



Education Matters

Issue #6

Fall 2014

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Dear Jill,

As our students compete in speech contests, Math-O-Lympics and robotics competitions, they are sharpening critical thinking, team building and other STEM skills that will prepare them for future success. (See stories below.) This issue highlights student and staff achievements and updates you about opportunities for involvement. You can support DPS by attending school events, expressing your thoughts at our public forums, or by simply sharing this newsletter with a friend. We are grateful for our subscribers and wish you the best in the upcoming holiday season.

Join Us

TOWN HALL MEETING

We want to hear from you!

Dayton Public Schools leaders will host the second of two town hall meetings, using input from a broad cross-section of district residents to assist in making some tough decisions as the district works to ensure more of every dollar supports classroom instruction. The town hall

meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 3 at Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy (1923 W. Third St.).

Feedback from these sessions will help DPS in laying the groundwork for the 2015-2016 budget process, which begins in a few months. District leaders also will update the community on progress made following DPS town hall meetings last school year.

Community members may call the Office of Family and Community Engagement for more information at (937) 542-3013.

Dayton Boys Prep student gives winning speech

Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy student Damarian Maye took top honors at the 2014 DPS Lucia May Wiant Speech Contest in early November. His winning oration was "The Little Black Boy" by William Blake. Students in grades two through eight recited prose and poetry and presented original works in the Wright Brothers Auditorium, impressing the audience--and judges--with their elocution and stage presence. Grade group awards also were presented at the end of the evening. This was the 57th year for the competition.



DPS educators win science honor

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 the 2013-14 school year. Samuel Eckhart, a math teacher, and Kurtz Miller, a curriculum and assessment specialist, were honored. Thurgood Marshall High School, which was designated by the state as the region's newest STEM school, also was 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.

Community celebrates Walk to School Day



International Walk to School Day is celebrated in early October each year. Community members join children as they walk 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. International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. The event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and celebration of community. *(Pictured above, the Ruskin community makes safety a priority on Walk to School Day.)*

Westwood teacher receives STEM fellowship

Westwood PreK-8 School Title I ECE teacher Patricia Timmons has been named a 2014-2015 STEM Fellow. In preparation for her preschool-kindergarten service, she will participate in industry tours and gain insights into STEM workforce environments and diverse professional backgrounds, including Dayton STEM industries and resources.

It's a celebration

DPS made history in October with the dedication of Rosa Parks Early Learning Center (3705 Lori Sue Ave.). The school is operated jointly with Miami Valley Child Development Centers to serve children ages three and four with programs to get them kindergarten ready. The program offers DPS an opportunity for greater collaboration with Learn to Earn, ReadySetSoar, Montgomery County Educational Service Center and Montgomery County.



The newly repurposed school is designed to meet the academic and social needs of young children in a caring and safe environment, with a focus on science, math and literacy. The free preschool serves 244 children with morning, afternoon and full-day classes. The school has the capacity to serve 400. *(Pictured above, Rosa Parks students sing the school song for invited guests and dignitaries during the dedication ceremony.)*

Academic competitions abound

Cheering crowds and teamwork were the ticket when students competed in several major events Nov. 22.



Thurgood Marshall High School hosted the Cougarbots Regional FIRST LEGO League Qualifier. Kiser PreK-8 School *(pictured here)* and Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy finished sixth and seventh, respectively, from a field of 14 teams. Dayton Boys Prep also received the Judges' Award for extraordinary characteristics that set them apart from other competing teams. Their project was developed to teach phonics to elementary students. [\(Learn more.\)](#)



The district's annual Math-Olympics at Belmont High School drew students from all preK-8 schools, along with Stivers and Belmont, to compete in a number of exciting mathematical contests. Grade 4-6 winners were Wright Brothers, first place; Eastmont,

second place; and Kemp, third place. Grade 7-8 winners were Belle Haven, first place; Stivers, second place; and Wright Brothers, third place. ([Learn more.](#))

During a third event, Ponitz Career Technology Center students took top honors at the Xtreme Combat Robot competition at Wright State University's Nutter Center and picked up an award for "Best Sportsmanship." Another Ponitz team earned third place in the tournament and received additional recognition for "Best Engineered Robot."

County recognizes calendar contest winner

Cleveland PreK-8 School third-grader Ravyn Strozier (teacher Langston Watras) was a grand prize winner in the 2015 Environmental Calendar Contest, sponsored by the Montgomery County Solid Waste Services. Her work was selected from a field of 829 entries! Ravyn was recognized at an awards ceremony in the Montgomery County Administration Building, and her work was displayed at an art show and tour at the Montgomery County Environmental Learning Center Nov. 20.

Teacher honored as MLB All-Star

Wogaman fifth-grade teacher Rachel Blanks was selected by the Cincinnati Reds to become a Major League Baseball All-Star Teacher. Her MLB All-Star profile noted her success in collecting more than \$1,000 in grants for Place Based curriculum, establishing a fitness and nutrition club for the 21st century, and gaining recognition as the "educator working for you" by a local television station. She was congratulated in person by Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden and an English teacher, who joined in the celebration of Major League Baseball's All-Star Teachers in Minneapolis.

Mark Your Calendar

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Break / No Teachers or Students
Nov 27 - 28 Thanksgiving Holiday / District Closed
Dec 03 - Town Hall Meeting, 6 p.m., Dayton Boys Prep Academy
Dec 18 - End of Second Quarter / Students Report
Dec 19 - Records-Professional Development Day / No Students
Dec 22 - Jan 02 Winter Break / No Teachers or Students
Dec 24 - 25 Christmas Holiday / District Closed
Dec 31 - Jan 01 New Year's Holiday / District Closed
Jan 05 - Students Return
Jan 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday / District Closed

DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

Dayton Public Schools remains committed to our four academic non-negotiables. They are (1) kindergarten readiness, (2) third-graders reading on grade level, (3) closing the achievement gap, and (4) high school graduates ready for college and careers.

Lori L. Ward, Superintendent