DELAWARE COUNTY SPELLING BEE
44 students compete for a chance to go to nationals.

DELAWARE COUNTY COMPUTER FAIR
Students design websites, logos, make movies, and more!

DELCO HI-Q CHAMPIONSHIPS
Students compete in the nation's oldest continuous academic competition.
From the Executive Director

Spring has sprung! Finally!! (And with the exception of snow on Saturday, hopefully the slightly warmer weather sticks, this time!) As we move out of a nor'easter-filled March, I'm sure we're all glad to embrace spring and, soon, summer, as well.

As a reminder, however, please recall the March 26 email regarding the new end of school schedule for staff and students within DCIU Special Programs, DCTS, TCA, and Early Intervention. There is a recap of this new schedule in the Upcoming Events section on page three of this newsletter.

Through all of the winter weather, resulting in school delays and cancellations, as well as the postponement of special activities and student competitions, thank you all for your flexibility, patience, and dedication to providing top-quality programs and services for students. Even despite the snow and school closures, there were a number of exciting events at DCIU in March, which you will see more about later in this newsletter.

Maria Edelberg, Ed.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DCIU
DCIU Update

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School Day Makeup
Due to the winter weather there are updated last days for DCIU programs. Special Programs and DCTS last days: students and paraprofessionals - June 15, professional staff - June 18. TCA last days: students and paraprofessionals - June 18, professional staff - June 19. EI will convert May 9 to a student day and May 10 to a staff day.

Employee Recognition
Nominations for the DCIU 2018 Awards of Excellence must be submitted by April 9. The form was sent via email on March 22. This is a wonderful opportunity to nominate your friends and colleagues for the excellent work they have done in serving DCIU’s children, families, and communities.

English Learner Resource Fair
DCIU will be hosting an English Learner Resource Fair at Morton on Saturday, April 14 from 10AM-1PM. There will be kids activities and the event will feature author and professor Javier Ávila at 11AM. There will be interpreters available. Please spread the word.

Autism Awareness Resource Fair
There will be an Autism Awareness Month Resource Fair at DCIU’s Marple Education Center on April 26 from 6PM to 8PM. The event is free and open to the public. Come and learn valuable information from agencies who specialize in the care of individuals on the Autism Spectrum.
March Update

To keep up with the changing needs of the educational environment and to continue providing cutting-edge programs to all students to prepare them for the future, DCIU has embarked upon the first phase of a major construction project at the Delaware County Technical Schools (DCTS) Aston campus.

Once complete, the renovations and additions to the Aston facility will provide a combined, state-of-the-art facility that will house DCIU’s Special Programs, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Early Childhood Programs (ECE). This exciting project broke ground last summer and is expected to be completed in 2019. The Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Special Programs (SP) wings, however, are projected to be ready for the 2018-19 school year. The renovations to the Career and Technical Education wing are projected to be complete for the 2019-20 school year.

DCIU anticipates relocating students from the Pennington School (School Age and Early Childhood programs) to this new facility in August 2018. In addition, all returning families from Yeadon Head Start will be reallocated to other Head Start locations or within other DCIU sites nearby or within the vicinity of Yeadon for the start of the next school year. We also anticipate relocating several Head Start classrooms to the Aston building. And finally, the Culinary Arts and Building Trades programs currently at the DCTS Aston campus will be relocating to the DCTS Folcroft campus during the second phase of construction.

In the near future, we will be providing more details and timelines for the anticipated closing of the buildings that DCIU will be vacating, as well as move-in dates for Early Childhood Education and Special Programs. In the coming months, we will also keep you updated here, in the DCIU Update, and on the DCIU website at https://www.dciu.org/Page/3098.

This project has taken a great deal of hard work, collaboration and coordination, and we thank everyone who has played a role in helping it to progress to this point. We are excited about it and look forward to opening the doors of this brand new, beautiful school, and welcoming our students, staff and families into a state-of-the-art facility of which we can all be proud and thoroughly enjoy.
TECH TIPS.
When and Why You Should Restart Your Computer

You should restart your computer periodically in order for it to perform at its best. Restarting your computer frees up memory space and clears temporary files that have been stored on it, allowing the machine to run faster.

Restarting your computer can also resolve the following issues:

1. Frozen applications or frozen operating system;
2. Disconnected network drives; and
3. Hardware issues such as loud fan noise or an unusually hot system.

Restarting your computer can also solve many other issues. If you’re experiencing trouble and don’t know where to start, restarting your computer is a good step.

Finally, restarting your computer is also required in order to install updates, and may be necessary to finish installing other software or software updates if needed.
DELAWARE COUNTY SPELLING BEE

By putting the correct sequence of letters together for yuan (the basic monetary unit of China) and storis (a floating mass of closely-crowded icebergs and floes), Northley Middle Schooler Phoebe Smith won the Delaware County Spelling Bee for the second year in a row.

44 students competed for an expenses-paid advancement to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. sponsored by DCIU.

The students ranged from elementary school through middle school, some as young as eight, from 26 different schools. They were encouraged by an audience of parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and community members.

The bee couldn't have been a success without the DCIU staff who dedicated their Saturday. Thank you!

A team of DCIU staff gave up a Saturday morning to make sure the competition ran smoothly for the kids.

Nikki Borradaille, Supervisor of Professional Development, coordinated the spelling bee this year, remaining in contact with the schools and parents leading up to the bee and through the change of date due to snow. Nikki, along with Adriene Irving and Rebecca Smith from Legislative and Community Services, planned the bee, starting as far back as September 2017.

Adriene also served as a judge, along with DCIU Executive Director, Dr. Maria Edelberg and Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, Sergio Anaya. James Pitcavage was the fantastic MC for the event.

A HUGE thank you also deservedly goes to Patricia Seifert, Karen Neifer, Trish Wolf, and Laurie Newsome for volunteering their Saturday to help get the kids checked in, give out t-shirts and goodie bags, and work the snack table.
The Delaware County Middle and High School Computer Fairs took place at DCIU on Friday, March 23. The Computer Fair is an annual event that highlights Delaware County students’ application skills and computer knowledge. Students are able to unleash their creativity, learn how to convey information dynamically, and enhance the learning process. Winners of the Computer Fair get to advance to the state-level competition. Categories included Animation, Computer Fair Logo Design, Digital Movie, Graphic Design, Programming, and Web Page Design.

While the judges were carefully considering each student’s project, DCIU’s Beth Zigmont led the students in an exciting day of STEM activities. The students also had an opportunity to get hands-on experience with many of the gadgets in the DCIU STEM Lending Library.

There were many incredible projects at this year’s computer fair and we wish all of the winners the best of luck in the state competition!
On March 15, Garnet Valley High School, Delco Christian School, and Haverford High School faced off for the Delco Hi-Q championship title and a chance to compete in the national Hi-Q Championship.

After an intense competition, the final score was Haverford 56, Garnet Valley 54, and Delco Christian 29. That makes it the second year in a row that Haverford HS snagged the trophy.

Coming into the final, Garnet Valley was poised in first among the 21 teams in the season-long quiz competition. Each school competes 3 times during the season, once at home. The top seven teams, by cumulative points, advance to the semifinals with the top team assured a place in the championship.

Delco Hi-Q, in its 70th year, is the nation’s oldest, continuous academic competition. DCIU, along with Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, sponsor the competitions.

With the win, Haverford earned $3,000 for their school. Second place Garnet Valley will receive $2,500, and Delco Christian earned $2,000. Haverford will represent Delco Hi-Q in the Hi-Q National Championship on April 13 in an online contest against regional Hi-Q teams from Alabama, Washington, and Wisconsin. Best of luck to them!
DELAWARE COUNTY

STEM Design Challenge

The Delaware County STEM Design Challenge took place at DCIU Morton on Tuesday, March 20.

Teams of 4 students could use up to 1400 K’Nex pieces to design and build a project for the challenge. This year, Thermo Fisher Scientific asked teams to develop a new product for homes. The product could be anything to use in the home, but it had to be environmentally friendly. It could include (but was not limited to) a new way to power homes, a new type of appliance, or a new gadget for home entertainment. Kids were encouraged to get creative and they delivered!

Each team had two hours to put together their projects at the competition. They then had two minutes to present on their model and how they answered the challenge. Judges considered teamwork, creativity, challenge success, design, and presentation.
HR HEALTH & WELLNESS

DON'T LET ALLERGIES GET YOU DOWN

It's springtime, and the outdoors are calling! Gardening, hiking, walks, spending time with family and friends... But it's hard to watch a sunset through watery eyes, and it's hard to talk to loved ones when you're sneezing your heart out - and unfortunately, it's also allergy season.

Allergies: True or False?

Allergies can be prevented. False, but you can work to prevent or manage the allergic reactions themselves. How?

1. Avoid the situation. Check the pollen count before going outside. Pollen counts are a measure of how much pollen is in the air over a period of time. A higher pollen count makes people with pollen allergies more likely to have a reaction.

2. Take medication to reduce or eliminate symptoms. This can range from a pill to allergy injection therapy. Make sure you consult your doctor before taking any medication!

Allergies can change over time. True! Food allergies, for instance, are most prevalent in children and are frequently outgrown. On the other hand, adults can develop allergies later in life, or simply be exposed to something (a new medication, perhaps) that triggers an existing, unknown allergy.

Allergies can result in death. True, but allergies do range in severity. Some are more bothersome (sneezing, coughing, runny nose and eyes) and others are more severe. Anaphylaxis, the most common severe allergic reaction, can cause seizures, cardiac arrhythmia, shock, and extreme difficulty breathing. Thankfully, seasonal allergies are typically just the bothersome kind!