Students enjoyed more hands-on learning experiences through new instructional themes like place-based learning, dual-language instruction and early college. A focus on collaboration and project-based learning added more rigor to the curriculum in line with full adoption of Ohio’s new learning standards.

Louisa Okwudibonye, a senior at Dunbar Early College High School and ex officio member of the Dayton Board of Education, received a scholarship to the University of Dayton, where she will pursue studies in pre-med.

DPS worked in partnership with Montgomery County YouthWorks to create summer work opportunities for more than 180 students aged 13 through 18.

DPS partnered with the downtown YWCA, Wright State University and Project READ to recruit and train volunteers to work with K-3 students to help them become strong readers. More than 100 volunteers were trained to help young students with reading.

Dunbar Early College High School welcomed U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Secretary Duncan hosted a town hall meeting examining reforms that are working, early college education in Dayton, and the collaboration that makes it possible. Participants included DPS administrators, Dunbar students and faculty members, and the district’s early college partners.

Students in grades six through eight, from World of Wonder, Rosa Parks and Westwood, enjoyed STEM studies at Thurgood Marshall High School on Wednesdays through the SEAT (Students Exploring Advanced Technologies) program.

The Dayton Challenger Learning Center and DPS were recognized at the 2013 Challenger Center annual conference in Washington, D.C., with two awards—flying the most Micronaut (K-4 student) Missions of any CLC in the international network and training the most teachers in STEM of any of the school-based centers. This is the third year the Dayton Challenger Center has received this award. The Dayton Challenger Center also piloted a new third-grade guarantee Micronaut Mission, aligned to Ohio’s new learning standards.

With a focus on primary literacy, “Ms. Story” returned to the airwaves to help young children develop the skills they will need to succeed in kindergarten. “Ms. Story” airs on DPS TV TimeWarner 21/99.5, or parents may log on to www.dpstv.com and access the program through the On Demand feature. New books are introduced bi-weekly.

The Thurgood Marshall High School FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Team placed second at the 2013 FIRST Robotics State Championship with a robot that could throw a Frisbee into two- and three-point goals. Thurgood Marshall also won the Queen City FIRST Robotics Competition at Cintas Arena, with the CougarBot they built and programmed to shoot baskets.

Fifteen DPS freshman, sophomores and juniors were recognized by the Dayton Board of Education for academic achievements that earned them the distinction of being selected as College Promise students. The scholars receive mentors during their high school years to help them prepare for their college pursuits. Upon meeting their college entrance requirements, the students will attend college at little to no cost to their families.

DPS partnered with the Dayton Human Relations Council and Metaphorically Speaking to host poetry slams across the district. The slams were forums for creative expression about issues of personal, community and world concern. The top three finalists from each school moved on to a culminating grand slam to compete for an all-expense paid trip (sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of Dayton) to a national youth poetry competition in Chicago. The Ponitz CTC team won the school title and Stivers freshman India Foster was the individual winner who moved on to national competition.
United States Navy Rear Admiral Kirby D. Miller, vice commander, Naval Air Systems Command, visited Belmont High School to meet with Belmont administrators, do a walk-through inspection of the cadets, and speak to the cadets, with opportunities for open question time.

Four DPS elementary schools—Eastmont, Louise Troy, Ruskin and Wright Brothers—included golf in their students’ physical education, thanks to the efforts of The First Tee National School Program to introduce students to the game. A check from the Brian Hafer Foundation to The First Tee made it possible for Edwin Joel Brown, Cleveland, Ruskin and Westwood schools to participate in the program during the 2013-14 year, as well.

DPS eighth graders presented original speeches during the 29th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest. First place went to Jordan Nichols (Fairview). His speech included a moving passage from the poem “Invictus” by William Ernest Henley. Second-place winner was Anabelle Smith (Stivers) and third-place winner was Danielle Carson (Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy).

In observance of National Manufacturing Day, select high school students from Belmont and Thurgood Marshall high schools toured local plants. The tours addressed common misperceptions about manufacturing by giving companies an opportunity to open their doors and show, in a coordinated effort, what manufacturing is — and what it isn’t.

Books & Co. partnered with DPS to host the Class Acts tour, featuring Jon Scieszka (Guys Read), Christopher Krovatin (Gravediggers), and Tom Watson (Stick Dog). The tour made a stop to give an interactive pep-rally style presentation, including Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy students in grades four through six.

The National Society of Black Engineers: Dayton Professionals offered an Academic Excellence Program at Thurgood Marshall High School for all 7-12 students community-wide. The free Saturday math tutoring sessions were geared toward building strong STEM skills, developing good study habits, and preparing students for college.

Math-O-Lympics showcased the mathematical talents of students in grades four through eight in a number of exciting numeric and structure competitions. Students in grades four through six participated in the Battle of the Brains event, a game-show-style competition where student teams buzz in to answer challenging math questions. The Build-a-Structure competition required seventh- and eighth-grade students to construct a number of geometric figures with varying degrees of difficulty, while demonstrating cooperation, participation and collaboration.
101+ Reasons to be Proud of Dayton Public Schools

24 Middle school teams at Dunbar and Stivers earned 2013 Fall Dayton City League Championships in football and volleyball, respectively.

25 The Superintendent’s Student Senate worked for the third consecutive year to offer encouragement and assistance to “silent leaders” in their midst who are planning to attend college. With an annual goal of $3,000, they have previously provided two $250 scholarships to each of the six DPS high schools since 2012.

26 Stivers won the 2013 Fall Dayton City League Championship in golf, volleyball and girls cross country.

27 “Read Across America Day” (March 3) honored the birthday of Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel). Schools across the district welcomed readers from the community to visit students and share their favorite books during this popular annual tradition. This year’s theme was “Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat!” Celebrity readers included educators, fire and police officers, government leaders, sports teams and TV news anchors.

28 There were 40 projects in the Dayton Public Schools District Science and Technology Fair that were rated superior. They, along with all division winners from grades five through 12, advanced to the West District Science Day regional competition.

29 Drawing inspiration from Dr. King’s enduring message of peace and equality, DPS students took home 20 of 22 grade awards and seven of nine grade-group awards in art, poetry and prose during the 29th annual Margaret E. Peters School Program awards ceremony at Thurgood Marshall High School.

30 Ponitz Career Technology Center teams took second and third places in the Extreme Combat Robot tournament; fourth place for their robot creation; and Best Sportsmanship with their robot, Jack In the Box. Ponitz engineering competed against 45 other teams. The Dayton Xtreme BOTS event provided real-life experience in design, engineering, metal working and electronics. Corporate mentors Dayton Progress and AFC Tool helped Ponitz students prepare for competition.

31 Ruskin students who are part of the school’s “Q the Music” program performed in the Schuster Center Wintergarden prior to the afternoon concert, “Musical Fable and Tales,” featuring Dayton native Nancy Cartwright (voice of Bart Simpson) as guest narrator.

32 Students at the new Dunbar Early College High School tackled their first online studies offered through Sinclair Community College. Of those taking advanced courses in language arts, 51 percent have earned an A and another 31 percent have earned a B. Of those taking college-level mathematics, 90 percent earned an A.

33 Members of the Stivers Philharmonic Orchestra competed in the National Orchestra Festival in the Kentucky Center, home of the Louisville Symphony. The event was sponsored by the American String Teachers Association.

34 Artwork by three Stivers School for the Arts students was among those chosen for inclusion in the 2014 Ohio Governor’s Youth Art Exhibition. Seniors Josh Cigrang, Coco Gagnon and Morgan Strahorn were selected as “top 25” recipients of the prestigious annual award, from more than 12,000 entries received. Their works were exhibited at the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower.

35 An entry by Cleveland PreK-6 student Sierra Cullers (grade K-2 division) received first place in the 2014 AAA School Traffic Safety Poster Contest. Fellow Cleveland student Cherish Griffith (grade K-2 division) was recognized with an Award of Merit for her entry. Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy students Antonio Watson (grade 3-5 division) and Massiyah Smith (grade K-2 division) each received an Award of Merit in their respective divisions. The students were recognized during an art gallery exhibit and reception at The Dayton Art Institute.

36 Artist Michael Bashaw worked with kindergarten through fifth graders at Eastmont PreK-8 School on a piece that was hung in the media center, displaying more than 1,000 student-created “stained glass” geometric pieces. Funding for the project was provided by a generous grant from Chase Bank that allows Muse Machine artists to conduct art residencies in schools throughout Dayton.

37 The Ohio Business Professionals of America competition drew 1,570 students from across Ohio. Two Ponitz CTC teams placed at the state competition level. The Website Design Team placed sixth overall in the state. The Ponitz Broadcast News Production Team placed first overall, advancing to nationals, where they were judged to be the best in the nation in their category.

38 DPS was spotlighted frequently on a local “Cool Schools” news segment featuring successful programs that make an impact. Featured schools were Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy, Thurgood Marshall High School, World of Wonder PreK-8 School, Longfellow, Ponitz CTC, Belmont High School and Stivers School for the Arts. “Ms. Story” also was featured for her DPS TV program focusing on primary literacy.

39 Valerie student Justin O’Neal was the overall winner of the annual DPS Lucia May Wiant Speech contest, held at Stivers School for the Arts.

40 Thurgood Marshall High School and the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce’s Minority Business Partnership joined forces to develop a 10-week program exposing students to various professional careers in the construction industry with the intent of building a workforce pipeline. Growing student and business participation has resulted in growth of the program.
101+ Reasons to be Proud of Dayton Public Schools

41 Meadowdale High School senior Oksana Lawrence signed a letter of intent on a full track scholarship with Louisiana State University. She runs the 400 meter dash, 4x200 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay for the Lions, is a state champion and ranks ninth in the nation for her talents. Oksana also was a student in the school’s International Baccalaureate program; with a 3.86 GPA, she ranked fifth in her class. She was joined by her family and Coach Chad Miller during her signing ceremony.

42 Flanked by family, staff and Coach Earl White, Thurgood Marshall High School seniors Landon Brazile and Vayante’ Copeland signed letters of intent to play football with the University of Cincinnati and Michigan State, respectively.

43 Making our community better through research, discussion, and the creation of an action plan was the challenge for Rachel Blanks’ class at Wogaman 5-8. Blanks used the opportunity to teach about urban ecosystems, business and investment models. The conversation prompted the class to come up with the new “Madden Hills Constitution,” comprised of 25 laws dealing with issues impacting their young lives. Their work was featured on the TV news when the students presented a Madden Hills Constitution to members of the community.

44 Stivers social studies teacher Bridget Federspiel and her student were the only team from Ohio selected to travel to Normandy, France to visit the site of D-Day and the grave of a paratrooper who died in the Normandy Invasion. Gabrielle Farrow, a junior AP European history student, submitted an application for the Albert H. Small Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Student and Teacher Institute, a national competition sponsored by the National History Day that selects 15 winners to immerse themselves on-site in D-Day history.

45 An exchange between urban and rural students was memorable for a group from Belmont High School, chosen to help deliver equipment and supplies to a rural Kentucky high school. The cultural exchange was eye-opening for all. Most surprising were the many similarities the students shared.

46 Thurgood Marshall High School received the Ohio Academy of Science’s highest honor, the Harold C. Shaw award, at the 66th State Science Day. The six-member team received the trophy for their superior ratings at the competition.

47 Khaylin Miller, Thurgood Marshall, and Afryea Henderson, Stivers, were chosen from thousands of applicants nationwide to participate in the LEDA Scholars Program. LEDA (Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America) is a collaboration by Ivy League colleges that identifies and recruits academically gifted public high school students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Both joined a cohort of 60 students who will spend their summer on the Princeton campus, during a seven-week program that includes leadership training, writing instruction, standardized test preparation, and college guidance.

48 Thurgood Marshall High School became the region’s newest STEM school, following approval of its application by the Ohio STEM Committee. The new designation means students will benefit from a STEM curriculum that includes design thinking, along with problem-based learning and inquiry, preparing them to compete in the landscape of 21st century jobs.

49 Stivers was the winner of the 2014 James H. McGee Middle School Debate Tournament, besting Belmont on the topic of whether or not standardized testing is an accurate gauge of student success. In third and fourth places were teams from Fairview and Eastmont, respectively. This was an inaugural event for DPS middle school students and will become an annual contest.

50 Edison PreK-8 School invited the Dayton Demonz professional hockey team to read to students. Players visited classrooms as part of Read Across America Day, celebrating youth literacy in memory of beloved children’s author, Dr. Seuss.

51 The Thurgood Marshall Cougars made it to the Div. II basketball semifinals at The Ohio State University Schottenstein Center in Columbus.

52 Stivers School for the Arts ranks among America’s best public high schools, in both Ohio and the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. Stivers earned a silver medal, ranking 66th statewide (out of 115 HS ranked), and 1,390 nationally (out of 2,019 ranked). This is the sixth year the study has been conducted and the fourth year Stivers has been recognized. Dayton Early College Academy, a Dayton Public Schools-sponsored charter school, was awarded a bronze medal.

53 Students at Wogaman 5-8 School received a special boost ahead of Ohio Achievement Assessment testing. Representatives from LexisNexis were on hand to personally deliver “testing kits,” consisting of sharpened pencils, an eraser, peppermints, and notes of encouragement from LexisNexis employees. The kits were created as part of the LexisNexis Cares program. LexisNexis provided the supplies for, and assembled, 10,000 kits for 60 area schools. They will be distributed through Dayton Crayons to Classrooms (DC2C), a free store for teachers.
A joint project between Wright State University and Westwood PreK-8 School resulted in a short documentary video profiling the neighborhood and the recollections of residents who grew up within it. The video was debuted during a “wrap party” at the school. Six Wright State students worked with a team of Westwood students, who interviewed seniors, other adults, and one another about the neighborhood. From this, the team produced a short documentary video.

DPS recognized 849 Superintendent’s Scholars for earning all A’s one or more grading periods during the school year. Superintendent Ward and Dayton Board of Education members personally congratulated each scholar during the recognition celebration at the Dayton Convention Center as proud parents looked on.

The 2014 Dayton Education Association Scholarship was awarded to Jasmin Sanford, a senior at Thurgood Marshall High School with a 4.22 GPA. She was nominated by her teacher Mimi Frost and counselor Linda Munka for the $1,500 award, which she is using at Wright State University.

The district’s top achievers and those who have achieved a significant milestone gathered for a first-of-its-kind employee recognition and retiree reception. Among the special guests were two individuals who received the honor of becoming the 2014 Dayton Public Schools Outstanding Employees of the Year. The district’s first Outstanding Employees of the Year are certified staff member Sarah Szumarski, an ECIP teacher at Kiser PreK-8 School, and classified staff member Ken Kreitzer, communications leader of DPS TV/WDPS FM, in the Public Information Office.

David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center was spotlighted in the May 2 issue of U.S. News and World Report. The article acknowledges the growing need for students to acquire postsecondary credentials, be it a college degree or technical certification, to secure well-paying jobs that support a middle-class lifestyle.

Teachers Desirae Shaw (Thurgood Marshall), Gloria Taylor (River’s Edge Montessori) and Tracey Turner (Horace Mann), and Principal Sharon Goins (Thurgood Marshall) were the 2014 recipients of the Dayton Rotary’s Excellence in Education Awards.

Louise Troy PreK-4 School and Eastmont PreK-8 School joined the Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy and Horace Mann PreK-8 School as WSU professional development school sites. The professional development school model engages Wright State University faculty with preK-12 students to increase preK-12 student achievement and provide quality field experience for WSU teacher candidates.

Belmont eighth-grade student Lakesha Lewis was accepted to the Law and Leadership Institute at the University of Dayton for the summer of 2014. She joined nearly 400 LLI students attending eight law schools and serving their communities in six different cities across the state.

Students at Cleveland PreK-6 School learned how plants and communities grow and prosper when they joined with neighborhood families to create a thriving community garden, with help from local businesses like Tree Care and Webber’s Landscaping.

Belmont Bison varsity point guard Alexus Rockwell reached a milestone of 1,000 points and signed a National Letter of Intent to play for the Huntington University Foresters in the same week. The Indiana university is a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Div. II school.

The Dunbar Early College High School boys track and field team won the 2014 Spring Dayton City League Championship.

At the district’s annual Dayton Public Schools Scholarship Golf Classic, friends of DPS raised funds for student scholarships, recognized 10 recent graduates and awarded them each a $500 scholarship to help with college expenses.
101+ Reasons to be Proud of Dayton Public Schools

66 Elton Burrus, Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy; Shirley Couler, World of Wonder at Residence Park; and David Back, Wright Brothers PreK-8 School received the Ed Hickman Teachers Award from the Dayton Breakfast Kiwanis Club.

67 Two DPS students were among 15 selected statewide to be part of the “Class of 2014 Success Story” group by the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Career-Technical Education. Kadijah Taylor (Thurgood Marshall) was honored for her work with Project Lead the Way, winning the engineering and science technologies category. Stephanie Winn (Ponitz CTC), a student in the dental arts program, won the Health Science category. More than 100 nominations were received statewide for consideration.

68 Ponitz CTC students in the engineering and construction technology programs swept a regional boat race competition at Sinclair Community College, taking first place for the first time in the six years the school has entered. Students were challenged to research, design, build, test and race in a two-person water craft.

69 Six DPS graduating seniors were recognized for their participation in The Ohio State University Young Scholars Program. The program improves pre-college preparation among high-ability academically gifted first-generation students with financial need. Scholars in good standing upon high school graduation receive an appropriate financial aid package consisting of scholarships and federal grants to cover their tuition and room and board at OSU.

70 More than 1,650 DPS students in preschool through third grade selected 10 books of their very own to enjoy over the summer. The books were donated through the generosity of community partners to help keep students’ reading skills sharp and prevent summer slide. District partners who supplied the books included Central State University, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Dayton Art Institute, Dayton International Airport, Dayton Rotary, Leadership Dayton Alumni Association, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Sinclair Community College, Think TV, United Way of Greater Dayton, University of Dayton, and WYSO.

71 Valerie PreK-6 School was the 2013-2014 intramural champions in both boys and girls divisions for track and field.

72 Students at Valerie PreK-6 School participated in their annual Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart contests, raising nearly $5,000 for the American Heart Association.

73 Dunbar’s boys track team and Meadowdale’s girls track team won the Div. II high school regional track and field meet at Welcome Stadium. Dunbar’s Curtis Boyd led the Wolverines with victories in the 100, 200 and 4x200 relay.

74 Meadowdale PreK-8 teachers Daniel Busse, William Hickey and Gail Wright received the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Achievement Award. The award is presented annually by the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities to educators who are committed to providing a quality education to students with disabilities.

75 Now in its third year, Reading Buddies pairs Edison students in grades first through third identified as needing extra assistance with community volunteers, for weekly lunchtime sessions. Volunteers are provided with a folder on their student, listing areas of proficiency and which skill sets need work. Sometimes students play reading or word board games with their mentors. Mostly, there are smiles and conversation.

76 Westwood PreK-8 School was one of 58 Ohio schools selected by the Ohio Academy of Science to receive the Governor’s Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education for accomplishments during the 2012-2013 school year.

77 DPS offered a mentoring program to refugee students who arrived without mentors, to help them adjust to a new education system and life in a new community. Mentors were paired with students to assist with academic tutoring and cultural integration. The program has gained national attention as a model for refugee outreach. (Photo ©Chris Stewart, DDN)

78 Dozens of students, once dropout risks, left Longfellow Academy with the credits necessary to finish their freshman year on time and return to their home schools through the Credit Acceleration Program.

79 The Thurgood Marshall High School football team won the 2013 Fall Dayton City League Championship. The team made it to the OHSAA football playoffs for the third year in a row and made it as far as the Div. III semifinals.

80 Amy George, Dunbar Early College High School teacher, was crowned winner in the first-ever Einstein STEMathon live challenge, in which teachers competed to make the most original and creative science experiment to suit their students. Amy received $5,000 worth of learning products and $2,500 cash at the National Science Teachers Association Conference.
101+ Reasons to be Proud of Dayton Public Schools

**OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES**

81 Superintendent Ward shared her vision and call to action with an estimated 2,000 DPS employees and special guests during the annual DPS Convocation at UD Arena. The event serves as the kickoff to the new school year.

82 Dayton Public Schools received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Association of School Business Officials International. The award represents a significant achievement and reflects the district's commitment to the highest standards of school system financial reporting.

83 DPS partner ComDoc, Inc. provided $120,000 to fund college scholarships for district students in 2014.

84 All Dayton Public Schools students in grades K-12 received their breakfast and lunch at no charge during the 2013-2014 school year. This benefit to DPS families is the result of the USDA's Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act, Community Eligibility Option, helping to ensure that no student comes to class hungry. DPS expanded the program, which was offered in all elementary schools for 2012-2013.

85 Prudent monitoring of spending and maintenance of best practice cash reserves earned the district an excellent credit rating, resulting in lower interest payments.

86 At the 2014 organizational meeting, the Dayton Board of Education elected Robert C. Walker, D.Min., president and Nancy A. Nerny vice president, and welcomed new board members Adil Baguirov, Ph.D., and Hazel Rountree, J.D., Ph.D.

87 Dayton Business Technology High School, a DPS-sponsored community school, received an Auditor of State Award, presented by Auditor Dave Yost's office in recognition of having a clean audit report. This award signifies the school's report was free from any findings for recovery, material citations or weaknesses, significant deficiencies, single audit findings or questionable costs.

88 Trustees of The Jack W. and Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation, a fund of The Dayton Foundation, approved a $250,000 grant to help restore Stivers' original 1914 auditorium, located on the building's second floor. The classic performance space was not restored when the rest of the building was updated in 2009 because of budget constraints.

89 DPS-TV earned its fifth bronze Telly in the 35th annual Telly Awards for a piece titled “Thanks DPS…,” produced for the district's 2013 Opening Day Convocation. The video, featuring DPS students reflecting on the impact DPS educators have made on their lives, was one of 12,000 entries from the U.S. and around the world.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

90 Dayton Public Schools held four back-to-school information fairs to help families make the most of the district's many programs and opportunities. Educators were on hand to talk about the third-grade guarantee, high school graduation requirements, new instructional programs, parent involvement opportunities, Safe Routes to School, student registration and more.

91 DPS Director of Health Services Virginia Noe, R.N., received the 2014 Hero/Shero award from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. The award honors individuals at a grassroots level who give their time, talent and resources to better serve the healthcare of minority citizens.

92 For the second year, the district addressed a variety of back-to-school questions through a special information call center in August. DPS also offered back-to-school information 24-hours a day, seven days a week with a special “back to school” page on the district website.

93 All Kiser PreK-8 students and Gardendale Academy students received a free backpack, courtesy of a generous community collaboration. The donation was courtesy of Dayton Crayons to Classrooms (DC2C), which provides free school supplies to teachers in need, along with Thirty-One Gifts, Delta Dental of Ohio, McGohan Brabender, and UnitedHealthcare. Gardendale Academy staff also furnished school supplies to fill the backpacks before they were distributed to students.

94 Dayton Public Schools Superintendent Lori Ward kept the community informed about the district's ongoing work to improve student achievement by hosting three town hall meetings in September and October.

95 Dayton Children's Hospital and Kohl's Department Stores partnered to teach kids cold, flu and asthma prevention tips to kick off their 2013 A Minute for Kids campaign at Edison Pre-K-8.

96 The students and staff of WDPS FM held a listener appreciation concert featuring a special tribute to WDPS on-air personality Clay “The Cooker” Collins, who celebrated 45 years in Dayton radio. The free concert was held at the David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center, home of WDPS Radio.

97 DPS families enjoyed free activities during a “Country Fair” celebration at Carriage Hill Farm and at Aullwood Farm’s “Apple Fest.” Families also enjoyed special programs for all ages at SunWatch Indian Village. The events were sponsored by the Office of School Improvement and External Resources and were Title I grant funded programs.

98 Neighborhood walks and breakfast receptions were all part of National Walk to School Day, celebrating the health and fitness benefits of walking to school, while focusing on safe practices for walkers, bikers and riders.

99 The Dayton Education Council hosted the Board of Education Candidates Night live from the DPS TV studio. Candidates answered questions prepared by the DEC, as well as questions from viewers and the studio audience. (The Dayton Education Council is comprised of representatives from each of the district's schools.)
Parents and community members had coffee with Superintendent Lori Ward and members of the Dayton Board of Education to continue the dialog about academic programs, student achievement, and parent and community involvement. The district continued to solicit community input to help make Dayton Public Schools a district of choice.

Dayton Education Council meetings presented topics of interest to DPS parents at monthly meetings, including parent-friendly websites, college readiness, human trafficking and preventing summer slide. Guest speakers presented and answered parents’ questions.

Cleveland PreK-6 School welcomed DPS families to enjoy a snowy Saturday of family fun as COSI (Center of Science and Industry) presented its traveling program, “Exploring Ecology.” The innovative, interactive program is just one of six traveling science outreach programs from COSI.

DPS held a briefing for media on new federal legislation requiring schools to keep EpiPens, an auto-injection device administered to children during emergency reactions. Virginia Noe, director of DPS health services, was joined by U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, who co-sponsored the legislation. The law gives funding to states that require schools to maintain epinephrine without a prescription for any student who may experience life-threatening anaphylactic shock.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation of Fairhaven Church, some 900 bins totaling more than $81,000 in toys, personal items, coats and household items filled the district warehouse, benefitting district students served by the DPS McKinney-Vento program for families in temporary shelter and other students in need.

The district’s 2013-2014 Parent University Series offered sessions on primary literacy (developing young readers), coffee with the superintendent and board, Dayton Board of Education Candidate’s Night (produced by the Dayton Education Council), and a VIP recognition for DPS parents and community partners.

DPS hosted special guest speaker Lisa Pescara-Kovach, associate professor of educational psychology, University of Toledo, to address bullying: the cause, consequences and most effective prevention and intervention methods. She offered practical suggestions for parents on making sure their district is in line with current state mandates regarding bullying and cyberbullying.

A new DPS Parent Handbook gave families a ready resource at their fingertips for working with their school, knowing district procedures, and helping their children succeed.