



The Scribe

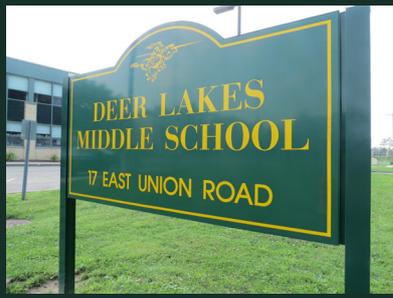
Spring Report 2015



Deer Lakes
School District
Est. 1969
www.deerlakes.net

**The Official Student-Achievement
Biannual of the Deer Lakes School District**

East Deer | Frazer | West Deer



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Deer Lakes Board of School Directors are (from left): Rebekah M. Stankowski, L. Douglas McCausland, Lisa E. Merlo (President), William A. Lupone, Jr., Clara Salvi (Vice President), Michael J. Coletta and Jodi L. Banyas-Galecki. Fellow board members James F. McCaskey, and Phillip Ziendarski are not pictured.



Most of the content seen within this magazine is the work of James T. Cromie, Deer Lakes Communications Specialist. If you have any questions or wish to offer feedback, please call 724-265-5300 Ext. 2131 or email jcromie@dlsd.k12.pa.us.

Message from the **SUPERINTENDENT**



Dear Friends,

In the few months since I became superintendent of the Deer Lakes School District, I have realized a few things: Our students and the community are extremely welcoming and share the common goal of providing the very best for our children, and our staff shares in that expectation.

Over the last several weeks, I have attended numerous school events where I've had the opportunity to speak with many students, staff and parents, as well as other members of the community. It has been wonderful to have the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with so many important stakeholders. Those conversations have been extremely informative and I appreciate all the feedback I've received and look forward to our continued dialogue. I have learned so much from listening and, as many of you know, I enjoy sharing my story and getting to know everyone on a personal level.

We want to make sure that we are hitting the mark on a wide range of issues, including academic programs, athletic issues, safety initiatives and a host of other considerations, including how we interact with the community. The only way to know if we are serving you to the best of our ability is to seek community feedback in the form of stakeholders meetings, community-wide surveys and various other methods. Our intention is to use all of the tools at our disposal so that everyone has a voice in the direction of this school district and so that we are all pushing in the same direction.

One change that you will notice right away is with this publication, *The Scribe*. For years it has been a quarterly newsletter that did an outstanding job of communicating the many achievements of our talented students and staff. However, over time, budgetary considerations have forced us to cease mailing it to district homes. Also, the way the general public consumes information has changed dramatically in the past decade. Studies show that most people are now more likely to get their news from the Internet than they are a newspaper or a magazine. To make sure that we are serving all of those needs, while at the same time remaining fiscally responsible, the majority of our current student-related achievements will appear on our website, www.deerlakes.net. However, for those of you who still prefer the traditional way of getting a general overview of the state of the Deer Lakes School District, we intend to send out this publication to district families twice per year. For some of you, some of the information in this magazine may be old news. However, for many others who don't follow the district quite as closely but are still interested in what is happening here, this will be your opportunity to learn about the many amazing things happening within our walls on a regular basis.

I truly believe in the potential of our school district, the great teachers and staff, our administrators, and community. Thank you for your support – thank you entrusting your children with us – and thank you for making this a great community and school district in which to live, attend school, and work.

With extreme gratitude to serve,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JLB', written in a cursive style.

JANELL LOGUE-BELDEN, ED.D
Superintendent, Deer Lakes School District



In January, Dr. Janell Logue-Belden (left) succeeded Dr. Janet Ciramella as Deer Lakes' superintendent of schools.

NewEra

Deer Lakes Underwent a Superintendent Change in January

After spending the past four and a half decades in education, including the past quarter century at Deer Lakes, Superintendent Janet R. Ciramella retired at the end of January.

“I have been blessed to be around so many wonderful people during my educational career,” said Dr. Ciramella. “I had the privilege of working with some dedicated professionals and with some of the best kids and families you’ll find anywhere.”

After spending the first 20 years of her career teaching in the Diocese of Pittsburgh schools as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Ciramella came to Deer Lakes in 1990, where she served as assistant elementary school principal. She would eventually become the principal at the now defunct John F. Kennedy Elementary School before serving in the same capacity at Curtisville and later East Union.

For “Dr. C,” as many of her employees called her, her decision to go from a teacher to a building level administrator to a central administrator was always about improving the educational opportunities for students.

Among her many accomplishments, three stand out above the rest. They include bringing phonetic training into Deer Lakes elementary school classrooms, the implementation of all-day kindergarten, and greatly improving the use of technology in the classroom.

“Of course I didn’t do any of those things alone,” she cautioned. “Everything we do here has always been a team effort. However, I am very proud of the role I played in those particular areas.”

Dr. Ciramella believes that her background has given her a global perspective on education that has served her well during her career. “I think the biggest impact my background gave me was whenever I made any decision, I always focused on what the impact would be on all of our students from K-12, and not just on small subsets,” she said, noting that very few decisions are made in a vacuum.



In November, the school board tabbed Dr. Janell Logue-Belden, an experienced educator and former superintendent at Avella Area School District, to succeed Dr. Ciramella. She began her tenure in January to help ease the district’s leadership transition.

At Avella, Dr. Logue-Belden oversaw the day-to-day operations of the district and instituted the 1 to 1 technology initiative that provided individual Chromebooks to all district children in grades 7-12. Dr. Logue-Belden also revised and updated the district’s curriculum, trained administrators

on the educator effectiveness model, and helped to improve Avella’s School Performance Profile (SPP) through a variety of measures including data mining.

Dr. Logue-Belden was chosen after an extensive vetting process that included input from teachers, administrators, students and members of the public in addition to the school board.

AcademicNews

From Around the Deer Lakes School District



Postcard Contest Winners

Alyssa Weber (left), a third grader at East Union Intermediate Center, and Christopher Everhart, a second grader at Curtisville Primary Center, were each named first place winners for their respective age groups in the 2014 Geography Awareness Week Postcard Contest sponsored by Shippensburg University's Pennsylvania Alliance for Geographic Education.

According to Kristin Byers, the program's manager, the PA Alliance for Geographic Education had nearly 1,000 entries in this year's contest, which centered on the theme: The Future of Food.

Teacher Tammy McQueen (center) said the students' success is the result of hard work. "We are so proud of Alyssa and Christopher put in to win this contest," she said.

For having first place winners, Curtisville Primary Center and East Union Intermediate Center each receive a framed print of the students' winning entries. The students will also receive a free one-year subscription to National Geographic Kids.

27 Deer Lakes Students Nominated for Outstanding Young Citizens Award

Trib Total Media has announced that 27 Deer Lakes upperclassmen received a whopping 52 nominations for their 2015 Outstanding Young Citizen award.

Notifications and invitations for the banquet for the Top 50 students were sent out in February with five DL students earning nods including seniors Natalie Bick, Jonathan Merlo, and Gabby Pogel; as well as juniors Dan Greer and Maria Taliani.

All seniors who are selected as one of the Top 50 will receive a scholarship application along with their banquet invitation. This year's banquet will be held on April 16, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry.

Bowman's Final Classroom Weather Visit Will Be at Curtisville on April 15

Longtime KDKA meteorologist Dennis Bowman will retire on April 17. However, before he signs off the airwaves for the final time, he will visit Deer Lakes' Curtisville Primary Center on April 15, tax day, for one final edition of his Classroom Weather series.

Bowman, who combines his love of ventriloquism with his passion for weather, estimates that he has visited nearly 2,000 schools in 10 states and the District of Columbia during his distinguished career.

School visits always guarantee an evening segment featuring decorated cakes, puppets, sometimes a "tornado machine" and donations to the station's charitable causes.



Notable Achievements

From Around the Deer Lakes School District



Natalie Bick

Senior, Deer Lakes High School

Bick was recently honored at the Oakmont Country Club as the recipient of the 2015 Good Citizen Award by the Massy Harbison/Fort Hand Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She beat out many candidates from throughout the area to win the award, which is based on a young woman's good character, dependability, service leadership and patriotism.

Mrs. Mann had a teaching account published in *Psychology Applied to Teaching* by Jack Snowman and Rick McCown.

The veteran teacher's piece is about using techniques based on respect and validation to help turn around students who are struggling emotionally and academically.

The 14th edition will be released in the fall of 2015 and will be used to help augment teaching psychology at every level of Duquesne University, where she is pursuing a PhD in Educational Leadership and Development.



Jennifer Mann

Teacher, Deer Lakes High School



Marissa Hilinski

Senior, Deer Lakes High School

In November, with the help of some of her family members and their business associates, Deer Lakes senior Marissa Hilinski helped raise over \$1,200 - including \$80 of her own money - for the DL Cares initiative through a late fall golf outing called the Frostbite Open. This year's event was held at Pheasant Ridge Golf Club in Gibsonia.

DL Cares is an organization whose aim is to help district families in need with items like food, clothing, blankets and other essential items. If you would like to learn more about DL Cares or contribute to their mission, contact Victoria McCaskey at vmccaskey@dlsd.k12.pa.us.

In November, Miss Jackie Jaros was named the 2014 Middle Level Advisor of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC). In March, she was notified that she is a finalist for the National Association of Student Councils' (NASC) prestigious 2015 Warren E. Shull National Advisor of the Year Award, which will be announced at the NASC's national conference June 26-28 in Albuquerque, NM.

A Deer Lakes alumna ('88), Jaros co-founded the PASC Deer Lakes chapter in 2000 and has developed it into one of the strongest student leadership organizations in the state of Pennsylvania.



Jackie Jaros

Guidance Counselor, Student Council Advisor, Deer Lakes Middle School



Distinguished Alumni

Deer Lakes recently announced its Distinguished Alumni Class of 2015. The six newest members of this esteemed group are Dr. John DiSanti, Dr. Richard Linkenheimer, Clara Salvi, Robert "Gary" Simonetti, Joseph S. Venus and Joshua Wiegand. Venus, an acclaimed artist, is the creator of the above painting, "Hunting Pack of Smilodons," which is housed at the Utah State University Eastern Prehistoric Museum in Price, Utah.

The Deer Lakes School District will honor six graduates who have gained recognition for outstanding accomplishments in their fields of endeavor.

The 2015 Distinguished Alumni inductees are Dr. John DiSanti ('72), Dr. Richard Linkenheimer ('82), Clara Salvi ('70), R. Gary Simonetti ('63), Joseph S. Venus ('54), and Joshua Wiegand ('99).

The induction ceremony and banquet will be held starting at 6 p.m. on April 24, 2015 at Deer Lakes High School.

Dr. John S. DiSanti, '72

Dr. DiSanti enjoyed a long, extremely successful career in public education, first as a teacher and coach and later as an administrator, including as superintendent of schools at West Allegheny, Derry Township and his alma mater, Deer Lakes.

Dr. Richard Linkenheimer, '82

Dr. Linkenheimer's educational journey and professional career is a testament to his persistence. Prior to becoming one of the area's most trusted veterinarians, Dr. Linkenheimer studied as far away as the West Indies.

Clara Salvi, '70

Ms. Salvi taught Spanish at Shaler for 34 years. Among her many career awards and highlights came in 1990 when she was honored with the American Association of Women's Educator of the Year Award. She was also twice nominated for the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Award.

Robert "Gary" Simonetti, '63

Mr. Simonetti is the lone member of the group to be selected posthumously. A highly decorated Vietnam War veteran and mathematics teacher at Shaler, Simonetti continued to grow throughout his life.

Joseph S. Venus, '54

Mr. Venus is an American artist living in Utah. Among Venus' most noteworthy achievements was being selected by the organizers of the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan as one of three American artists to provide authentic representations of the American West's land, culture and history.

Joshua Wiegand, '99

Mr. Wiegand has dedicated his life to public safety, logging over 1,300 hours of first responder training. Wiegand works as an EMT at the

McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority. He is also Chief of the West Deer Township VFD No. 3.

The purpose of the Distinguished Alumni Award is to identify, recognize, celebrate, and honor those alumni who have distinguished themselves in academics, the arts, public service, through professional contributions, or athletics at the collegiate or professional level and who, in so doing, have contributed to the pride and prestige of the Deer Lakes School District.

Earlier this year, the district circulated nomination forms asking East Deer, Frazer, and West Deer residents to nominate a graduate from the former East Deer-Frazer, West Deer, and Deer Lakes School Districts, who had graduated at least a decade ago and whom they felt deserved to be recognized. Seven judges, comprised of administrators, individuals from the community at-large, board members, and a current student of the Deer Lakes School District selected six honorees from a dozen nominations. The honorees were selected on the basis of outstanding contributions made in their chosen professions.

Tickets to the April 24 event, which will be held at Deer Lakes High School, are \$30 per person and include dinner and the induction ceremony. For more information about how to purchase tickets contact the communications office by phone: 724-265-5300 Ext. 2131 or by email: jcromie@dlsd.k12.pa.us.

APHonor Roll

Academic Achievement News From Around the Deer Lakes School District

Deer Lakes is one of 547 school districts in the U.S. and Canada, and one of just 39 Pennsylvania school districts, being honored by the College Board with placement on the 5th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for increasing access to Advanced Preparatory course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3.0 or higher on AP Exams.

Earlier this year, Deer Lakes was recognized by the College Board with placement on the 5th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. 2014 is a milestone year for the AP District Honor Roll, and more districts are achieving this objective than ever before. Reaching these goals indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of Advanced Preparatory coursework. Since 2012, Deer Lakes has increased the number of students participating in AP courses while improving the number of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

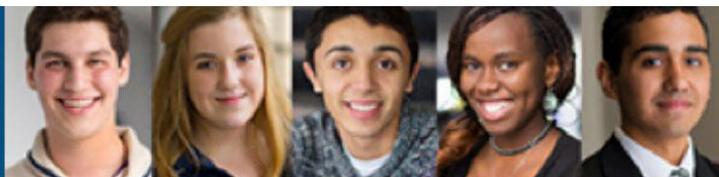
Inclusion on the list is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2012 to 2014, looking across 34 AP Exams, including world language and culture.

Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and

- Improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2014 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2012, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

Other local school districts to be honored by the College Board include: Franklin Regional, Kiski Area, Mars Area, North Allegheny, Plum Borough, Seneca Valley and Union Area.



AP 5th Annual Honor Roll

School Performance Profile

The Deer Lakes School District recently received its state-issued School Performance Profile (SPP) results for the 2013-2014 school year and the results were mixed with Curtisville Primary Center's three point jump leading the way district-wide.

Last year, the first year the state began issuing SPPs, Curtisville posted a score of 84.5. This year, the district's primary center turned in a score of 87.4. Deer Lakes High School also slightly improved, going from 72.8 to 72.9.

The news was not all great though as the scores for Deer Lakes Middle School and East Union Intermediate Center dropped by roughly eight points each, with the middle school decreasing from 86.4 in 2012-2013 to 78.1 in 2013-2014; and the intermediate center dropping from a 91.3 score in year one of the program to 83.3 in 2013-2014.

The highest SPP score a school district can attain is a 107. This includes seven extra credit points. North Allegheny posted Allegheny County's best score at 99.7. The lowest scoring district in the county and state was Wilkesburg School District with a 45.4. The median score for the state was 78, with the Allegheny County average at 79.1.



Notable Achievements

From Around the Deer Lakes School District



Srujan Dadi

Junior

Dadi cored a 215 out of a possible 240 points on the PSAT/NMSQT, including a perfect score on the math portion of the exam.

The junior stressed the importance of confidence and the role it played in his performance. "When you are confident and relaxed, your energy is focused on trying to solve those challenges, not worrying about the consequences of making a mistake or if you can't solve it. That is a big difference."



Melanie Weltner

Junior

Weltner recently appeared in the "teen hot spots" segments of a new teen talk show called TTYS (Talk to You Soon) on the FOX network (Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.).

The program featured five teen panelists who discussed current event news that impacts their daily life and future.

The teens discussed films, video games, music, cool apps, fun teen places to go, and more.



Scott Moore

Teacher, Deer Lakes High School

The National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) recently named Deer Lakes High School English teacher Scott Moore as its newest diamond coach. Moore received a First Diamond Award after earning 1,501 points in late January.

A diamond award recognizes a professional career that combines excellence and longevity which is reflected on a points scale for participation, wins and other honors.

In June, Moore will receive special recognition at the National Speech & Debate Tournament in Dallas, Texas.



Chelsea McMillen & Paige Hall

Juniors

McMillen (left, with the violin) and Hall (viola) recently performed with the top area high school age musicians in the 2015 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Senior High School District orchestra held at Penn Hills High School.

Students from throughout Allegheny, Washington, Fayette, Westmoreland and Greene counties vied for the coveted spots in the District 1 orchestra.



Deer Lakes to Host Prestigious 2016 State Leadership Conference

Deer Lakes will host the 80th Annual Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) State Conference, November 10-12, 2016. The above trio of Tyler Raub, Abbey Lisowski (left) and Joella Miller will head the conference as president and co-chairs respectively.

In January, the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) announced that Deer Lakes had edged out Quaker Valley for the right to host the 80th Annual PASC State Conference November 10-12, 2016. The event is one of the oldest of its kind in the nation and promises to be the largest and most prestigious conference Deer Lakes has ever hosted.

The PASC Executive Board favored Deer Lakes' bid which was themed "Decades of Leadership" and contained innovative ideas for events to be held at the school or in close proximity to it. The leadership conference will spotlight nationally known motivational speakers and bring support to Deer Lakes' choice for the conference's official state charity, Team Tassy, founded by Pittsburgh native and former *Survivor: Palau* cast member/contestant Ian Rosenberger. Rose Ann Fulena, PASC's Executive Director, said the decision was extremely difficult for the governing body to

make because both presentations, which coincidentally came from Pittsburgh area schools, were exceptionally strong. "Deer Lakes' student delegates knocked it out of the park. They were exceptionally well prepared and provided excellent answers for every question the Board threw their way," said Ms. Fulena. "I'm confident the students and advisors at Deer Lakes will provide the attendees of this conference with an invaluable leadership experience."

Superintendent Dr. Janell Logue-Belden was thrilled to learn of the big news. "This is obviously a tremendous honor for Deer Lakes," she said. "This conference will afford us the opportunity to showcase our students, staff, facilities and our community to a statewide audience."

Dr. Logue-Belden acknowledges that planning and fundraising for this conference is a daunting challenge. However, she's confident it is one Deer Lakes is capable of handling. "I fully expect the students, staff, and community to recog-



nize the unique opportunity in front of us all and to rally together as one to not only meet the challenges facing us, but to exceed them."

The student council members that crafted and pitched Deer Lakes' plan were juniors Srujan Dadi and Dan Greer; sophomores Abbey Lisowski, Maggie Pogel, Joella Miller, Tyler Raub, Hannah Runas, Alexis Slavicek, Sam Smallwood, and Emily Yourish; freshman Ethan Vukelich; and eighth grader Riley Luniewski.



NEW PACT



New contractual agreement between the school district and its teachers' association brings financial certainty to the district's families through 2017.

Earlier this year, after more than two years of ongoing discussions, the Deer Lakes School District and its teachers' association reached an agreement on a new four-year contract that is retroactive to July 1, 2013 and will run through June 30, 2017.

Under the terms of the new pact, teachers will not receive any salary increase for contract year 2013-2014. For the remaining three years, teachers will continue to receive salary increases based on their professional experience and additional educational credentials earned during the contract's duration. However, the average annual rate of their increase will slow dramatically from the former contract because of the pay freeze for 2013-2014, which should result in much needed savings for the school district in what has become a very difficult economic climate for schools throughout the state.

Cuts in state and federal funding, as well as skyrocketing pension costs, have dramatically impacted school districts across the commonwealth. In 2012-2013, Pennsylvania school districts were responsible for 12.36 percent of gross wages to cover its employee pension costs. By 2017, the final year of this contract, that figure is expected to climb to nearly 30 percent.

The agreement provides that teachers will receive on average a 3.3 percent salary increase over the term of the contract, which includes both step and on scale increases. In addition, the teaching year has been lengthened from 182 to 183 instructional days and the teachers' yearly work schedule will expand by an additional day to 192 days.

Under the new arrangement, a first year teacher with a bachelor's degree will earn \$45,000 per year. The maximum annual salary for a teacher who has earned their master's degree and full seniority is \$95,368.

Rising health care costs were also a factor in the negotiation with the teachers' association agreeing to a gradual increase in their pay-

ments from five percent in year one of the contract up to eight percent by the final year of the four-year pact.

Another major change includes the reintroduction of grade level leaders at the primary level. The sides agreed that should result in greater educational continuity for the students. The teachers also now hold monthly afterschool meetings to discuss student and building-related issues.

The new agreement also features a sick bank for district teachers who choose to participate in the program. For the first time ever, volunteers will have the opportunity to contribute one of their unused sick days to the district's sick bank to help cover for one of their colleagues should they be forced to miss an extended period of time due to illness.

Homeward Bound

In October, Hedi Schlesiger-Domin, a German national and Deer Lakes' first ever foreign exchange student (1973), came back to visit her old stomping grounds with her husband, Rolf. They were in town for her 40th anniversary class reunion and toured the high school for over an hour. Joni Stoneburner Knoch helped arrange the tour for her old friend.

"We were here back in 1999 but the building looks so much nicer now than it did then," said Schlesiger-Domin. "I'm very proud of it."

The German couple say they love to travel, and often make it back to the United States to see the sights and to catch up with her old friends.

"We were just visiting my old host family, the Bakers, who now live in Washington, DC.," she said. Also, she often visits with her "adopted mom", former Home Economics teacher Josephine Summers (nee Nelson), who now lives in Florida.

After the tour, the ebullient Germans were off to Antarctica. Before they left, former Deer Lakes principal Joseph Orr gave them a Deer Lakes baseball cap that Hedi proudly wore in the below photo. It is believed to be the furthest south any article of Deer Lakes clothing has ever traveled.



If you are interested in touring our facilities or learning more about the school district, please contact the communications office by email: jcromie@dlsd.k12.pa.us, or by phone: 724-265-5300 Ext. 2131.



Palmer Named High School Principal

In January, former Burgettstown Area School District Superintendent David Palmer became the principal at Deer Lakes High School.

He acknowledges that some may wonder why he would choose to become a building principal after serving as a school district superintendent. However, he insists his career, which has been unconventional from the start, has always been about helping students succeed.

"I have loved working at Burgettstown and appreciate my experiences there," said Mr. Palmer, who has worked in that school district's central administration office for the past year-and-a-half. "However, over time, I began to realize how much I missed working directly with teachers and students.

"There is a very special relationship between a principal and his or her staff and students and over time I realized that my move to central administration was causing me to drift away from what I really wanted to be doing," he said.

Palmer hopes to bring a new perspective to the high school and a different approach to solving some of its challenges. "People don't fear change, they fear loss," said Palmer. "Change can be a very good thing, especially when it is paired with some of the existing approaches that are already working."

McGaughey Tabbed as Special Ed. Director

In March, Lindsay McGaughey assumed duties as the school district's Director of Special Education.

Mrs. McGaughey comes to her new post from Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4 in Grove City, Pa., where she has served in various roles since 2005. In her most recent role, Mrs. McGaughey supervised the early intervention program, which serves children in Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties.



About her new post, Mrs. McGaughey said, "I have long heard wonderful things about the Deer Lakes School District and specifically its special education department. I am honored to have been chosen for this position and look forward to working with Deer Lakes students and their families as well as our staff. I want to make sure that I can learn as much as possible about all of the programs the district operates and make sure that I'm on the same page as all of the district's stakeholders," she said.

At Deer Lakes, Mrs. McGaughey will succeed Dr. Barbara Tomlinson, who retired in June but has been serving as a consultant for the district until a new full time director was named.



Swimming Team Sends Six to WPIAL's

Remarkably, six of Deer Lakes' 12 varsity swimmers qualified for the 2015 WPIAL Swimming Championships at Pitt in February.

In February, four members of the Deer Lakes High School varsity girls swimming team and two members of the boys team competed in the 2015 WPIAL Swimming Championships at Pitt's Trees Pool.

The girls swimming team was led by sophomore Mallory Marzolf, who set school records in several events this year and qualified for the state finals in Hershey.

- Mallory Marzolf, Soph.: 200 Yard Freestyle @ 1:57.63, placed seventh & set a new school record; 100 Yard Freestyle @ 53.71, placed sixth & set a new school record.
- Iris Marzolf, Sr.: 200 Yard Freestyle @ 2:02.15, placed 12th; 100 Yard Breaststroke @ 1:11.99, placed 15th & set a new school record.
- Jade Marzolf, Sr.: 200 Yard Individual Medley @ 2:22.36, placed 13th; 100 Yard Butterfly @ 1:04.02, placed 16th.
- Julie Buchanich, Fr.: The youngest team member to qualify for the WPIALs and competed in the 200 Yard Freestyle relay as well as the 200 Yard Medley Relay.
- Jake Morrison, Sr.: 100 Yard Butterfly @ 58.53, placed 15th; 100 Yard Backstroke @ 1:02.25, placed 21st.
- Dan Decker, Jr.: 100 Yard Butterfly @ 1:02.76, placed 34th.



Girls Basketball Battles Into the Playoffs

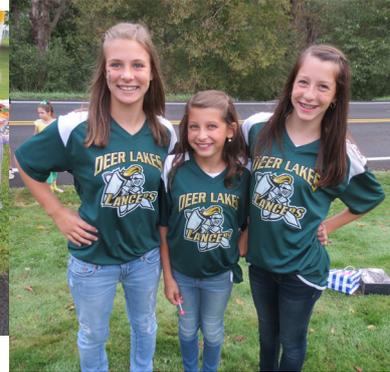
For the sixth time in the past eight seasons, the girls basketball team (12-11; 7-7 Section 1-AAA) qualified for the WPIAL Playoffs, where they lost to McGuffey in the first round.

Veteran head coach, and Deer Lakes alumnae, Dana Petruska celebrated her 100th win as the head coach at

Deer Lakes. Petruska, who previously coached at Mars Area, could reach the 400 win plateau as a high school coach by as early as next season.

Junior Mackenzie Kacsur (left), is one of three players returning to next year's team.

Homecoming2015



Deer Lakes School District invites all members of the communities of East Deer, Frazer and West Deer townships to join us in celebrating the 2015 Homecoming festivities, including the annual Homecoming parade, football game and coronation, all of which will take place on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015. The theme for September's Homecoming will be announced in June.

As in years past, parade participants will assemble at the Deer Lakes Middle School parking lot by no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the event. The parade will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and will again follow East Union Road from

QUICK FACTS:

Date: Friday, Sept. 18, 2015

Parade Starts: 6 p.m.

Football Game Kicks Off: 7 p.m.

the Middle School to the Deer Lakes High School. The entire length of the route is approximately 1.2 miles.

After the parade, all participants are encouraged to cheer on the Lancers' varsity football team as they take on South Allegheny at 7 p.m.

Last year's Homecoming parade, which was themed "Under the City Lights,"

featured 35 different student and community groups and attracted more than 3,500 spectators. Escorted by Joe Dillner, Sarah White was crowned Homecoming Queen and the Lancers beat conference rival Burrell, 35-20.

School and community groups and organizations wishing to participate in this year's parade, or if you have any questions, contact the district's communications office by phone at 724-265-5300 Ext. 2131 or via email at jcromie@dlsd.k12.pa.us. No group will be registered for the event prior to July 1, 2015.

Individual Recognition

Girls Soccer

Emily Irvine, Sr., MF: All-Section 2-AA; Third Team, Valley News Dispatch

Boys Soccer

Austin Barneycastle, Sr., G: Third Team, Valley News Dispatch

Alex Caro, Sr., D: All-Section 2-AA; First Team, Valley News Dispatch

Jake Davis, Jr., MF: Third Team, Valley News Dispatch

Matt McCausland, Sr., MF: All-Section 2-AA; Third Team, Valley News Dispatch

Football

Hunter Burns, Jr., KR: Honorable Mention, All-Section 2-AA

Cody Edwards, Jr., OT/DE: Second Team, All-Section 2-AA

Michael Guntrum, Sr., TE: Second Team, All-Section 2-AA

Geoff Matthews, Jr., C: Honorable Mention, All-Section 2-AA

Ryan McGrath, Sr., P/RB: First /Second Team, All-Section 2-AA; First Team, Valley News Dispatch

Matt McCausland, Sr., PK: Honorable Mention, All-Section 2-AA

Nathan Morrissey, Jr., G: Second Team, All-Section 2-AA

Girls Volleyball

Casey Gaston, Sr., S: Second Team, Section 4-AA All Star

Sarah Trocki, Sr., OH: Third Team, Section 4-AA All Star

Ace in the Hole



Connor Chirdon picked a unique spot to record his first ever hole-in-one.

The Deer Lakes junior recorded an ace on the 126-yard, par three, seventh hole of the Shannopin Country Club during the Section 3-AA Championships. Unfortunately, it was not enough to qualify Chirdon for the WPIAL Championships but it was a unique setting to record the shot of a lifetime.

The team finished with a 12-4 (10-2) record which was good for second place in its section.



Deer Lakes School District

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