The Family Center

SPEAKING OUT FOR A BELOVED PROGRAM

OUR GREAT FAMILIES

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Spring has sprung at last! And this month, DCIU has sprung into the community.

From Head Start to CTE, DCIU programs came out in droves to engage with community members across Delaware County. This is wonderful because it not only shows the community how amazing DCIU programs are, but it is also good for the students. According to the Department of Education, linking community activities to a classroom experience can improve school-related behaviors and positively effects academic achievement. By setting this example, we hope our students will continue to grow into community-oriented adults, like some of the former students later in this issue.

As proud and active members of the Delaware County community, it is phenomenal to have such an active presence in it this month. To all those who played a part in that involvement, thank you for all of your hard work!

Maria Edelberg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BEST BUDDIES TALENT SHOW

WRITTEN BY ALYSSA EDER, BEST BUDDIES OFFICER

Every year, Haverford’s Best Buddies chapter participates in the annual talent show hosted by Conestoga High School. Various high school chapters come together to share their talents each year. The chapters were called upon to create a dance based on a particular song theme. This year’s theme was boy bands! From the Jonas Brothers to the Backstreet Boys, the theme was a hit. Haverford’s choice of songs were Rockin Robin and ABC from the Jackson 5. Once a week, they came together in the auditorium to practice and perfect the choreography, created by chapter president, Francesca Traux. Students lit up while performing and were excited watching other chapters perform. When the performances came to an end, pizza and snacks were provided and students from other schools were able to get to know each other better. But the dancing did not stop there! A dance party broke out after lunch while the chapters waited for their buses. Other than getting to show off each chapter’s hard work and dancing skills, the talent show is an amazing event that brings different Best Buddy chapters and their students together.
BEST BUDDIES BALL AT THE DOUBLETREE

Haverford Best Buddies attended the Best Buddies Ball at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel. Best Buddies PA holds this annual event to celebrate the achievements and friendships formed by Best Buddies over the course of the year. At the event, 60 Haverford Best Buddies members danced and sang with over 500 members across PA.

During the awards ceremony, they were recognized for their efforts with the Wing Bowl fundraiser in February.

The Best Buddies Ball is the highlight of the year for many students. It allowed members to meet other advocates for inclusion and helped to form closer bonds between members.
We heard you!
In the last survey, some of you expressed a desire to hear more about upcoming events and general announcements. This new regular section will keep you up-to-date with announcements, deadlines, and events.

**Employee Recognition Dinner**
Time is running out to RSVP for the May 16th Employee Recognition Dinner. If you would like to RSVP, please return the form you received via email to Rebecca Smith no later than May 4, 2017.

**Summer Hours**
The summer office schedule will begin this year on Monday, June 19, 2017. If your program is eligible for summer schedule, your supervisor can provide you with the proper forms. Please return the completed form to your supervisor no later than May 19, 2017.

**Better Hearing and Speech Month**
Check out the banner on display in DCIU Morton’s main lobby throughout May honoring Better Hearing and Speech Month (and see page 8 for more details)!

**Hero Bowl**
The 41st Annual Delaware County Hero Bowl, which benefits the Hero Scholarship Fund and is sponsored by the DCIU, kicks off at 7:30pm on June 1, 2017 at Cardinal O’Hara High School. Tickets are $5.00.
GETTING OUT FOR HOME VISITING

DCIU FAMILY CENTER FAMILIES, TEACHERS, AND STAFF COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM

People piled into a room at the Family Center in Darby one Wednesday morning to express how much the Parents as Teachers program means to them to a representative from Congressman Patrick Meehan’s office.

They did so in hopes that they could help secure resources to give more people access to the same program they know and love.

"I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE WITHOUT THEM."

Patty Harwell, a past Parents as Teachers grandmother, expressed the above thought while sharing her story.

Past and present families took turns sharing how the program has benefited each of them. All of the parents expressed similar feelings of community, solidarity, and gratitude for the support they receive. Whether a single parent completely new to parenting and feeling lost or a someone new to this county, feeling alone, and struggling to teach their child the best of both cultures, these mothers made it clear that the Family Center, through the Parents as Teachers Program, has always been there to help. They also discussed the role the home visits, family well-being support, and peer support from group activities has had in helping them be great parents.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers is an evidence-based home visiting model that promotes the optimal early development, learning, and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.
On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, three youth leaders from Delaware County, Kevin Fortunato, Dean York, and Chris Coulston, presented to the DCIU Transition Council. Their powerful message encouraged members of IEP teams to see students through the lens of student strengths and interests and to promote student self-advocacy and self-determination. The young men have presented at several conferences across the country and have had the opportunity to meet and learn from self-determined self-advocates. They will be presenting at the PA Community on Transition conference at State College in August.
The month of May is recognized nationally as Better Hearing and Speech Month. This year's theme is: "Communication: The Key to Connection."

At DCIU, the speech-language therapists engaged our school-aged and early intervention students in a fun project to help raise awareness about communication disorders and how therapy improves their lives.

The students decorated "keys" to share what they do and/or what they have learned in speech and language therapy. The decorated keys are attached to a banner on display during May in DCIU Morton's main lobby.

Parents often express their gratitude to the DCIU Speech-Language Therapists for their hard work with their children:

"You made sure that he received what he needed; he learned so much from you."

"Her world is opening up and I have you to thank for that."

"She wouldn't be where she is now if it wasn't for you working with her and genuinely caring for her, so again, thank you!"

"Having conversation with her is even more interesting and comical now with all the things she comes up with."
HEAD START

SPRING PROGRAM AT FOLCROFT

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
(PNC PLANETARIUM)

WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY

UMBRELLA PARADE AT YEADON

MOVEMENT MONDAY

SPRING FUN
Excellence in Teaching Awards

Congratulations are in order for Christie Morris!

Christie is the DCIU winner of the Delaware County Excellence in Education Teaching Awards. She received a check for $500 for herself and a second check for $1000 for her program, as well as a keepsake.

Christie Morris works with DCIU’s Hearing and Language programs.

The Delaware County Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes outstanding and dedicated teachers in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Recipients demonstrate outstanding dedication and significant contributions to Delaware County Students.

The awards were created in 2008 in a partnership between the DCIU and Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. This year, $28,500 was awarded to schools and educators!
Darby Mission Dinner

Chef Don Young and eight of his students from the Culinary Arts & Food Service Management program at the Marple campus volunteered to help out the Darby Mission Dinner. They helped by setting up and serving a Beef Stew to over 80 hungry and homeless people from the area. Chef Don Young said, "It is one of the greatest lessons we can teach our students and it is very humbling."

A Day in the Life

DCTS' Emergency and Protective Services class held their "A Day in the Life" event on April 7th. The EPS class simulated the town of "Delcoville" on the grounds of the Emergency Services Training Center.

The students filled the roles of fire fighters, police, and EMTs as they responded to realistic scenarios in various locations on the grounds.

Assisting as mentors were area police, fire, and EMS personnel who volunteered their time and expertise. Apparatus from area agencies including fire, police vehicles, ambulances, and other units added to the realism and the hands-on experience for the students. Thank you to all those who came out to help!
MOVIE NIGHT AT THE DCIU

Teachers, principals, superintendents, and community members enjoyed food, friends, and a film at the first-ever DCIU education film screening and discussion.

The feature film of the night, Most Likely to Succeed, presented a bold and daring re-imagination of what education to prepare students for the 21st century could look like. The film suggested fostering a student’s curiosity by creating interactive classrooms rather than rote memorization of content.

Following the film, the community engaged in conversation with a panel of experts about the film’s proposal.

ABOVE

From left to right, Superintendents Bernadette Reiley, Juan Baughn, and Jim Wigo

"AN OVERARCHING GOAL OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO IMMERSE STUDENTS IN THE BEAUTY AND INSPIRATION OF THEIR SURROUNDING WORLD."

Most Likely to Succeed
Advertising for sports drinks - a multi-billion dollar business - is so pervasive and convincing that you might think you're risking your health if you don't consume one on every jog or bike ride. But, actually, for moderate exercise, all you really need is water - which, ideally, you're drinking throughout the day, including while you exercise.

The American Council on Exercise recommends drinking 17 to 20 ounces of water two hours before exercise and then another seven to 10 ounces of "fluid: (water or a sports drink, depending on how vigorously you're exercising) every 10 to 20 minutes during exercise. During a high-intensity, one-hour workout, you can lose more than a quart of water, so be sure to replace it!

During intense workouts that last 60 minutes or more, you might switch to a drink that replaces calories, sodium, and potassium - either a flavored water or a sports beverage. (The reason to replace sodium and potassium - those infamous electrolytes - during intense exercise is to offset the salt you lose in sweat and maintain fluid balance, according to the American College of Sports Medicine.) Just be sure to keep an eye on how many calories you're consuming. Some sports drinks contain as many as a soda!