

DERRY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
November 1, 2018

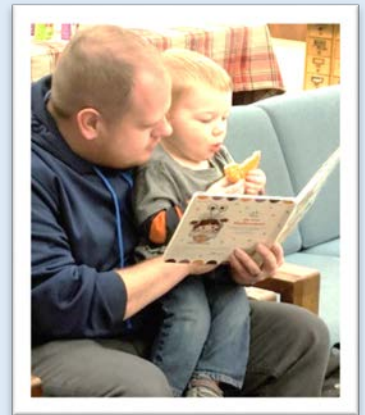
*What is happening at Derry Area School District?*  
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## Classroom News



### DASD's Early Childhood Education Updates

We held our first **Infant Storytime** event of the school year on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at the Caldwell Memorial Library. The Early Childhood team sang, read stories, and shared Mother Goose nursery rhymes. Barbie Jones, DASD Early Childhood Education Liaison, discussed sensory learning and the benefits of introducing rhyme with young children. Infant Storytime is designed exclusively for our district's youngest learners and their families. All participants received their own copy of the story, *Disney's My First Halloween*, as well as sensory learning toys designed to nurture early childhood development. Hosting Storytime events at the Caldwell Memorial Library allows us to showcase the extensive children's selection available at this unique community resource. If you have not visited the Caldwell Memorial Library recently, we encourage you to do so.



**Toddler Storytime** was held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 in partnership with the Caldwell Memorial Library. Participants and their families joined us in singing nursery rhymes and reciting finger plays. The story, *Llama Llama Trick or Treat*, by Ann Dewdney was read aloud, followed by the singing of *5 Little Pumpkins*. Barbie Jones, Early Childhood Education Liaison, explained STEM learning. She then challenged the toddlers and their families to create 5 pumpkins out of playdoh and build a gate using various items to hold the 5 playdoh pumpkins. We were amazed with the creativity of our Toddlers! Storytime culminated with a mini trick or treat walk through the library for a free copy of the story, an educational toy, and some candy treats! We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our friends at Eat 'N Park of Latrobe for discounting several dozen of Smiley cookies for our snack at Storytime.

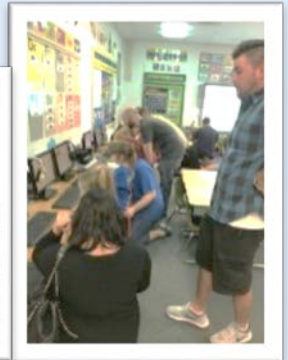


Fourth and fifth grade Aft3r@DASD STEAM Team members, under the guidance of Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Maga, spent September preparing for a STEAM challenge sponsored by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. These students accepted Matt's Makers Challenge to design and build a Rube Goldberg™, Machine that would pop a balloon in six or more steps and spent weeks perfecting their device through hard work and perseverance. On October 12, the STEAM Team was invited to the Children's Museum where contest winners were announced and students had the chance to explore a new exhibit: Rube Goldberg™, The World of Hilarious Invention Exhibit, before it opened to the public.

As a part of Fire Prevention Week at Grandview, pre-k, kindergarten and first grade students were introduced to Derry Township Volunteer Department members. Justin Horrell spoke to the students about what to do if they smell smoke and how to call 911. They also saw the fire trucks and learned about all the equipment the fire department uses to put out fires. Students were really excited to hear about what the fire department does and how they take care of our community. Thank you to all of the volunteer fire departments for their service and sacrifices they make to keep our school district and community safe.



Grandview teachers are continuing to partner with parents and family members by hosting grade level engagement nights. Parents and family members are invited to bring their child with them so grade level teachers can show them ways to support their child's education at home. They have the opportunity to sit shoulder to shoulder with their child while teachers show them educational activities being done in the classroom. Parent and family engagement nights for Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 4 and 5 have provided parents and family members with both math and reading strategies to use at home, demonstrated how our textbooks, homework pages and skill building games can be accessed online, reviewed goals and expectations of the grade level and more! Grade 3 Parent and Family Engagement Night will be held on December 4.



The 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade STEAM Team at Grandview Elementary School spent their day off of school at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. The team of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC learners and their instructors received a special invitation from the museum to celebrate the opening of Rube Goldberg™: "The World of Hilarious Invention!" the Museum's newest exhibit in recognition of the contraption that they designed which successfully was able to POP a balloon. The students were challenged to the exciting contest where they were required to make a unique contraption that would successfully POP a balloon using everyday items, teamwork, humor and their imaginations.

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC learners at Derry Area Middle School spent a warm, fall afternoon splashing around in the Loyalhanna Stream with their 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher Mr. Zurinsky. Students learned the history of the Loyalhanna Watershed, the living and non-living components of a stream ecosystem, what macroinvertebrates are and how they are important indicators of water quality. The students had a blast investigating the health of a freshwater stream habitat by taking a look at what animals live under the water through hands-on collection and identification activities.





### Athletics/Student Activities

Students in Mrs. Gray's classroom assisted with the Yankee Candle Fundraiser. The students embraced the opportunity to meet and greet parents, assist with the delivery of the orders along with feeling the pride that accompanies productivity and accomplishment.



### Grade 8 Career Talk

During Mid-Day Homeroom & Lunch A  
October 25, 2018

Dr. Allison & Dr. Boliver from Allison Chiropractic



### Grade 7

WCCC Advanced Technology Center – Women in  
Manufacturing Day  
Friday, October 19, 2018  
8 Middle School Students Attended

Women in Manufacturing Day was held on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Westmoreland County Community College – Advanced Technology Center. Stephanie Hotz-Freeman took 8 middle school young ladies and one high school young lady to take part in the activities. Some of the activities included virtual welding, plasma cutting, soldering in electronics, designing a home using Revit, operating a 3-D printer and more. Students visited 4 different programs based on a pre-interest survey. In each program, the students were able to try the different technologies and make small souvenirs representing the program. Also included in the day was a question and answer session. Two current female students and one former student with a job in the manufacturing world were there to discuss highlights of the programs and field questions from the students. In the end, students were very empowered to see what the work force could look like for them. Some of the young ladies were excited to perhaps one day pursue a job in technology / manufacturing while others were grateful for the experience to understand the types of careers that exist. It was definitely a fun yet meaningful day for all those who attended.



### Grade 6

November 1 – Wearing Reality Tour T-Shirt To Keep Their Promise!

Reality Tour t-shirts were ordered, and Grade 6 students and staff will wear their shirt on Thursday, November 1! Anyone in the Middle School wanting to wear their Reality Tour t-shirt will do so on November 1!

October 17 Derry Night – **15** Grade 6 families attended the Latrobe Reality Tour = **34 students/parents**.  
November 14 Derry Night – **10** Grade 6 families are registered to attend the Latrobe Reality Tour = **26 students/parents**.



The M.S. physical education department finished their golf unit with a field trip to the Latrobe Elks with 11, 6-8th graders. Teaming with the HS golf team, coaches and Craig Yutsy, golf pro from the Latrobe Elks, the afternoon was well planned and a lot of fun! Kids got to partner up with HS golfers through a 9 hole putting contest, hit many golf balls on the driving range and play 3 holes on the course. The idea was to expose kids to a future HS sport, lifelong activity and create partnerships within the community.

On October 27, Mrs. Robertson and the Middle School Step-Up Students enjoyed handing out treats and running the silent auction at the second annual Harvest Festival.



Derry Area Middle School received a **\$1,900 Grant** for the **Drug Abuse Prevention Grant Program** with the Attorney General's Office!



The Annual Derry Area Middle School Magazine Campaign Fund Raiser was very successful. This year, in addition to magazines, we added cookie dough as part of our fund raiser. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 sold over \$32,000 worth of items. Profits will be used for grade level field trips this school year.



The 178 students who participated in the fund raiser were invited to an assembly in the gymnasium

presented by the Extreme Pogo Stunt Team. The Xpogo Team competed America's Got Talent and have performed all over the world. They brought their message of Make Your Dreams come true by practicing what you enjoy and believe in yourself. Students who sold at least five items sat in the VIP section where three students were chosen to participate in the program by demonstrating their own pogo stick skills. James Geyer, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, jumped 110 times.

Derry FFA selected first year members and officers attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Altoona, PA on October 2nd. Students went through different workshops learning about careers, SAE opportunities and experienced teamwork activities. The event was facilitated by the State FFA Officers and Pre-Service Agricultural Education Students from Penn State. Pictured with our members are two Derry FFA alumni (Jessica Barnhart and Beth Winklosky) who will be student teaching in different Agricultural Education programs in the state during Spring 2019 and 2020.



Oct 16th -- We attended the Cyber-Security Conference at St Vincent College where students participated in hands-on workshops centered around cyber ethics, homeland security, coding and program development as well as careers in computer science/ cyber security.



As a coordinating project, students are beginning the CyberPatriot XI Challenge. This is an online cyber security challenge. The team will be supervised by Ms DeFabo and mentored by Mr Kim. We are also making arrangements for students from the St Vincent Cyber Security program to mentor the team as well.

Oct 17 -- The Varsity Academic Quiz Team won its match against Southmoreland.

Senior Mock Interviews are scheduled for November. We are currently working to provide professional wear to students who may be in need of interview clothing items.

The Mock Trial season will kick off for the year with the Opening and Closing Arguments Event at St Vincent College on Oct 30. Students from Mr Curcio's class and gifted students from the Mock Trial team will attend and present arguments during this event.

The InspireUS team worked to encourage eligible seniors to register to vote. As of the Oct 6th deadline, we had 73% of our eligible seniors registered. The committee is now making plans to educate the student body on topics such as party platforms, fact-checking political ads, researching congress members' voting records, etc.

The PSAT was administered on Wednesday, October 10 to just over 100 students. The PSAT provides a trial run for students prior to taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) - it is a mini-version of the SAT. The SAT is a requirement for admission to students wishing to attend a 4-year college after high school. The PSAT typically costs a student \$16, but Derry Area School District has been budgeting for the PSAT for the last few years allowing students to participate at no cost. The number of students participating in the PSAT has also recently been added to the school's performance profile.

The following students represented Derry Area High School at the PMEA Honors Choir Festival on Oct. 26 and 27 at Baldwin Whitehall H.S. They rehearsed with other students from Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties for 1 1/2 days and then performed an amazing concert at 2:00pm on Saturday! The guest conductors were Dr. Chris Kiver and Mrs. Jayne Clocke both from Penn State University. This was a wonderful musical enrichment opportunity for our students!

- Addy Hildebrand
- Alyssa Main
- Lucas Snyder
- Jakkob Burkholder
- Christian Burdick

Congratulations to all of our honorees of the Derry Area High School Academic Excellence Society for all of their accomplishments. Students were recognized on October 3, 2018



The High School would like to congratulate our October Latrobe Rotary Students, Kenzie Burd and Noah Binder. After High School, Kenzie plans on attending either Seton Hill or Saint Vincent majoring in the math/computer field. Noah plans on attending Penn State and receiving a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science.



## Athletics

**Football:** Congratulations to the football team on becoming the 2018 Conference Champs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Derry ended the regular season with a 9-1 record. They will be hosting the first playoff game this Friday, November 2, 2018.



**Golf:** Three members of the boys varsity golf team was recognized Thursday, October 25 as members of the Section 2 AA All Section team during a dinner at Linden Hall. Juniors Aidan Bushey and Devin Sheffler and sophomore Ryan Bushey represented Derry Area.

**Tennis:** The Girls Tennis Team finished with a 13-2 record, which is the fewest losses in program history. The Trojans finished 8-1 in section 3 AA play, 4-0 in exhibition matches, and 1-1 in playoff matches. They made it to the team playoffs quarterfinal round for the third time in program history (2010, 2012). The Tennis team only lost to Knoch (WPIAL runner-up) and Greensburg-Salem (WPIAL 4th place) this year.



**Volleyball:** Congratulations to the Girls' Volleyball team for making the WPIAL playoffs!

## Community

A huge THANK YOU goes out to the members of the Knights of Columbus Council #940 for providing 120 new winter coats to Grandview to distribute to students who are in need of a warm jacket. A special thank you to Mr. Stan Oshie who provided the financial backing for the coats and to Mr. Tony Caviggia for contacting us and making arrangements for delivery. We are thrilled to partner with the Knights of Columbus to provide for our students' needs!

The Transition Technology classes, in conjunction with the Agriculture Construction class recently completed a concrete floor for the home dugout at the softball field. The project, done with great cooperation from the Athletic Department and the Maintenance Department, was done in three separate pours using 80 pound bags of cement and cement mixers due to the remote access of the softball field. Students will also be cleaning up the dugout, including a power wash and perhaps a fresh coat of paint in the Spring.

