore • Grade 6 WPSD student
“Super Egg” Experiment



HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

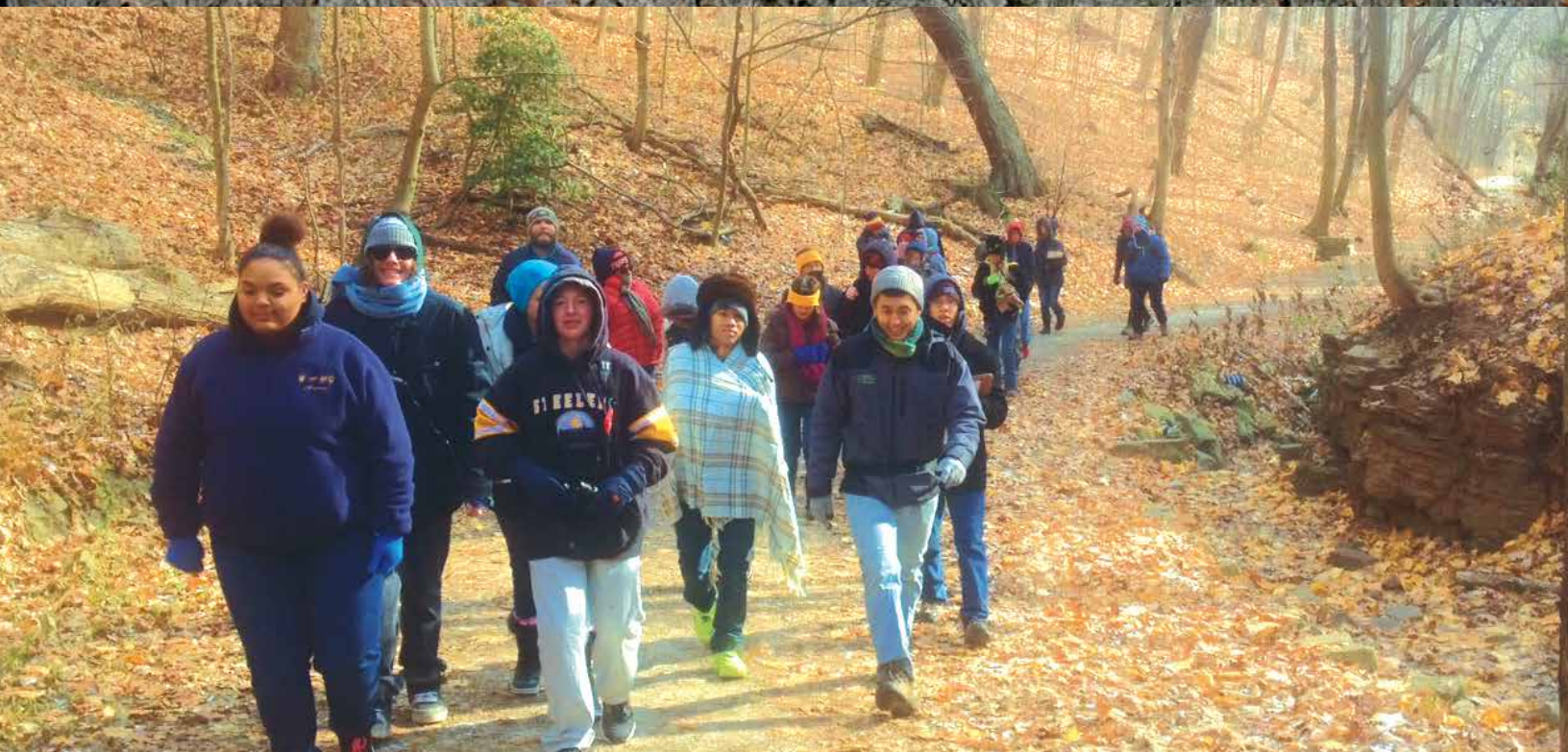
- 1ST PLACE:** Samantha Gibbs • Grade 11 WPSD student
“Fresh Water Plankton Diversity”
- 2ND PLACE:** Iris Hereford • Grade 10 WPSD student
“Goo-Be-Gone: Cleaning Up Oil Spills”
- 3RD PLACE:** Jamie Friday • Grade 12 WPSD student
“Are There Bugs Under Your Feet?”

Ecostewards at WPSD

This year, the high school environmental science classes are involved in a year-long Ecostewards project. The students are learning about our local ecosystems through observation and interaction with nature. They are also engaging in activities that improve the health of the park communities. For each outing, we have educational objectives, but fostering a sense of responsibility for our world is also a major goal for these trips.

In November, the High School Urban Ecostewards ventured out onto the trails of Frick Park for a chilly 20-degree winter hike. They bundled up and had a great time learning about many interesting things, including the beautiful American Sycamore tree and a Pileated Woodpecker (just like Woody Woodpecker). We also learned about various plant adaptations for seed dispersal. So much fun!

Through these field trips our students learn to act as stewards of our “adopted natural area” through the partnership we have with various non-profit organizations including Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Nine-Mile Run Watershed Association.



Learning About Wildlife That Share Our Environment

by PAULINE DUNBAR

The Class of 2015, and three Environmental Science class students, visited The Animal Rescue League (ARL) Wildlife Center. The center is a fully licensed wildlife rehabilitation clinic that specializes in the care and treatment of injured, orphaned, and ill native Pennsylvanian wildlife. The Class of 2015 chose the Wildlife Center as their community service project.

On the one-hour tour of the facility we had the opportunity to learn more about Pennsylvania wildlife and see the animals up close. Indoors we saw a variety of small birds, squirrels, skunks, possums, a porcupine, quails, turtles, and their resident crow, Ray. Outdoors we saw red tail hawks,



owls, and foxes. Our tour guide covered the various animal rehabilitation areas of the facility, often checking students on their background knowledge.



We learned many new things on the tour.

Several of the animals at the Wildlife Center can never be released due to permanent injuries. Seeing the animals up close and talking with the tour guide gave us deeper insight into the lives of our wild animals.

The Class of 2015 is collecting items needed for the facility. For more information, please visit the ARL website:

ITEMS MOST NEEDED WISH LIST:

<http://www.animalrescue.org/donate/wish-list-for-shelter-and-wildlife-center/>

DONATION INFORMATION:

<http://www.animalrescue.org/donate/donation-information/>



2015
SUMMER
Camps
at WPSD

We're busy planning all the great activities for this year's camps for deaf and hard of hearing children. Details will soon be mailed and posted on our website (wpsd.org).

In the meantime, save the dates for:
AMAZING ADVENTURES CAMP
July 13-17 • middle & high school students
IMAGINASIUM CAMP
July 20-24 • students ages 6-11

Contact jmorris@wpsd.org or mennis@wpsd.org for more information.

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS

Holidays at the Children's Center

December is always one of the most exciting months of the year in the Children's Center! The Holiday season started with our tradition of decorating the Children's Center Christmas tree on December 5th. The students filled the Christmas trees with their handmade ornaments... it was beautiful! On December 16th, Santa took time out of his busy schedule to have breakfast with us. He arrived in style on the WPSD security cart and was greeted with hugs and squeals of delight at the door.

Each child visited with Santa and received a special book. It was wonderful that so many families and friends could join us for this magical event; it's always a highlight of the year. On Friday, December 19th, we had our annual 'Polar Express' celebration. Students especially enjoyed finding silver bells in their cubbies at the end of the day! What a magical time of year... Ho, ho, ho!



Upcoming Programs

A Guide to the Special Education/IEP Process for Parents of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children

March 31	Erie, Pa	5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
April 1	Johnstown/Altoona, Pa	5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
April 2	WPSD Pgh Campus	5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Internationally known, special education attorney and consultant, Lawrence Siegel, will conduct a 2-hour interactive workshop for families of deaf and hard of hearing children. The workshop will explain education/IEP law, help you develop effective strategies for your child, and provide information of value to you throughout the process. A limited number of individual 15-minute consultations are available at the end of the workshop. No charge to attend.

*For more information or to register for the workshop, please contact Vicki Cherney at **412.244.4207** or vcherney@wpsd.org*

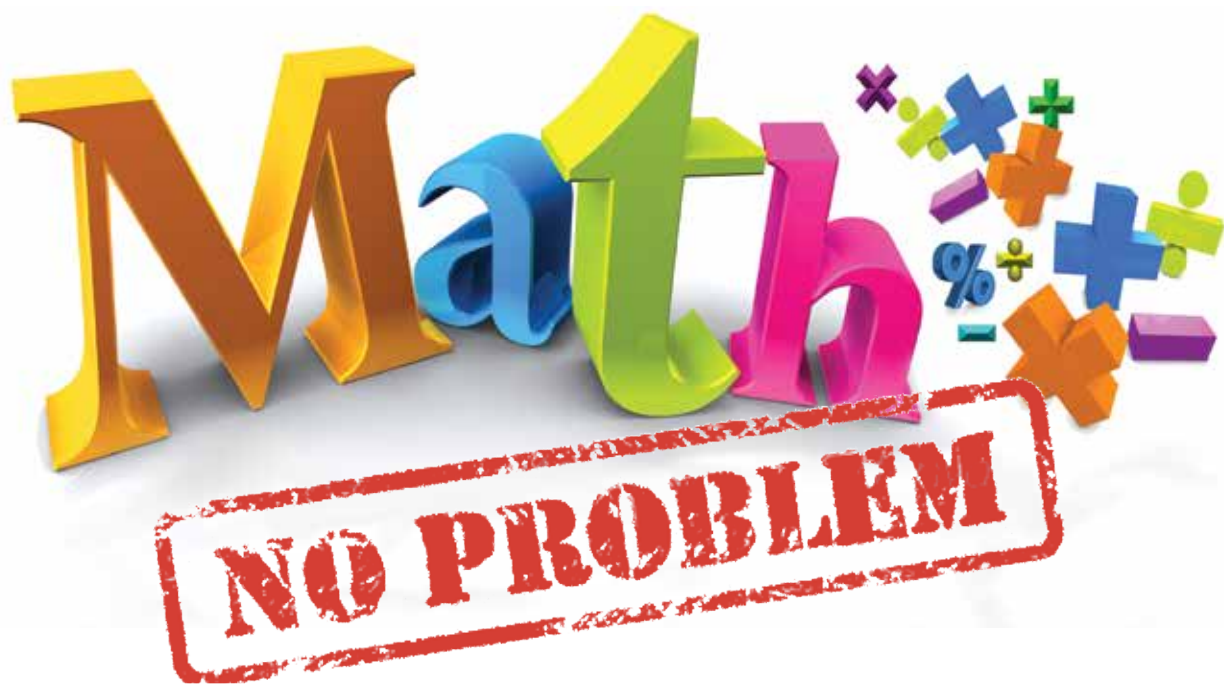
WPSD for Life!

Introducing a new program to assist WPSD graduates old and new. WPSD is making a lifelong commitment to our graduates. Once a member of the WPSD “Family” always a member of our family... We believe strongly that our graduates can be successful and productive members of society. Our commitment to the students does not end on graduation day.

This program will serve graduates of WPSD, regardless of age, with services that include:

- Job Counseling/Placement
- Audiological Support
- Mental Health Counseling
- Housing
- Assistance with Post Secondary Placement
- Hearing Aid Sales
- Financial Counseling
- Interpreting

For more information, please contact Jessica Marks, jmarks@wpsd.org, or Connie Stepien, cstepien@wpsd.org.



Family Learning Weekend on the WPSD Pittsburgh Campus

Friday 3/20 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 3/21 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshops and activities for parents and children, designed for families of deaf and hard of hearing children through 4th grade. Dr. Claudia Pagliaro, expert on math development for deaf and hard of hearing children, will be the keynote speaker. Overnight accommodations are available. No charge to attend.

*To register, or for more information, contact Sally Wellman at **412.371.7000** or swellman@wpsd.org*

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MEET WPSD GRADUATE MICHELLE NOSCHESI

GRADUATE OF THE CLASS OF 1994
PROGRAM MANAGER WITH STRATEGIES TO EMPOWER PEOPLE (STEP).

Michelle Noschese, a former May Queen and a proud WPSD Class of 1994 graduate, is the daughter of WPSD employee, Robert Noschese, and Marcia Kusher, also a WPSD alumnus ('65). Upon graduation from WPSD in 1994, she enrolled at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and majored in Education and Social Work. Unfortunately, she had to leave Gallaudet after being involved in a very serious automobile accident that left her with short-term memory issues. However, that did not stop Michelle, her positive attitude and outlook on life changed her journey in her life.

Shortly after the accident, she took a job as a vocational instructor for the Family Service Foundation in Landover Hills, Maryland, working with adults with intellectual developmental disabilities. She was promoted to supervisor of a vocational team and spearheaded the Individual Habilitation Plan that included developmental plans for the clients, parents, and social workers. Soon she became a Team Leader at the Tanley House, a residential setting for her clients, and volunteered her time to interpret for Deaf and Blind people in Maryland.

In 1998, after a full recovery from the car accident in 1998, she moved to Minnesota to continue her work in the mental health field. While there, Michelle received

the Outstanding Direct Service award at the Minnesota Habilitation Coalition conference in recognition for her work with people with developmental disabilities.

She moved to Sacramento, California in 2002 after accepting a job as Program Manager with Strategies to Empower People (STEP). STEP is an agency out of Sacramento, CA that provides a wide range of support services to adults with intellectual developmental disabilities. She has been with

STEP for twelve years now. Her responsibilities include assessments of potential clients, recruiting employees, community integration, and staff development.

Her advice to current WPSD students is to maintain a positive attitude. Making mistakes is a learning experience and if a student is struggling with something, they should analyze the situation, follow your intuition and do what you feel is right. Never dwell on the past and move forward. We all are teachers in life and we all learn from each other. The word "failure" isn't in Michelle's dictionary.

In her free time, she enjoys hiking and backpacking in the mountains in California. Michelle also enjoys bird-watching and wildlife watching, fishing, and many other outdoor activities. WPSD thanks Michelle for taking the time out of her very busy life talking to us. Best wishes to her for continued success in her life.



Visit us on [Facebook.com/WPSDprograms](https://www.facebook.com/WPSDprograms).

Welcome to WPSD

by MICHAEL DEL CIMMUTO



On January 5th, WPSD added the position of “Director of Campus Safety and Security”. This position is responsible for the security department, security guards and all aspects of campus safety such as emergency evacuations, fire drills, campus lockdowns, visitor checks, etc. The primary goal of the position is to make the campus as safe and secure as possible.

After an extensive search, WPSD hired Michael Del Cimmuto to fill the position. Mike recently retired from the Pittsburgh Police Department where he held the rank of Sergeant and was responsible for the Crime Scene and Computer Crime Units, along with extensive training in Emergency Management, Active Shooter and was a member of the Rapid Emergency Response Team. Mike has a wealth of experience, which will serve WPSD well.

The WPSD Board of Trustees, following much discussion and consideration, has approved the decision to allow Mike to carry a loaded firearm during the course of his work. This decision was made in consideration to the many tragic events that have happened at schools around the country and we believe it is one more way to protect our children.

Mike, in his role as Director of Campus Safety and Security, will be the only WPSD employee carrying a gun. He will not wear a uniform and his weapon will be worn in a holster under his jacket.

The safety of our children and staff is always our utmost concern. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Executive Director’s office at 412.244 4217.

WPSD Board of Trustee officers, Chris McCrady and Melissa Scheffler, visited the WPSD campus to spend the morning with our students and teachers. They had the opportunity to interact with the students and observe the learning environment.



BOARD SPOTLIGHT

MEET REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY DENISE BROWN

OFFICE FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING WPSD BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2013

The *Western Pennsylvanian* recently interviewed WPSD Board of Trustee member Denise Brown about her involvement with WPSD:

How did you first become with the Board?

Denise Brown: I've known Mr. Rhoten for a long time and when he asked me if I was interested in becoming a board member I told him I would need more information. He had Mr. Chris McCrady, current Board President, contact me and share all the details. Needless to say, my answer was "yes" and I am currently the newest board member on my second year.

Tell us about yourself:

Denise Brown: I'm a native of Allentown. I am Deaf and a graduate of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD). Believe it or not, when I was a student at PSD, Mr. Donald Rhoten was the assistant superintendent and Cathy Rhoten was one of my teachers. Imagine that! She taught me how to handle a checking account and other "independent skills" under the Consumer Education Class. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. and my Masters Degree in Deaf Rehabilitation from New York University in 1989. I was a volunteer in the United States Peace Corps from 1989 – 1991, as a teacher at a school for the Deaf on St. Lucia in the Eastern Caribbean. I've worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing for 18 years.

Now, I live in Allentown, PA with Gary, my partner, and Elmo/Holly, our two beloved rescued Golden Retrievers. We enjoy camping, hiking and traveling.

Has your perspective of the WPSD and the Scranton School changed since you became a member?

Denise Brown: My perspective of the school had not changed. For example, I noticed that there were many dedicated staff and administrators working there for many years and that they love their jobs. Also the staff has shown their integrity and commitment by putting the kids first! This does not surprise me. When I was a student at PSD, I had wonderful mentors and deaf role models who

encouraged me to strive to reach for my goals and encouraged me to attend Gallaudet University. If not for them, I would not be where I am now. WPSD shows the same dedication to their students.

As the newest board member, what do you want to accomplish?

Denise Brown: I would like to enhance and strengthen the relationship between the board members and WPSD/SSDHHC students and staff and also with WPSD/SSDHHC Alumni and the Deaf Community. I recently had an opportunity to talk to Mr. McCrady about the importance of this and I am pleased to say, that the board members will make an effort to visit both schools – WPSD and SSDHHC – to greet and meet

the students and staff during the this school year and in the future. I am so excited about this opportunity and I hope they enjoy having us there, too.



Thank you Denise, for agreeing to this interview and sharing your thoughts and your time with us. We appreciate your commitment and support of our Schools and our students!

The WPSD 2015 *Golf Tournament*



Join us at the Edgewood Country Club on Monday, June 22nd for the Annual Golf Tournament.



Contact Vicki Cherney at vcherney@wpsd.org for more information.

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