Featuring...

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A Message from the Executive Director

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe 2018 is behind us. We closed out the year on a great note with holiday gatherings, concerts, treats, and more. As we head into 2019, I look forward to new and inspiring ideas, creative solutions, and growing our DCIU community.

Maria Edelberg, Ed.D
Executive Director, DCIU

Reminder: Education Foundation Grant Applications are due by 4:00 pm on February 4, 2019. Grants in the amount of up to $10,000 may be awarded this year. The applications were emailed to all supervisors. Good luck to all who plan to submit grant proposals.
Upcoming Events

DCIU Job Fair
January 10, 2019 | 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Morton Conference Center
We encourage staff to tell friends and family about this wonderful opportunity to learn and apply for education jobs.

Education Advocacy Day
February 2, 2019
Morton Conference Center
Please join us for a day to learn about education funding and policy. In conjunction with PA Schools Work, the DCIU is hosting this event to help teach and train community members about education advocacy. More details to come!

Coffee With the Exec
January 14 | 7:30am - EI ; 8am - HS | Sharon Hill
January 25 | 8:00am | Rockbourne Falls
February 4 | 7am - CTE ; 8am - EI, HS, SS | Aston
Please join Dr. Maria Edelberg for coffee and conversation!

The PASCD Evaluation Leadership Academy
January 11 | February 12 | March 12
8:30AM - 3:30AM | DCIU Morton
The PASCD Evaluation Academy targets administrators who have an interest in gaining knowledge of effective teacher evaluation. Register at www.pascd.org.

DCIU Delaware County Spelling Bee
February 23 | 9am | Morton Rooms 171-172A
Wishing all of Delaware County’s bright middle school spellers the very best at the Bee!

Save the Date: Employee Recognition Dinner
Tuesday, May 14, 2019
While the Information Technology and Services department may play a more behind-the-scenes role at the DCIU, the ITS team had a very busy 2018. In addition to managing technology for the entire organization, ITS had a variety of special projects this past year.

The largest of these projects was the new Aston building. The ITS team installed the wireless network from scratch which included analyzing and implementing 220 access points. If that weren’t impressive enough, the team also installed 40 Aruba POE switches, over 75 projectors, and the entire telephony system. Many of these projects are substantial on their own, so it is especially notable that ITS was able to complete these on one project.

From a financial standpoint, ITS also played a role in annual savings for the IU. By researching the benefits of changing telephone providers and moving forward with this change, the IU was able to save 40% on our telephone bill.

Heading into the New Year, ITS strives to set more goals for their department and the organization. This includes refreshing the network infrastructure and storage systems so that we may work more efficiently and effectively. Additionally, ITS hopes to continue growing the ongoing efforts to recycle computer equipment. While this may seem like a simple enough task, there are many steps to execute this properly.

The ITS keeps the DCIU moving forward in innovation and technology and the staff are always willing to assist in any way they can. In fact, if you are unsure of who to contact in ITS, there is a new page that details the "Who's Who" of ITS. Be sure to check it out HERE and keep an eye out for exciting things coming from ITS in 2019!
On December 21, the Marple Education Center held its annual Holiday Show. Families were in attendance as each class put on a special holiday performance. Joe Flynn was the MC as each class came on stage with the performance they had prepared. Some classes performed holiday classics like "Frosty the Snowman" while others put on a twist on their song and performed the "Six Days of Marple". Ms. Rachel's student's interacted with the audience by throwing foam snowballs during their rendition of "Let It Snow". The show even included a multicultural touch as one classroom performed a Russian Dance routine.

The families and students loved the show and every performance had the crowd singing. Toward the end, Santa even made an appearance! The students at MEC most definitely started their Winter Break on a great note.
**NTHS Crayola Drive For CHOP**
National Technical Honor Society from the Folcroft Campus recently wrapped up their “Crayola Drive” for the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). The drive was organized by NTHS Advisor, Kristen Pellegrino, and DCTS Health Sciences student Katie Carchidi of Interboro High School.

CHOP services thousands of children each year and therefore has an ongoing need for craft supplies. Katie saw this need and wanted to “Help Kids Feel Better to Heal Better”. Katie saw her vision through from start to finish which included countless emails to CHOP to setup the Crayola Drive, creating Crayola donation boxes, creating flyers for DCTS, hanging flyers at DCTS, speaking to classrooms about the drive, making announcements, purchasing Crayola products, and delivering the packages to CHOP on Sunday, December 9th. Ciani Thompson-Hicks (Pennwood High School) worked with Katie to collect funds to purchase hundreds of Crayola products to donate to CHOP. DCTS is so proud of these students for finding a worthwhile cause related to their program!

**DCTS Folcroft Career Fair**
On December 5th, DCTS Folcroft hosted over 20 post-secondary visitors at their annual Career Fair for students and parents. Visitors included 2 year community colleges, 4 year universities, trade schools, military, trade unions, and even some employers. The event was a huge success and students were exposed to a variety of options available to them upon completion of their DCTS programs.
On Friday, December 21, Sharon Hill Head Start held its Winter Wonderland concert. The classrooms paired together to perform both new and traditional winter songs. Classrooms 1 and 7 performed "Little Snow Flake," followed by classrooms 3 and 4 singing "Winter Fun". The show continued with "5 Little Snowmen" performed by classrooms 6 and 9, and classrooms 2 and 8 finished the show with "Jingle Bell Rock". The Academy Park High School Concert Band, which performed several selections, closed the performances with a Winter Holiday arrangement that the crowd loved.

The students’ had a wonderful time singing and having their families there to watch them perform. Well done to the students and teachers that put on a great holiday show!

On December 17, the vision department, specifically Jeanne Aaron, Mary Beth Waldron, and Betsy O’Donnell shared their expertise with six Ukrainian professionals from 3-5:00 p.m. Escorted by two interpreters, the group was very excited, asking multiple questions not only about the Vision program but the rest of the OPTIONS services. Sonya Korinth, collaborating with the Citizen Diplomacy International in Philadelphia and Overbrook School of the Blind, invited the participants to visit DCIU. The group was elated as Mary Beth and Jeanne shared tools such as our sensory kit, adapted canes, and talking puzzles with the group. They had experienced CCTV on their earlier visit to the Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired but were highly interested in our enlarged print library and method of delivering services throughout Delaware County.
Holiday Fun at Morton

**Secret Santa**

On December 21, staff at Morton enjoyed a Secret Santa gift exchange and Ugly Sweater contest at the Winter Meeting. The Secret Santa was a big success with a variety of gifts including gift cards, home goods, and food and drinks. Many participated in the Ugly Sweater Contest as well and each department showed up in their best holiday apparel.

**Project Elect: Adopt a Teen**

Once again, the Project Elect Adopt a Teen program was a great success as many Project Elect Teens were "adopted" by DCIU staff to help them with gifts and expenses during the holiday season. Many of these young mothers struggle financially, so it is always wonderful to see the broad participation in this project each year. DCIU staff exemplify what the "season of giving" is all about!

**Door Decorating Contest**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the decorating contest at Morton! Staff got creative as they decorated their doors, cubicles, and offices. The first prize went to Heather Stottlemeyer and Sydney Tassone. Most creative went to Stefanie Doyle, Linda Long, Tracey Wolf Wise, and Sonya Korinth who worked together on their snowman doors!
The Momo Challenge: What Parents Need to Know

A disturbing new social media challenge is gaining national attention as concern grows over children participating in this on their phones and computers. Through sites like Facebook and Youtube and apps such as Whatsapp, children being targeted to participate in this challenge by performing tasks for the gruesome character named "Momo." The tasks begin small but then become more violent and serious.

In an effort to inform parents of the challenge, many website have been providing resources and guidelines on how to approach the subject with your children. It is important to have an open line of communication with your children when it comes to the sites they are accessing on their devices. Teaching them to use their devices responsibly will keep them safe and aware of the dangers of the internet.

What you can do:

- Talk to your kids about the Momo Challenge
- Check your child's phone/iPod/computer regularly
- Take social media seriously, do not downplay its power in our kids lives
- Keep your relationship with your kids strong and solid
- Have a social media contract with your kids

Sources
Dr. James Wolf (nominated by Brenda Eagan-Johnson and Tracey Wise)

Excerpts from a letter written by Brenda Eagan-Johnson:
I am writing to tell you about the impact Dr. James Wolf has had on students, families, and school districts in your region. Of the 40+ Team Leaders across the Commonwealth, Dr. Wolf is the top BrainSTEPS Team Leader in the state. His attention to detail and ability to accurately determine what a student’s core issues are following an acquired brain injury is a gift. He then works with the family and school to ensure the student is appropriately academically supported until graduation. Dr. Wolf is inclusive of other professionals and understands the value of a team.

Dr. Wolf regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty by visiting students at home who were too symptomatic to return to school, offering his encouraging words and giving these students hope that someone is in their corner, ready to support them, so they do not feel alone when they return to school. Dr. Wolf is also skilled in bringing together a team of professionals each month from the DCIU#25, medical and rehabilitation facilities, as well as other community professionals to work towards the common goal of supporting BrainSTEPS students. He is extremely well respected across the state for his knowledge in managing student cases with all types and severities of acquired brain injuries.

There are so many students and parents in Delaware County who would feel alone and lost in a system that does not quite understand the effects of brain injury following the reintegration phase back to school, if it weren’t for Dr. Wolf to support their journey.
Once again, the majority of you guessed the baby photo correctly. This month’s Staff Profile is Kevin Kane!

Dr. Kevin Kane is Assistant to the Executive Director for Student Services. He began his career as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialist at the Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit, working with students of all abilities. His administrative experience in the field of special education and pupil services spans 16 years. He has experience working in rural and suburban school districts.

Dr. Kane received his Doctor of Education in School Systems Leadership from Widener University, his Master of Education in Instruction and Learning from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his educational degrees, Dr. Kane obtained his Superintendent’s Letter of Eligibility Pennsylvania Certification and his Supervisor of Special Education Pennsylvania Certification. Dr. Kane was a 2017 Research Fellow with the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators and a 2017A member of the Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program.

Time to guess again! Can you guess the administrator in this photo? She will be featured in our next Staff Profile!

Click HERE to take your guess.
Setting goals is all about being S.M.A.R.T.

**Specific**
What end result do you want to achieve? Weight loss? Increased sleep? Improved financial security? More time with family?

**Action-Oriented**
In specifics, what will you do (step-by-step) to reach your goal? What strategies do you have for overcoming obstacles and barriers? Example: “I will plan to spend every Tuesday evening with my family” with a list of simple, potential activities: at-home game night, eating out, enjoying time in a park, etc.

**Timed**
It’s always easier to start next Monday. Know when you want to begin working toward your goal and when you want to get there, and use those dates as motivation to keep going.

**Measurable**
How will you know when you achieved your goal? How many pounds do you want to lose? How many hours of sleep do you want each night?

**Realistic**
Don’t discourage yourself by trying to do too much too fast. Consistent, achievable progress will bring you more success than frequent stops and starts!