TEACHING AND LEARNING

1. Seven seniors from Ponitz CTC and Thurgood Marshall STEM HS were recognized for their participation in Sinclair Community College's Seniors to Sophomores program, collectively earning 169 credits to be applied toward completion of a degree at colleges and universities at home and across the nation.

2. Students attending Louise Troy’s open house received a school supply kit filled with 30 different items to use during the 2014-2015 school year. More than 350 kits were distributed to students at the school.

3. Two DPS teams came away with victories at the CougarBot First LEGO League regional robotics competition. Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy (EagleBots Team 14872) earned the Judges Award, given to a team demonstrating extraordinary characteristics that set them apart from other teams. Dayton Boys Prep had a unique project for teaching phonics to elementary school students.

4. Stivers School for the Arts had the highest completion percentage in Montgomery County for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), ensuring that DPS graduates would be college and career ready.

5. Dayton Public Schools dedicated Rosa Parks Early Learning Center, devoted entirely to preschool education. The school is operated jointly with Miami Valley Child Development Center to serve children ages three and four with programs to get them kindergarten ready, with a focus on science, math and literacy.

6. Khayin Miller (Thurgood Marshall STEM High School) and Ja’Laquan Mitchell (Dunbar Early College High School) were two of 1,000 students nationwide to become Gates Millennium Scholars, receiving full college tuition, covering undergraduate and graduate studies. The Gates Millennium Scholars program, established by Bill and Melinda Gates, provides outstanding minority students with the financial backing to complete an undergraduate college education and attain advanced degrees.

7. Wogaman 5-8 teacher Rachel Blanks was selected by the Cincinnati Reds to become a Major League Baseball All-Star Teacher and was also recognized by the Ohio Senate 130th General Assembly for her accomplishment.

8. Two Thurgood Marshall STEM High School teachers and the school itself were named winners of Governor’s Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence in STEM Education for their work in the 2013-14 school year. Samuel Eckhart, a STEM coach, and Kurtz Miller, a curriculum and assessment specialist, were honored. The high school, which was designated by the state as the region’s newest STEM school, was also an award winner. Criteria included science fair participation, providing STEM-based learning opportunities for students outside of the classroom, and obtaining community-based STEM partners.

9. Restorative Justice, introduced previously in selected DPS elementary schools, was expanded to eight additional schools for the 2014-2015 year, with plans for district-wide adoption by 2017, pending funding. The program reinforces positive behavior, conflict resolution and reconciliation, while teaching students responsibility, respect, and appropriate behavior in school and society.

10. Meadowdale HS senior and Superintendent’s Student Senate president Allison Mayfield-Brown and Superintendent Lori L. Ward inspired 2,000 DPS employees and special guests at the district’s 2014 opening day convocation. Employees of the Year Sarah Szumnarski and Ken Kreitzer also shared their passion for working with students as the district celebrated a new year.

11. Ponitz CTC engineering students became National Robotic League Grand Champions after competing against 63 other teams, some from as far as Puerto Rico.
12 The Build-A-Bear workshop from the Fairfield Commons Mall helped three classrooms of Kemp first-graders make reading buddies. Teachers believed the reading buddies gave the children a welcoming, non-critical “friend” to build their confidence as they practiced reading aloud.

13 More than 100 African American male role models and community leaders visited every DPS school to meet and talk with young men about reaching their potential in a complex world. Group presentations led to some earnest conversations and promises from community leaders to come back and, in some cases, adopt a school.

14 Thurgood Marshall STEM High School held the first “Taste of Thurgood” festival, featuring food and desserts for purchase, along with craft and jewelry items for sale, health screenings by Walgreens, face painting, poetry and cheer performances, and demonstrations by the school’s robotics team.

15 DPS social science teachers Cynthia Jones (Valerie PreK-6), Catrina Jackson (Belle Haven PreK-8), Lawrence Jurosic (Belmont HS), and Patricia Nies and Sally Roof (Kiser PreK-8), participated in a teacher study tour, organized and sponsored by the Turkish Cultural Foundation. The study tours are the second tier of Spotlight on Turkey, a nationwide educational program organized by TCF, the World Affairs Councils of America and its local chapters, and funded by a major TCF grant intended to enhance international learning opportunities for American educators and, in turn, students.

16 A group of students at Louise Troy PreK-4 School received a signed note from First Lady Michelle Obama congratulating their class on writing their own book, about school pride. The project was done as a part of Jennifer Brown’s third-grade curriculum with support from Rotary members Joe and Kelly Lehman. Each student received a signed, laminated copy of the congratulatory letter, and a book of fun facts about reading.

17 Linda Sheffield, second grade teacher at the Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy; Anna Lyon, associate professor at Wright State University, and Eric Demario, a student teacher from Wright State University; wrote and received a CEHS Partnership/Community Mini-Grant from Wright State. The $1,000 grant was used to purchase books and materials for a joint project to look at academic growth in reading among second-graders through a DPS-university partnership.

18 Westwood PreK-8 School Title I ECE teacher Patricia Timmons was named a 2014-2015 STEM Fellow. In preparation for her preschool-kindergarten service, she participated in industry tours and gained insights into STEM workforce environments, habits of mind and diverse professional backgrounds, as well as Dayton STEM industries and resources.

19 Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy student Damarian Maye took top honors at the annual DPS Lucia May Wiant Speech Contest. Students in grades two through eight recited prose and poetry and presented original works.

20 Dayton professionals from the National Society of Black Engineers offered an Academic Excellence Program (AEP) at Thurgood Marshall STEM High School, aimed at strengthening math skills, developing good study habits, and preparing students for college.

21 Belmont High school hosted the second annual Noches de Ciencias (Science Nights) a national initiative established by the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers (SHPE) Foundation to promote knowledge and interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) among the Hispanic community. The goal of Noches de Ciencias is to inform K-12 students and their families about STEM education and college options through interactive workshops and activities.

22 River’s Edge Montessori PreK-6 School invited the community to “Voices of River’s Edge,” presented in partnership with Welcome Dayton. The series offered discussion of the rich cultural traditions that make up the REM school community.

23 Ponitz CTC students in the arts and communication pathway, working with WYSO FM, produced radio features on life issues from the students’ perspective, which aired on NPR. The project showcased career tech education at its best, real world goals and deadlines, professional contacts and input, and work that reaches beyond the classroom.

24 Longfellow freshman Jaden Wright (teacher Margaret Wood) was the grand prize winner of the Families Matter Art Poster Contest, sponsored by Family Services, a community support organization.

25 The Dayton Public Schools Class of 2015 earned $22.4 million in scholarships to continue their education, up from $12 million last year.
101+ Reasons to be Proud of Dayton Public Schools

At the close of the 2014-15 year, 67 percent of DPS third graders met the third grade reading guarantee, up from 45 percent the previous year.

The first-ever DPS Signing Day brought more than 260 high school seniors from six high schools together to celebrate the next step in their academic pursuits—from colleges and career certification to service in the military. It was an inspiring and exciting day for students and educators alike.

Kohl's Department Stores and Dayton Children’s kicked off the annual “Kohl's A Minute for Kids” campaign at Cleveland PreK-6 School. Students received healthy lifestyle information from Kohl’s associates, following a check presentation by Kohl’s to Children’s. The donation funded an initiative focused on identifying and addressing childhood obesity.


Ponitz CTC engineering students competed against 40 other teams to win the Xtreme Combat Robot regional competition, held at the Wright State Nutter Center. In addition, the team of James Cummings, Francisco Garcia, Cody Blankenship, Allan Herrera, and Jerel Wilson was awarded the “Best Sportsmanship” award.

Lidia Bastianich, internationally acclaimed chef, restaurateur and host of the Emmy-nominated public television series, Lidia’s Italy, visited senior students in the culinary arts program at Ponitz CTC. Seniors prepared several recipes from Bastianich’s repertoire and received feedback from the esteemed chef, who was in town to promote her latest cookbook.

International artist and local educator Bing Davis spoke with students at Thurgood Marshall STEM High School as part of the HistoryMakers project. The national program records and encourages oral history presentations by notable African Americans throughout the United States. Davis was profiled by the program in 2006, and continues to speak with classes across Dayton Public Schools about his experiences as an artist and educator.

Community partners and families celebrated Walk to School Day, joining children as they walked or biked to school. Snacks and prizes were part of Cleveland PreK-6 School’s celebration, while representatives from Dayton Children’s and FedEx walked to school with Ruskin students. Thousands of schools across America and Puerto Rico participate every October.

Artists from Stivers School for the Arts reprised “Savor Your Sunday,” a special brunch series featuring performances at Coco’s Bistro. A different Stivers group performed each Sunday in February: strings, choir, concert pianists and the jazz quintet. Funds raised helped to support arts instruction at the school.

Retired DPS teacher and recently published author Jacqueline Moore visited Ponitz CTC to lead a writing lesson for seniors. Moore read part of her novel, The Canary, and dressed the part to represent her characters in the work of historical fiction.

From more than 300 DPS Science Fair entries, 38 earned superior ratings and advanced to West District Science Day regional competition, held at Central State University. These included individual projects, as well as team and class projects in divisions from grades five through 12.

Three preschool classes at Rosa Parks Early Learning Center unveiled a “quilt” project the students made as part of a unit on community.

The Stivers Orchestra sponsored a two-day residency with rock violinist Mark Wood, founding member
of Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The residency, which culminated with a concert, was entitled *Electrify Your Strings*, and encouraged students to combine imagination, creativity, and intellect in music making.

39 Dunbar Early College HS senior Marvell Conner III became the school’s first player to sign a college letter of intent to play soccer! Marvell was a member of the school’s Early College program. He will play soccer for West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

40 Dayton Public Schools hosted a two-day book giveaway event for teachers and parents of the district. The event was made possible with a donation of 5,000 books from a book drive organized by the University of Dayton’s Greek Week committee.

41 Wright Brothers PreK-8 School raised $953 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma “Pennies for Patients” campaign. The winning homeroom, Jessica Lomax’s first-grade class, raised $124.41 and received Domino's pizza. It was the fourth year for the Wright Brothers student council fundraiser.

42 Read Across America Day marked the 19th annual event coordinated by the Dayton Education Association honoring the birthday of Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel). Schools across the district welcomed readers from the community. Guest readers were invited to read “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” and other titles to Dayton Public Schools students.

43 Becky Stroh, a third-grade teacher at Ruskin PreK-8, received the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award from Five Rivers Metroparks for engaging her students with hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

44 The Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy Chess Team competed against Emerson Academy and checkmated its way to win the first-place team trophy and first- and second-place individual trophies.


46 The Stivers Jazz Orchestra received a standing ovation at the Schuster Center after accompanying Sheila Raye Charles (the daughter of Ray Charles) and Uros Peric (called one of the best interpreters of Ray Charles’ music), who opened for Smokey Robinson.

47 The Ponitz Broadcast News team (in the arts and communication career pathway) was ranked second nationally in the 2015 Business Professionals of America competition held in Anaheim, California.

48 A group of DPS fifth graders in the Fifth Third Young Bankers Club enjoyed field trips to Sinclair Community College and Fifth Third Center. The hands-on financial literacy program teaches students how to be financially responsible and be educated consumers.

49 The Dunbar Early College High School boys basketball team made it to the state semifinals.

50 The Ponitz Broadcast News team (in the arts and communication career pathway) was ranked second nationally in the 2015 Business Professionals of America competition held in Anaheim, California.

51 Rosa Parks Early Learning Center hosted a spring dance for its students and families at the school. Staff, students and parents enjoyed the festivities, dressed in everything from work attire to old prom dresses.

52 The Dayton Public Schools Challenger Center partnered with Kiser PreK-8 School to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope. Festivities included classroom visits to the Star Lab, Challenger’s portable planetarium; mini micronaut missions at the Challenger Center with grades 1-3; and models of telescopes created by students in grades 4-8.

53 The second annual DPS Debate Competition was held at Thurgood Marshall STEM High School, where student teams from 14 DPS schools participated in five rounds of competition. Debate topics included affirmative action and body cameras on police officers.

54 Stivers School for the Arts won varsity City League championships in volleyball, girls cross country, golf, baseball, softball and girls track. Tyler Johnson set a new OHSAA district track record in 400 and won the State Indoor Track Meet 100, 200 and 400.

55 Longfellow Academy students gave interactive presentations designed to encourage preservation and conservation of groundwater at the City of Dayton Children’s Water Festival. This one-day event, held at the University of Dayton for 2,000 4th graders from around the Miami Valley, offered fun-filled, water related games, hands-on experiments, exhibits, and entertainment.

56 Thurgood Marshall STEM High School won its sixth straight City League championship in varsity football and its eighth straight City League championship in varsity girls basketball.

57 Cleveland PreK-6 School presented “Follow the Dream,” a spring arts celebration featuring visual art, music and dance. The musical tour included country, gospel, classic rock, country-western, and contemporary.
101+ Reasons to be Proud of Dayton Public Schools

58 Wogaman teacher Rachel Blanks won a Target Field Trip, providing a culminating activity for a place-based study unit in her fifth-grade class. To prepare for a field excursion to a local Olive Garden restaurant, students had to demonstrate what they learned regarding the benefits of healthy eating and how to choose a meal that encouraged physical and financial health.

59 Nearly 300 students from six DPS high schools attended a series of after-school sessions, culminating with a daylong workshop to help them achieve college-worthy scores on the ACT (American College Testing) readiness assessment.

60 Ponitz CTC's Muse Machine hosted its fourth annual ArtFest, a community event that invites attendees to enjoy student art, concessions, crafts, and entertainment. Proceeds from the event were used to fund four in-school performances from local artists including Dayton Opera, Human Race, DCDC and others, and to offer affordable arts opportunities and workshops for Ponitz students.

61 Dayton Public Schools students demonstrated their scientific savvy at West District Science Day. Twelve students received Superior ratings, qualifying them to compete in State Science Day at The Ohio State University. Three students received special awards - the Levin Porter Architects Outstanding Design Award and the Naval Research Science Award.

62 Dunbar Early College High School senior Ja'Laquan Mitchell made DPS history, as the first student to earn the prestigious honor of being both a Coca-Cola Scholar and Gates Millennium Scholar. Mitchell was one of 150 in the nation to be selected for the 2014-2015 class of Coca-Cola Scholars. The award comes with a $20,000 college scholarship. He is the first DPS student since 2008 to win the Coca-Cola Scholar designation, and the third in district history; he also is the first Dunbar student to achieve this award.

63 Cornel West, an American philosopher, author and social activist, spent a morning at Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy, as part of Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy's Men of Honor and the District's Men of Color initiatives. Ivy League educated (Harvard and Princeton), Dr. West has served as a professor of philosophy at Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Union Theological Seminary and Paris University (France).

64 Dunbar Early College High School captured the City League championship in middle school football, seventh-and eighth-grade boys basketball, and eighth-grade girls basketball. Dunbar freshmen were the City League basketball champions.

65 The Belmont Naval JROTC drill and rifle teams presented the colors at the Dayton Dragons baseball game at Fifth Third Field for Belmont Night and was honored to receive first place in Region 3 on the National Academic Test.

66 Dunbar Early College High School varsity boys basketball team won its ninth straight City League, sixth straight OHSAA District and fifth OHSAA Regional championships, making it to the Final Four in state competition. Senior Amos Harris signed with The Ohio State University.

67 Meadowdale's Ja'la Henderson set a new record in the long jump in the City League and OHSAA district track meets. She signed with the University of Wyoming.

68 The Ponitz Career Technology Career Center and Dunbar Early College High School varsity boys basketball teams won the title of City League co-champions.

69 Dunbar Early College High School achieved its 21st straight City League championship, as well as OHSAA District, State Indoor, and Indoor National (sprint medley) championships, breaking a 17-year national record in the sprint medley. Dunbar's Brian Bell won the national championship in the indoor 800 meters.

70 The Meadowdale High School boys track team set a record in the 4x100 relay at the state track meet, and the middle school girls team won the City League track championship.

71 Dayton police officers hit the hardwood at Edison PreK-8 School, teaming up against students from four different DPS grade schools in the city. Officers said it was all about forming relationships and being positive role models.

72 DPS students observed the 29th anniversary of the Challenger shuttle explosion through participation in simulated space travel and STEM activities at the district's Challenger Center (located adjacent to Kiser PreK-8 School). The center is one of 40 across the United States, dedicated to educating students across the region about the wonders of space, science, and exploration.

73 Dunbar Early College High School boys soccer team won its first City League championship.

74 DPS students in preK-3 summer programs selected books to borrow, with library staff assisting them. The Dayton Metro Library brought its bookmobile to DPS schools that hosted summer academic programs.

75 World of Wonder students got a lesson in the democratic process, while older students pitched in with math skills. The project was centered around children's book, Don't Let the Crayons Quit! Younger students learned how to select their favorite crayon in the voting "booth." Older students tabulated the votes and determined the percentage of victory for the winner. In addition, one kindergarten class wrote about the experience, enforcing burgeoning literacy skills in young learners.
Celebrated Dayton artist James Pate collaborated with Thurgood Marshall STEM students on a mural honoring the school’s spirit and commitment to excellence. Themes of science, arts, family and school pride, and looking toward the future were all incorporated into the work. Students learned about the roles of light and shading while helping to bring the mural to life.

Dunbar's boys track team and Meadowdale's girls track team won the Division II high school regional track and field meet at Welcome Stadium.

Stivers School for the Arts was ranked among America’s best public high schools, in both Ohio and the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report, earning a silver medal. This was the fourth time the honor was earned.

Superintendent Ward gathered with Dayton’s mayor and the district’s community partners for a celebration and book giveaway at Westwood PreK-8 School. A communitywide Read On! campaign provided more than 24,000 new books for DPS preK through third grade students at 10 elementary schools.

Several Kiser PreK-8 School students received Air Camp scholarships to pursue a week-long summer adventure in aviation and aeronautics and to learn more about science, technology, engineering and mathematics using aviation and aerospace to promote the values of scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

Tia Daniels, a student at Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy, gave the first-place speech at the 29th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest. Second-place and third-place winners were Rio Gamble, Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy, and Elijah Stollings, Wright Brothers PreK-8 School, respectively. The top three winners earned a gold, silver or bronze medal, and Barnes & Noble gift cards, courtesy of Central State University.

Stivers School for the Arts had the highest completion percentage in Montgomery County for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, ensuring that DPS graduates would be college and career ready.

Seven seniors in The Ohio State University Young Scholars program left DPS with a full scholarship to pursue an array of majors. They are Del'Shawn Davis, Thurgood Marshall STEM HS; Brooke Hobbs, Althea Jones, and Kenia Lander, Stivers School for the Arts; Ke’Von Huguley and Allison Mayfield-Brown, Meadowdale HS; and Moriah Scroggins Dayton Early College Academy (a DPS-sponsored charter school).

Stivers senior Ebi Reyes was selected to participate in the QuestBridge Program, a National College Match designed specifically to help high-achieving low-income students gain admission and scholarships to some of the country’s best colleges and universities, among them, Yale, Stanford and MIT.

The annual Math-O-Lympics challenged students in exciting mathematical competitions. Students in grades four through eight competed in the Battle of the Brains, Team Challenge, and the all-new Design Challenge, where seventh- and eighth-grade competitors gather and analyze information to solve a real-life problem using technology.

Meadowdale International Baccalaureate students contributed more than 2,000 hours of community service during the school year.

Middle-school musicians at Fairview PreK-8 School received high marks in the Ohio Music Educators Association District 12 Solo and Ensemble Festival. Anaysia Coates and Demetrius Young received a rating of Superior. Nakayla Edwards received a rating of Excellent.

Edison third-graders used place-based learning, which connects the classroom and community, to create a pocket park on the school grounds. Native plants and some stepping stones complete with a bird bath and feeders gave local residents a quiet respite from the bustle of daily routines.

Meadowdale's Jala Henderson and Jamara Pettigrew received full scholarships for track at the University of Wyoming and Indiana Tech, respectively.

Rosa Parks Early Learning Center teacher Soammy Feliciano-Hurst, Stivers teacher Rachael Murdock, Rosa Parks ELC teacher Nancy Williams, and Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy Principal Horace Lovelace were selected as Excellence in Teaching and Administration award recipients by the Rotary Club of Dayton.

The Meadowdale High School debate team placed second in the district finals.
Ruskin kindergarten students celebrated becoming “100 days smarter” with a day of special activities. Like their counterparts across the district, they were observing the 100th day of kindergarten with counting games and projects—all featuring the number 100.

Carol Nolan and Kathy Gooch received an Occupational Therapy award from the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association, for outstanding contribution to the continuing education of their profession. They were recognized for their work to improve services to students, prepare them for success and address parents’ information needs.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

DPS received the 2015 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. It is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, representing significant accomplishment by an organization and its management.

Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel joined Dayton Public Schools officials in announcing the district’s participation in OhioCheckbook.com. Dayton was the first district in the county and largest district in southwest Ohio to use this system, which provides an online look at all district financial transactions.

DPS awarded scholarships to 10 deserving 2015 graduates at the annual DPS Scholarship Golf Classic at the Miami Valley Golf Club. Students from Belmont, Dunbar, Meadowdale, Ponitz, Stivers and Thurgood Marshall each received $500 and a laptop computer, thanks to participants and generous sponsors.

DPS-TV received its sixth bronze Telly award for a video titled “Happy…,” featuring DPS schools and departments with their take on the Pharrell Williams hit. The video was produced for the district’s 2014 Opening Day Convocation.

Principal Karla Goins received a check for $25,000 on behalf of Louise Troy PreK-4 School from the Links, Inc. to fund an exciting literacy program, Books Alive, which combines reading and the arts to foster a love of books.


CUSTOMER SERVICE

The district’s annual back-to-school rally featured school information, parent involvement opportunities and more with support from community partners. It was held in partnership with the BJKIDS 91 Foundation, offering free haircuts and styling for kids heading back to class.

Fairview PreK-8 School held a community event for its African families, most of which are new to the United States. The evening was filled with traditional dance and song, beautiful native outfits, and delicious African dishes. Many DPS departments and local agencies were on hand to offer information for festival attendees.

DPS assisted families through the back-to-school call center through the month of August to address a variety of topics, including school supplies and uniform requirements, bell schedules, registration and transportation information.

Some 130 teachers from Eastmont, Horace Mann, and Wright Brothers, with their principals, spent the morning of their records/professional development day in service to the community. The group gathered to label more than 25,000 books for Kids Read Now, a nonprofit group that distributes books to students in grades K-3 to prevent “summer slide.”

Cleveland PreK-6 School hosted a volunteer appreciation lunch for the parents and community members who helped make their school a special place to work and learn.

The Dayton Education Council hosted a workshop for parents interested in getting a jump start on saving for their children’s college education, with a presentation by a local banking executive.
101+ Reasons to be Proud of Dayton Public Schools

106 The DPS Transportation Department was one of the regional hosts for the West Region School Bus Road-E-O at Belmont High School. Districts from around the region joined DPS drivers in a competition designed to test their operational and safety skills. Top participants at each regional road-e-o moved on to compete at the state level.

107 The Dayton Public Schools Office for Exceptional Children held its 2015 Regional Transition Fair: “It’s Your Life,” at the Miami Valley Regional Center. The event will provide students, their families and teachers with information about options for living, working and continued learning, as well as community resources to support taking the next steps into the adult world.

108 DPS families enjoyed a free day of outdoor fun at Aullwood Audubon Farm during its annual Apple Fest, featuring children’s activities, live entertainment, a rooster crowing contest, delicious seasonal treats, and more. The event is sponsored by the Office of School Improvement and External Resources and is a Title I grant funded program.

109 The district hosted a series of four Town Hall meetings, inviting public input to assist in making some tough decisions to ensure more of every dollar supports classroom instruction. Officials also updated citizens on district progress.

110 The DPS Parent University offered a volunteer training session in collaboration with Project READ and Wright State University that covered fluency, phonics and reading competency; the need for DPS volunteers; and the importance of school-community partnerships.

111 Uniformed cadets in the Belmont High School NJROTC program served as greeters at the Sports/Fitness Expo, held at the Nutter Center.

112 Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy Principal Horace Lovelace shared information and answered questions from parents during monthly Pizza with the Principal sessions.

113 All Dayton families were invited to enjoy a pancake breakfast, while children selected gifts for their parents at a free holiday event sponsored by the district’s partner, Apex Community Church.

114 The new Student Enrollment Center opened to provide a one-stop shop for preK-12 enrollment, with a parent advocate and other features to better serve DPS families.

115 A VIP reception was held for Very Important Parents and (Community) Partners. Parents and community partners were also recognized by the Dayton Board of Education.