



BEAR TRACKS



A NEWSLETTER OF THE SCRANTON SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN



Breakfast With Santa

Without a doubt, the arrival of the “Jolly Old Elf” ranks high on the list of holiday traditions for many children. The preschool, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade classes at The Scranton School were so excited as they anticipated St. Nick’s arrival for breakfast. The children from the Choices for Children program and their families also joined the group for a memorable morning. After a delicious breakfast, all the children began gathering near the big, empty, white chair near the Christmas tree, as they looked for the guest of honor.

Santa did not disappoint! He arrived from the rooftop right on cue! The eyes of each child glowed with excitement as they caught a peek of the red-suited holiday hero. The gleam grew even brighter when Santa greeted each one and then took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to read Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. After the story, the children shared their Christmas wish lists with him. Santa and his helpers listened carefully to be sure all the gifts would be delivered to the right places on Christmas morning.



*“Then, with a wave of his hand,
and a nod of his head, it was time
for Santa to leave in his sled.
He gave a quick wink and the
children all cheered
- for breakfast with Santa is
a big hit each year!”*





Our Vision

It is the vision of our school to be a **Total Learning Environment**

for our students.

The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is a special place where...

- Our students achieve at the same levels as other children in our society
- Our students reach their highest potential in academics and citizenship.
- Our students achieve independence, high personal aspirations, and pride.

The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
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 Clarks Summit, Pa 18411
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Choices for Children Pumpkin Farm Trip

Fall has officially begun when the families from the Choices for Children program converge on Roba's Family Farm for a fun filled day. We were especially excited that our families from the Harrisburg area and Snyder County were able to join our families from the northeast. We went through the petting zoo where we could actually hear the animals make the sounds that we talk so much about! We were also able to pet and feed them a morning snack!

No trip to Roba's would be complete without stopping by the pig races and cheering on our favorite pigs. Some of the children were lucky enough to be selected "Pig Leaders." This was definitely a once in a lifetime experience! After lunch in the barn, we played in the hay maze and went on a tractor ride. During the ride we stopped in the pumpkin patch and picked pumpkins to take home. It was an exciting day where we expanded our knowledge, while sharing time with family and friends.

Roba's Family Pumpkin Farm

Every fall season The Scranton School elementary students take a trip to Roba's Family Farms for a day of fun, laughter, and learning. Although this year, there was cause for concern. The skies were dark, clouds were thickening, but hopes were high that we could beat the rain! AND WE DID IT!

The students began the day by seeing the animals, feeding the goats, and watching pig races. Then they went on a hayride and toured the pumpkin patch. During the hayride, the student stopped and began to search for the perfect pumpkin! For some students, the perfect pumpkin "just" fit in the bag while others were the tiniest in the field; some were green and others were the brightest orange in the patch.

The students finished their day by riding on some trains, learning about life on a farm, and of course having some of Roba's famous apple cider donuts.

Feed a Friend

The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children took part in the annual Feed-A-Friend campaign, sponsored by WNEP-TV and Pepsi during the Thanksgiving holiday season. Students and staff alike brought in donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food to stock local food pantries in an area where the unemployment rate is among the highest in the state and the need is great.

When the collection came to a close, four barrels were overflowing with food. Before the barrels were picked up by United Neighborhood Centers, students in Mr. Byron Almekinder's middle school math class did a real world math exercise involving grouping and multiplication with the collected items.



Halloween Party



The Halloween party and parade is an annual tradition anticipated by all. A hayride was added to this year's plans, but was not possible due to Hurricane Sandy. Although the hayride had to be cancelled, the students were still able to enjoy the Halloween parade. Buzz Lightyear, Captain America, princesses, and vampires paraded through the halls collecting enough candy and treats from the staff and middle school students to fill their buckets!

The younger students ended their parade in the gym where a party was held by an amazing group of parents. Students had a great time and enjoyed Halloween games, face painting, and art projects. A special thanks to Jennifer Wheeler, Angela Romiski, Denise Locker, Nicole Miller and Jill Cofton for planning and preparing this great event; as well as the middle school students for their assistance.

The middle school students planned their own activities and games, as well as prepared their own Halloween foods. It definitely showed how much fun party planning could be even though it was disguised as math and language lessons.



Holiday Show!

The holiday show was a great way to start the holiday season! Each class was asked to plan an act or skit to present to families and friends. Learning lines, making props and designing costumes did not stop the busy actors and actresses from being ready for December 7th.

New Principal Brian Kelly and Interim Principal Linda Critchlow welcomed everyone, including those at home watching by live-stream. Live-stream gave parents, grandparents, and friends in 17 homes an opportunity to watch the performance at school exactly as if they were at the event.

The show began with Sign Connection performing “Jingle Bells” and then asking the parents’ sign language class to come join the students for some audience participation. Wow, they did a great job!

Nellie Noschese and Kathy Pliska’s class performed a rendition of “Eight Little Reindeer”. Poor Santa had to decide what to do when his little reindeers fell down one at a time and no one was left, until the famous Rudolph showed up to guide the sleigh! It was adorable!

The next group to show their talent was Amie DiNardo’s class. Each of her students dressed in fancy stockings waiting for Santa to arrive. Santa filled each of their stockings with a special toy. Their performance was called the “Five Little Stockings”.

Next was Linda Treat’s class. Her students prepared for Santa’s arrival after Mom had to remind them that he only would arrive when they were sound asleep. “A Shy Santa” would not arrive for sure until all were sleeping.

Kelly Somers and Cindy Wilson’s classes joined forces to give us their version of “The Night Before Christmas”. They brought the famous story to life with Santa arriving through the chimney and bringing toys for each boy and girl in the family. Everyone loves that story and the two classes did a great job of performing it.

The Middle School students decided they wanted to share their wishes with Santa. Santa was tired of bringing the usual toys to all the good boys and girls and hoped to bring something different. Each Middle School student told Santa what they would like him to bring for the world to share.

Elrica’s Swank’s High School class performed the story about the “The Day after Christmas.” It was a meaningful story and the students did an amazing job preparing and presenting their play.

Sign Connection ended the show with a rendition of “The Reindeer Boogie” song and dance. What a great way to end the magical performances at The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children.

Monthly Reading Party

A new tradition has begun at The Scranton School. On the last Friday of every month, the library comes alive with storybook characters at our Reading Party. Working in pairs, the Middle School students read stories to the Elementary students. A variety of communication modes are used to address the needs of all the young students. Some story tellers read the story using their voice, while others use American Sign Language to read and perform the story. The Middle School students work hard to make the stories come to life!

Reading parties are a great opportunity for our Middle School students to practice using American Sign Language and English as well as providing an avenue to demonstrate leadership skills. So far, the Middle School students have read stories about Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the holidays. After all of the stories are read, everyone gathers for refreshments in our beautiful library.



READING RODEO

What could be better than spending time with family and friends while learning some new reading strategies and having FUN? The families at The Scranton School said that they couldn’t think of anywhere they would rather be and that’s why they shared their weekend with us. Karen Roudybush visited and brought with her many exciting books, activities and information to develop reading and literacy skills with our students and their families. Families were actively involved in activities with their children and the kids especially loved the books and DVD that Karen shared. Parents evaluated the experience as “AWESOME,” “...perfect for my family...” “... just what we needed...” It’s unanimous - everyone who attended the Reading Rodeo couldn’t think of being anywhere else!

Family Thanksgiving Dinner

It was a busy week leading up to the annual family Thanksgiving dinner. Students worked extra hard on their chores to make sure the dorm was in tip-top shape for their visitors. As always, they also prepared one of the traditional menu items - green bean casserole with yummy fried onions on top! The smiles on everyone's faces and the good memories that were made with parents, brothers, sisters, teachers, and administrators made all of their efforts worthwhile! Everyone enjoyed the meal and shared some things that they were thankful for. After dinner, the students had the opportunity to show off their amazing residence and everyone enjoyed some time to socialize.

The highlight of the evening was the homemade pumpkin pies made from scratch by the students under the supervision and direction of our dorm supervisors Jeff Yockey and Jeanine Dabney. OUTSTANDING!



NTID Performance

On November 20, 2012 our students had the wonderful opportunity to watch science come to life through dance. The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) dance company performed Astro Dance at The Scranton School. Astro Dance is a choreographed dance performance linking arts and astrophysics. Through dance and multimedia, students were able to experience how a black hole merger, a gravitational wave, and a galaxy move.

It was a wonderful visual representation of science. Our students loved it! They were able to talk with the performers after the show and ask them many questions. The performers also shared the importance of hard work, practice, and attention to details. It was a great lesson for our students to learn, as well as become aware of the potential inside of each of them. It was a great learning experience!



New Administrative Team

December 3rd, 2012 marked a significant day in the young history of The Scranton School. Brian Kelly officially began his duties as Principal. Brian has a B.S. in Elementary Education from Marywood University. He has earned an M.S. in School Counseling as well as a Principal's certificate from Wilkes University. Most recently, Brian served as a school counselor in the Abington Heights School District. He is excited to begin leading The Scranton School towards excellence in deaf education. Brian said, "I have been given an incredible opportunity to be a part of the Scranton School family. I look forward to supporting our students and staff as we strive for each child to reach their maximum potential." The Scranton School welcomes Brian with great expectations for the future.

Assisting Brian will be Mary Ann Stefko, Jon Konzelman, Doug Boersma, and Bill O'Neill. Mary Ann is a dedicated staff member of The Scranton School and will be transitioning from her role in the Choices for Children Program to the role of Assistant Principal. Mary Ann has earned a M.Ed. from Penn State University and is currently completing additional educational administration studies at Marywood University. She has been involved in deaf education with WPSD and the Scranton School for 25 years. She will provide a wealth of experience and knowledge to the leadership team. Her role will focus on the academic programs and student achievement.

Jon Konzelman has transitioned from physical education teacher to the role of Assistant to the Principal. Jon has a B.S. in Physical Education from Baptist Bible College. He earned an M.S. in Exercise Science from California University of Pennsylvania and is currently completing additional educational administration studies at the University of Scranton. He has been involved in deaf education for six years. Jon's primary responsibilities include development and marketing of The Scranton School as well as assisting in student behavior and discipline. Jon will bring a young, fresh perspective and energy to the team.

Doug Boersma will continue in his current role as Dean of Students. Doug has faithfully served in deaf education in northeastern Pennsylvania for 18 years. He performs a variety of tasks including supervision of after school activities, dorm supervision, work training programs, and transportation. His experience as an administrator and willingness to support our students and parents in any capacity will be a great asset to the team.

Bill O'Neill will continue in his role as Business Manager at The Scranton School. He has been involved in deaf education for 29 years in northeastern Pennsylvania and in education for 39 years. Bill supervises the operations of the Scranton School and has provided consistent support during the establishment of The Scranton School. Bill is a seasoned school administrator and will provide mature leadership, insight, and guidance to the team.

Chief Executive Officer Don Rhoten is excited to assemble a leadership team at The Scranton School with people that are native to northeastern Pennsylvania. "I'm convinced that the future of The Scranton School is both exciting and secure under the leadership of the new administrative team. These folks are bright, enthusiastic and committed to our students and the future of the school. As life long residents of northeastern Pennsylvania, their loyalty to, and involvement in the community is a given. The future is indeed exciting and I look forward to working with them for many years to come!"

While The Scranton School is excited for the new leadership team, they will greatly miss two dedicated staff members that have stepped in during a time of need. Linda Critchlow has been serving as the Interim Principal at The Scranton School. Linda has provided the school with great stability, energy, and leadership during this time of transition. Cathy Rhoten has been serving as Interim Director of the school. No one loves The Scranton School more than Cathy. She has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of education, facilities, and student life. Both of these women will be missed dearly, but their impact will last for many years.



Parent Staff Organization

The Scranton School Parent Staff Organization kicked off the new school year by inviting parents, staff and their families to get to know each other a little better.

In September, families gathered for a Sunday afternoon of bowling fun at Idle Hour Lanes. Denise Locker, PSO president and mother of students Matthew and Ryan Locker, said she hopes to bring families together throughout the year with similar events, such as snow tubing or swimming.



The organization also focuses on helping parents of deaf or hard of hearing children become more aware of the latest resources available. October's PSO meeting featured guest speaker Nicole Golden, North Central Regional Coordinator for Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania and a parent guide for Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Golden, the mother of quadruplets, shared the value of peer support when caring for a child with a disability. She said both programs have helped her tremendously, not only in her role as a mother of quadruplets, but in raising a child with a hearing loss.

Parents were also busy in October at the PSO-sponsored Halloween party for the elementary students, complete with games and treats! It was a fun-filled day for the students as they paraded through the hallways in their Halloween costumes and gathered treats from the staff. Parents assisted with setting up, helping the children into their costumes, serving treats, and cleaning up.

Parents are always welcome to attend PSO meetings. Membership is \$10 per year. In addition to Mrs. Locker, this year's officers are Angela Romiski, vice president, mother of students Roger and Abby Romiski, and Maureen Manzano, secretary.

Signing Santa at the Abington Community Library

Since moving to South Abington Township, The Scranton School has been committed to developing local relationships and partnering with community organizations. Through collaboration with our friends at the Abington Community Library, the Northeast PA Center for Independent Living, Starbucks Coffee in Clarks Summit, and Williams' Pies of Ransom, PA, The Scranton School was able to convince Santa to make a special pre-Christmas trip through Clarks Summit.

Students, their siblings, and friends from the community enjoyed an evening of reading with Santa while enjoying a cup of delicious hot cocoa. The children were each given the opportunity to share their wish list with Santa using American Sign Language. Captain America clothes, trucks, dolls, and a host of other toys were all added to Santa's list! The evening ended with the children posing for pictures for with parents, family, and Santa. The wonderful folks who all worked together to make this happen have already put together a few plans to make the event even better next year!



Work Training Center Opens

The Scranton School is pleased to announce the opening of our brand new Work Training Center. The Work Training Center is a dedicated classroom space that will be used to offer pre-vocational training and real-world work experience to applied studies students as they learn important occupational skills and prepare for employment after they leave our school. This new facility offers the students a multitude of expanded opportunities to acquire essential skills and practice specific work-related tasks before going to on-campus or local off-campus work Instructional Work Experience sites where those skills will be applied.

The Work Training Center is dedicated to empowering applied studies students for successful transition into the work world at their individual best capacity. In addition to job readiness skills, students receive training in fundamental workplace social skills and self advocacy techniques. The configuration of the Work Training Center is designed to allow us to replicate a variety of potential employment environments ranging from clerical tasks and activities to light assembly and industrial work.

Local businesses have helped us to furnish the Work Training Center by donating some of the instructional materials that will be used. Some of these companies have also partnered with us as Instructional Work Experience associates. One of those companies is the Fastenal Distribution Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Fastenal will be providing us with materials each month that we will be assembling, inspecting, packaging, and re-inspecting for distribution to their clients and customers. Shannon Garrison, General Manager at Fastenal, made her first visit to our campus to deliver the raw materials for our students to work with. After touring the Cathy and Don Rhoten Learning Center and spending some time with our students in the Work Training Center, Shannon that she was impressed by our beautiful campus, the inclusion of technology in so many ways, and especially the friendliness of our students and the dedication of our staff.

National Running Center (NRC) of Clarks Summit, PA is another terrific community partner in our endeavor to provide excellent real-world educational opportunities for our students. Owner, Tim Ritchie and Director of Operations, Jason Corby (both long-time residents of the Clarks Summit area) were enthusiastic supporters of the Instructional Work Experience concept when we approached them. NRC's Warehouse is the hub of their store-front business, mail-order and internet sales business, and their national mobile sales force. We are thrilled to have such a wonderful local Instructional Work Experience partner where students will be learning about product handling, inventory management, order selection and processing, and customer service. If you are a runner, please check out their website at www.nationalrunningcenter.com



Native American Expert Visits The Scranton School

To kick off the Thanksgiving holiday, the entire student body was treated to a special presentation on Wednesday November 21st. Mr. Ron Archibald, a local Native American expert, visited our school and spoke to the students about the history and traditions of Native Americans. A descendent of the Lacota tribe from North Dakota, he explained what life was like on an Indian reservation without cars, grocery stores and malls. He told the students what the Indians did to survive. The highlight of the presentation was looking at the original handmade artifacts he brought with him. The artifacts included buffalo horns, bow and arrows, tools, weapons, Native American headdresses, authentic attire, quiltwork, beadwork, and animal skins. The students and staff really enjoyed touching and dressing-up in many authentic Indian items.

This was the first time students had hands-on exposure to Indian culture in school, but hopefully it won't be the last. Mr. Archibald has promised a return visit, next time bringing dream catchers!



Baptist Bible College Executive Administration Team Visits The Scranton School

The Scranton School had the opportunity to host the Baptist Bible College Executive Administration team on January 25th. Dr. Jim Jeffery, President of Baptist Bible College along with Dr. Jim Lytle, Provost, Mr. Hal Cross, Vice President for Business and Finance, and Mr. Don Patten, Vice President for Institutional Advancement attended the tour. Our guests were thrilled to see The Cathy and Don Rhoten Learning Center and the amazing things happening inside! They were able to see the technology in classrooms, action in Physical Education class, and observe teaching in the classrooms. President Jeffery was especially impressed with our commitment to students and the community, facilities, and raising funds.

Baptist Bible College was one of the first organizations to welcome us to the area when moved onto our current campus. We enjoy a great relationship with them and being neighbors! Students are often seen on Baptist Bible's campus fishing in the pond, walking on campus, or enjoying a softball game. We look forward to continuing this positive relationship for many years to come!

Sporting Clays tournament to benefit The Scranton School

Last October, over 100 people gathered together at the Rock Mountain Sporting Clays in Meshoppen, PA for the Second Annual Sporting Clays tournament to benefit The Scranton School. It was a beautiful fall day. The course featured 25 different shooting stations, giving people a variety of challenging targets. After the clays had finished flying, everyone settled down to an incredible lunch of barbeque, white chili, potato salad, and coleslaw. Everyone talked about the long shots that were hit and the shots that were missed. As dessert was served, a number of prizes were awarded, including the best single score and best group score. Our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Don Rhoten, had an opportunity to address the crowd and explain the history behind the Scranton School for Deaf and Heard of Hearing Children and its mission and vision in the NEPA region.

Undoubtedly, the day would not have been a success without the generous support of Cabot Oil and Gas Company and the Sordoni Construction Company. These two companies joined together as major sponsors of the event. They contacted their clients, introduced them to the school and encouraged them to attend. Because of their commitment to the region and their solid reputation, Cabot's and Sordoni's sponsorship opened new doors and ensured an event that exceeded every expectation. Our heart felt appreciation is extended to both for their generosity and support.



Condolences

The Scranton School would like to express its condolences and gratitude to the family of Mr. John Haney, Jr. Mr. Haney recently passed away and requested that donations be made to The Scranton School in lieu of flowers. Mr. Haney attended the former SSSD and WPSD as a student before residing in Stroudsburg for the remainder of his life.

Dedication of Phase II Renovations and the Sordoni Family Playground

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 marked another chapter in the story of the Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. Donors, legislators, foundation representatives, parents, students, and staff gathered to celebrate the dedication of the Phase II renovations and the Sordoni Family Playground. Over 250 people gathered in the gymnasium to celebrate this great day in the school's history.

Our current property was purchased for \$2.4 million in July, 2010. Renovations immediately began on the former convent. In four weeks, the convent was renovated into the current Barbara Graham Residence where residential students lived while attending school on the Scranton campus.

Once Phase I of renovations were approved and \$2.6 million was secured, construction began for the new school in February, 2011. It was completed in August, 2011 for the start of the new school year. The paint was fresh, the furniture in place, and the technology was ready to use.

Students enjoyed their new school, technology, and classrooms. However, it became quickly apparent that they were outgrowing the Phase I renovations! Classrooms were at a premium and the students needed an art room and playroom. It was time to expand, so plans for Phase II were initiated.

As enrollment grew, the school also began to explore relationships with the northeastern Pennsylvania community. Our Development Office began the process of identifying partners that shared the same belief that we have in students and ourselves. Through the generous donations of many people, the dreams we had for our students were becoming a reality.

Planning for Phase II started in Winter, 2011 and construction began in April, 2012. Very generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation made huge improvements possible to the second floor wing, now called "The Weinberg Wing." The Weinberg Wing consists of a high school classroom, a beautiful art room, a state-of-the-art Synergistic Science Lab, and a striking playroom.

The Synergistic Science Lab was made possible through the generosity of the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund. Thanks to this grant, our students are able to experience science through textbooks, technology, and hands on learning activities. Students are using the equipment on a daily basis and enjoying the benefits of an amazing laboratory to learn and work in.

The playroom fills a great need for our students. The playroom was designed as an indoor arena for hockey, bowling, and scooters with play areas for trucks, dolls, and cooking. It is a fun place to learn that lets students use their imagination and creative skills. Students are able to exercise their bodies and minds despite the weather outside.



The Scranton School is a strong proponent of educating the entire student. It became apparent that the students needed a place to play outdoors. Through the kindness of the Sordoni Family Foundation and the Scranton Area Foundation, a totally handicap accessible playground and wellness area were constructed. Both are being enjoyed by all of the students and the staff. During this process, it was necessary to move a large tree. While doing so, it was decided to turn it into a totem pole with the letters S-S-D-H-H-C on it. This pole is a source of great pride for everyone and is one of the first things students and staff see as they enter the building in the morning! A special thank you to Matthew's Mission for making this possible!

As we gathered to celebrate this great day of celebration, we were reminded by CEO Don Rhoten that The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is a community asset for northeastern Pennsylvania. We are an active resource to the community that takes the education of its students seriously and does things with excellence. We will work to provide and meet the needs of the students! Following Mr. Rhoten's remarks, Mr. John Tomassini, Pennsylvania Department of Education Director of Special Education spoke about the relationships that were formed to help save deaf education in northeastern Pennsylvania in 2009. It was truly a celebration of the past, present, and future!

Following the dedication, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place to officially open and dedicate the new facilities. Everyone gathered on the playground to see Don and Cathy Rhoten cut the ribbon to officially dedicate The Sordoni Family Playground and the Weinberg Wing! Following the ribbon cutting, tours were provided to show the new facilities and see our amazing students in action.

The new facilities have been quite a hit with the students and staff. The Scranton School is reminded daily of the words of encouragement from Mr. Rhoten, "We are never satisfied." The Scranton School will always strive to produce the best possible education and facilities to maximize the learning potential of deaf and hard of hearing students.



Special Olympics Soccer

This fall we continued our soccer endeavors with our friends from Special Olympics Area P. They offered weekly soccer skills training on campus for students in our High School Applied Studies class. Our very own Russell Heath earned a spot on the Area P competitive soccer team during these weekly training sessions. Russell and his teammates from Special Olympics Area P traveled to Philadelphia to play in the state Special Olympics soccer tournament hosted by Villanova University. Russell made many new friends and scored several goals throughout the tournament. Other students competed in skills competitions and races each week as they developed their soccer skills.

The best part of this program has been the friendships that have developed between the Special Olympics athletes and coaches. The camaraderie, good-natured laughter, and constant encouragement help each student to do their best and enjoy their experience to the fullest.

Mighty Mites Soccer

The Mighty Mites Junior and Senior teams both had a terrific soccer season this year. Mother Nature and the weather cooperated so well this year that we played every one of our scheduled games! It was great to use our beautiful soccer field each week for practices and games. The northeastern Pennsylvania fall foliage produced an amazing setting for our games. Our visitors always commented on what a beautiful location and facility we have. Every week students were able to improve their skills during practices and then demonstrate them in the games, as well as make some new friends!

A special thanks goes to our Maintenance Department who worked hard to keep the field in good condition and the grounds looking so beautiful. Also, a huge thanks to our partners from the Abington Youth Soccer League. League officials who ensured that all of our games could be played safely and the participants would have an enjoyable time competing and exercising!



Mighty Mites Hoops

The Bears roared back into action in 2013 with the Mighty Mites basketball home opener against the visiting SDA Browns of the Abington Basketball League. The students' hard work at their pre-season practices was evident as each player demonstrated the new skills that they had developed since last season.

First-year Head Coach, Dean Pettinato was pleased with the overall effort, teamwork, and great sportsmanship displayed by the team and is looking forward to a terrific season. Fun and friendship through competition continues to be the focus of this program – and the smiles on all the players' faces throughout the opening game and in the group photo afterward showed that we are definitely doing it right. Win or lose, the Bears are always in the game to have a great time! Good luck Bears on the rest of your season. WE ARE PROUD OF ALL OF YOU!



2013

Scranton School Calendar

March

- 1** Dr. Seuss Birthday
- 7** Spring Session 1 ASL classes begin at Green Ridge Assembly of God Church
- 9** Spring Session 1 ASL classes begin at The Scranton School Campus
- 10** Family Literacy Workshop
- 12th-23rd** PSSA Math and Reading Exams
- 22** Third Quarter Ends
- 25** Fourth Quarter Begins
- 29 - April 5th** Spring Break

April

- 16** 7th and 8th Grade to Harrisburg for Capitol Trip
- 16-20** PSSA Writing Exams
- 19-20** Family Learning Weekend
- 22** Earth Day
- 23-27** PSSA Science Exams
- April 28th-May 3rd** Space Camp

May

- 2** Mid-Term of 4th Quarter
- 8** 7th and 8th Grade Trip to Gettysburg
- 13** Snow Make-Up Day
- 19** Annual Car Show

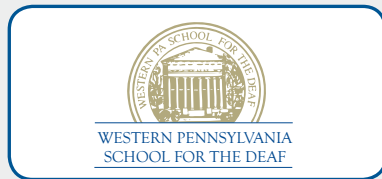
June

- 3** Field Day
- 4** Graduation
- 7** Last Day of School (4th Quarter Ends)





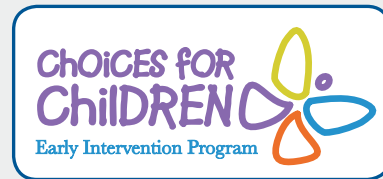
SUMMER CAMP INFO



Pittsburgh, PA
www.wpsd.org
412.371.7000



Clarks Summit, PA
www.thescrantonsschool.org
570.585.1000



Camp Hill, PA
717.909.5577

Please Contact WPSD to learn more about the summer programs

Literacy Overnight Camp

For deaf or hard of hearing students (preschool - 1st grade, day camp, 2nd - 4th grade, overnight camp)

June 24-28

Sports and Recreation Overnight Camp

For deaf and hard of hearing students (grades 5-8)

July 15-19

American Sign Language Day Camp

For hearing, deaf and hard of hearing students (up to 8th grade)

July 22 - 25

American Sign Language Day Camp

For hearing, deaf and hard of hearing students

(up to 8th grade)

July 15-18



What Does the IEP Mean to You Workshop

WPSD and The Scranton School are very lucky to have such a great friend in the Director of Advocacy for the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC), Cheri Dowling. Cheri has presented to parents and professionals in the state of Pennsylvania with Central PA being one of her more frequent stops. Cheri brings a wealth of knowledge professionally as well as personally. Cheri has two sons and one of them is deaf. Cheri relates to parents and professionals on many different levels and everyone leaves her presentations grateful for the information she shares. Most recently, in December, Cheri presented in our Camp Hill office with the topic being "What does the IEP mean to you?". Attendees left the workshop with an understanding of the IEP process, the roles of the various team members, including the parent and strategies to be prepared for upcoming IEP meetings.

Camp Hill ASL Classes

The WPSD/Scranton School Outreach Center in Camp Hill started the new year with a bang. On January 10, the Outreach Center held the first class with a record number of students in its Level 1 American Sign Language class. The class consists of parents, professionals and members of the community. Our teacher, Jeni Gordon, works for the Office Of Vocational Rehabilitation as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RCDHH) in Harrisburg. Jeni, originally from Ohio, is deaf and has been using ASL for more than 25 years.

Mark your calendars! Outreach Activities that are fun for the whole family!

March 9 (In Camp Hill) & March 10 (In Clarks Summit): Family Reading Workshop for kids and adults alike. The workshop is filled with activities and fun for the whole family with reading being the main focus.

March 10 (In Harrisburg) SERTOMA FANTASY BASKETBALL CAMP
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Basketball Clinic with the Harrisburg Horizon basketball team. Free for deaf and hard-of-hearing children between the ages of 5 and 18.

Time: 12:15 p.m. Registration
12:30 p.m. Basketball Clinic
1:30 p.m. Pizza Party
2:00 p.m. Game
Harrisburg Horizon vs. Washington Madness
Location: Rowland Middle School -
Manny Weaver Gym (1843 Derry St., Harrisburg)

April 19 & 20 The Scranton School Family Learning Weekend (held on The Scranton School campus in Clarks Summit)

April 26 & 27 The WPSD Family Learning Weekend (held on the WPSD campus in Pittsburgh)

For more information about any of these upcoming events, please contact Jessica Marks at 717-909-5577 or jmarks@wpsd.org