



BEAR TRACKS



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



Aladdin Broadway Trip

In November, our middle school and secondary applied studies students visited New York City to see Ground Zero and enjoy *Aladdin* on Broadway. Prior to the trip, students spent time learning about the events of September 11, 2001 and the significance of that day. They researched and studied the many memorials that have since been set up and what these symbolize to the American people. Our students then discussed the story of *Aladdin* and the geography and culture of the Middle East. They watched the *Aladdin* movies, and created a Venn diagram about the two productions.

The trip to New York was fantastic. Students and staff enjoyed an interpreted performance of *Aladdin* on Broadway after their visit to Ground Zero. After the show, the group met with the interpreters and the ASL Director to ask questions and learn about what is involved in interpreting a Broadway performance. The day concluded with dinner at the famous Ray's Pizza. It was delicious! ■

SPRING 2020



Our vision

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

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

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

The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

537 Venard Road
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
(570) 585-1000 V/TTY
(866) 978-1886 VP

www.thescrantonsschool.org

Editor: Dr. Steve Farmer

Managing Editor: Jessica Marks

Bear Tracks

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Aladdin Broadway Trip | 6 | Life of the Honey Bee |
| 2 | Prudential Field Trip | 7 | Thanksgiving |
| 3 | Spirit Week | 7 | Penny Wars Toys for Tots |
| 3 | Celebrating Dr. Seuss | 8 | Holiday Show |
| 4 | Prudential ASL Classes | 8 | Ski Club Fun! |
| 5 | PBIS Karate | 9 | Santa Comes to Town |
| 5 | First Responders Breakfast | 10 | SSDHHC's Therapy Dog Program |
| 6 | Halloween | 12 | Blowout in a Winter Wonderland! |



Prudential Field Trip

On October 22, our middle and high school students had the opportunity to experience a "Day at the Office". Our students were guests of the ADAPT program at Prudential in Scranton.

In the morning, the students toured the facility and learned about different employment opportunities available at Prudential. They participated in presentations by Prudential team members from various departments and shared lunch with Prudential staff participating in the lunchtime ASL classes.

In the afternoon, students had an opportunity to learn about workplace accommodations from Diane Hettinger and watch Prudential's Deaf developer, Thomas Chappell, share his experiences with the technology he uses and creates.

Ms. Hettinger and Mr. Chappell work in Prudential's New Jersey office and were willing to come to Scranton and meet our students.

After the day at Prudential came to a close, SSDHHC students were eager to invite Ms. Cheryl Petrosky, Mr. Joe Duffy and Mr. Thomas Chappell back to our campus. They visited classrooms and the dorm. Our students were able to share our school and what they are learning with the Prudential team. ■





Spirit Week

Spirit Week at SSDHHC is always a great way to show school spirit and is always loads of fun for students and staff. This year's Spirit Week included Zoo Day, Pajama Day, Wacky Wednesday, Superhero/ Character Day and Team Color Day. The entire school was divided into two teams of blue and gold. Dressing in each day's theme and playing games throughout the day could earn your team additional points. The competition was fierce this year, but in the end, the gold team ended the week with a win ending the blue team's winning streak!! ■



You Can Find Magic
Wherever You Look.
Sit Back and Relax All
You Need is a Book.

-Dr. Seuss

State Representative Kyle Mullins visited our students to read *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut* by Dr. Seuss. After story time, students played Yertle the Turtle Stacking, Pin the Hat on the Cat, Make Your Own Cat Hat, One Fish, Two Fish for Words and more. The Turtle Stacking was a fan favorite! A huge thank you to our fantastic Middle School students for helping to run the activities for our younger students and a special thank you to Carlene Miller for dressing and playing the role of Cat in the Hat!

A special Seussical lunch was served in the cafeteria with green eggs and ham, whimsical cupcakes and chicken wocket pockets. ■





Prudential ASL Classes

The Scranton School began a very exciting partnership with Prudential Scranton last Spring. Prudential ADAPT BRG reached out in an effort to offer hearing screenings to their employees. With The Scranton School providing the mobile diagnostic unit and Family Hearing Center sharing their audiologists -over 100 Prudential employees participated in our first joint venture. Seeing the success of the first collaboration, everyone quickly realized that working together would benefit both organizations. As part of SSDHHC's Outreach efforts, Mary Ann Stefko, Cheryl Petrosky and Joe Duffy - from Prudential ADAPT - discussed the potential for "Lunch and Learn" sign language classes for Prudential employees. In October, the first "Lunch and Learn" series began and was enthusiastically received by Prudential employees. The highlight of the "Lunch and Learn" series has been the middle school students from SSDHHC spending a day "on the job" at Prudential exploring career opportunities. In addition, Prudential Senior developer-Thomas Chappell, a graduate of NTID, visited the Scranton site to share his education, experiences and professional career with our students. The students left Prudential with a very clear message - your future is bright and many companies, like Prudential, place a high value on diversity and inclusion! The "Lunch and Learn" series continues and we have added an inter-site component. Thomas Chappell connects with us in Scranton, from his office in New Jersey, to co-teach the classes. What an awesome opportunity to connect across the organization and allow everyone the opportunity to have full access to this project. Prudential employees have gone above and beyond to become part of The

Scranton School and support our school's efforts. Prudential employees used their community engagement time to volunteer at our golf tournament; Prudential became a silver sponsor for our annual Gala and Mr. Chappell has visited campus to facilitate STEM activities with our students. As the Prudential ADAPT BRG and The Scranton School collaboration continues to grow, we hope to educate and enhance both organizations while deepening our ties within the community. Written by: Cheryl Petrosky, Joe Duffy and Mary Ann Stefko. ■



PBIS Karate

On Thursday, October 24th, The Scranton School turned its gym into a Karate Studio for the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support monthly blowout. Huntzinger's Karate hosted the event for all students who earned the opportunity by showing readiness, responsibility, respect, and safety throughout the past month. Students were introduced to the sport and culture of karate, as well as the importance of focus, awareness, and self-control. After warming up and watching demonstrations, the students learned karate moves and routines. Their confidence soared as they broke wooden boards, practiced their kicks, and even learned some important self-defense maneuvers. At the end of the blowout, all students received a certificate for a free private session and free introductory class at any of the Huntzinger Karate studios. The Scranton School is so grateful to Huntzinger Karate for generously offering our students this amazing opportunity. ■



First Responders Breakfast

On October 28th, The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children celebrated National First Responder's Appreciation Day by hosting a breakfast for first responders. Sixteen first responders, which included two local police chiefs, enjoyed a delicious breakfast provided by The Scranton School's very own chefs. Following breakfast, participants engaged in discussion about the law regarding interpreting, how to obtain a certified interpreter, and how to communicate with a Deaf person during an emergency.

The Scranton School is excited to continue our partnership with first responders in our community by offering specially designed Sign Language classes for their departments. If you are interested in having one of these classes brought to your agency or department, contact Hannah Hart at hhart@thescrantonschool.org or 570.585.1000. ■





Halloween

A rainy Halloween could not dampen the spirits of students at SSDHHC. The festivities began with a healthy Halloween lunch, prepared by Bryan Carey and Michael Danylak.

After lunch, preschoolers and elementary students were joined by children from the Choices for Children program for a Halloween Parade, sponsored by the PSO. Following the parade through the hallways, CFC families, preschoolers and kindergarteners proceeded to a dance and photo booth in the second floor multi-purpose room. Talk of the Town Productions, Jessup, donated the use of the Photo Booth and the DJ services. Darryl Bickauskas served as DJ. Snack Shack of Wilkes-Barre donated ice cream treats. Two more dances were held that day -- one for elementary students and one for middle school and high school students.

Through the generosity of the PSO and its members, healthy snacks and light-up necklaces in brightly colored treat bags were distributed to students of all ages. CFC families also received the treat bags, along with Halloween bears. Students in Sarah Taylor's class assembled the bags that were distributed that day.

Students and CFC families also received a pumpkin to take home and decorate, courtesy of Adam Fisher and Ashley Halechko. ■

Life of the Honey Bee

On Wednesday, November 6th, students in preschool through third grade were treated to a delightful nature presentation, "Life of the Honey Bee." Two gentlemen from the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association, Mr. James Wood and Mr. Jim Barber, conducted an interactive, educational experience with our students that included the role playing of the many different types of bees within a hive. Students volunteered to be worker bees, nursing bees, baby bees, housekeeping bees, air conditioning bees, drones, and even the queen bee! Students and staff alike greatly enjoyed the fun, informative role-plays. Students were shown the special gear worn while tending a hive, and a couple of students were even able to dress like a beekeeper! The crowning glory of the presentation was the glass-enclosed beehive, full of live bees! Students were fascinated by the degree of activity occurring between the panes of glass. Mr. Wood and Mr. Barber also showed a variety of pictures and photographs that broadened student understanding of these fascinating creatures!



A good time was had by all! We thank Mr. Wood and Mr. Barber for taking the time to share their special hobby with us! We would also like to extend a big SSDHHC "thank you" for the lovely book donated to our library, the "I Love Bees" stickers, and the delicious jar of honey made by local bees! ■





Thanksgiving

Middle School students visited the South Abington Township and Clarks Summit Borough buildings to give back to the communities who give us so much. Students delivered Thanksgiving meals prepared by our talented school chefs.

Residential students invited friends and family to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. The dorm was decorated and everyone enjoyed delicious food and pies baked by our residential students and staff. ■



Penny Wars Toys for Tots

The Scranton School conducted a Penny War during the month of November. Our students and staff really got in the spirit. Each class collected money and had it deposited in milk jugs. Pennies and paper money gained points, while silver coins caused teams to lose points. In the end, Mrs. Treat's class was the grand winner and earned a special lunch with Principal Pettinato. The efforts from this event raised \$1,050.00. The money was donated to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. ■





Holiday Show

The Scranton School was full of holiday spirit as students performed the annual holiday show. There was holiday music, skits and of course, no Scranton holiday show is complete until we announce the winners of the ugly Christmas sweater contest! ■

Ski Club Fun!





Santa Comes to Town

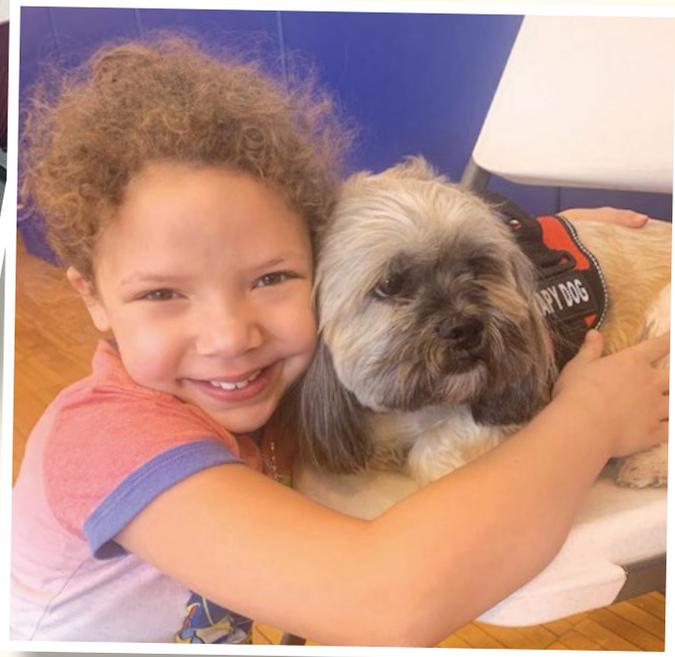
There is something about the Holiday Season that brings out the “kid” in all of us. Whether it’s the creativity and beauty of holiday light displays or the smells of seasonal treats, or perhaps it’s the excitement we feel as we exchange gifts and special gestures of appreciation with friends and loved ones - it is truly a magical time of year! Of course, adding to the Holiday feel is the anticipation of the arrival of that Big Guy in the Red Suit... SANTA CLAUS!

The Scranton School is so very thankful for each one of the thoughtful and generous folks who partnered with us to celebrate the season and inspire so many children, spreading wonder and joy to our community this year. Thank you for being a part of the magic! ■

Santa took TWO days out of his busy travel schedule to spend some time chatting with young children from The Scranton School and our local community about their Christmas lists and pose for pictures. Students attending the “Annual Breakfast With Santa” event enjoyed a delicious breakfast and then received a special book from Santa and his 8th-Grade Elves. Elementary-age students and younger children in our Choices for Children program, as well as a number of young children from the South Abington Community joined us at the Abington Community Library for the 10th Annual Signing Santa event and enjoyed some special gifts delivered by Santa and Mrs. Claus and a free book from the Abington Community Library’s Book Nook.

Not to be outdone, members of the SSSD Alumni Association got into the spirit of the season too! Alumni representatives generously presented each student at The Scranton School with a gift card to 5-Below so they could each choose a special gift for themselves or a loved one.





SSDHHC's Therapy Dog Program

There is a dog in school?!

The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children is one of the latest schools to open its doors to a furry, four-legged companion. School Therapy Dogs are currently trending as more and more educational institutions begin to understand the benefits of animal-assisted therapy.

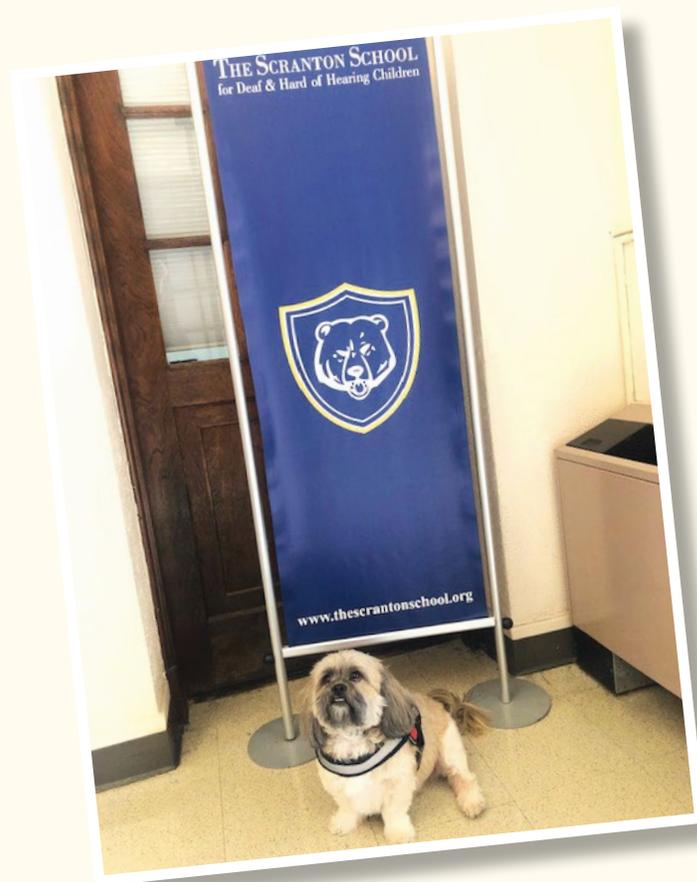
So, what is a Therapy Dog?

Working dogs are on the rise in this country, and the difference between their roles and training often gets confused. There are three types of working dogs: Service Dogs, Emotional-Support Dogs, and Therapy Dogs.

Service Dogs work to help people with disabilities such as visual impairments, seizure disorders, heart defects, and diabetes. They are specifically trained to work with the person to help their owner function effectively in their environment, or even take life-saving measures for their owner. You may see Service Dogs guiding their owners through public places such as grocery stores or restaurants.

Emotional Support Dogs provide comfort, a calming presence, and company for their owner. Often the owner must provide documentation of an emotional or

psychological disability to certify their pet as an Emotional Support Animal. There is no formal training needed to be an Emotional Support Dog. You may see Emotional Support Dogs flying on airplanes with their owners.



Therapy dogs are used in facilities to comfort people and give affection. Spending time with a therapy dog has been shown to lower blood pressure and heart rate, reduce anxiety and increase endorphins and oxytocin. Therapy dogs do not have to be trained to perform specific tasks like service dogs, however, they must go through training to ensure that they can effectively work with people. You may see therapy dogs in places such as schools, hospitals, hospice centers, and disaster relief areas.

Who is SSDHHC's Therapy Dog?

SSDHHC is very proud to have Fitz, a 22-pound Shi Tzu Mix, working as its Therapy Dog. Fitz is a trained Therapy Dog who has been wagging his tail into the hearts of SSDHHC students and staff for the past month. Jackie Bailey, School Counselor, adopted Fitz two years ago, and knew he would make an amazing Therapy Dog to work with the students she serves. Fitz began his work in schools one year ago, and has proven to absolutely love working with children and staff. Fitz's calm demeanor and loving personality make him the perfect addition to the Therapy Dog program.



What is the Therapy Dog Program?

SSDHHC's School Therapy Dog Program, run by Cyndy Ward and Jackie Bailey, seeks to connect students with a trained therapy dog to help improve their academics and social-emotional health. Fitz spends one school day every week in the building. In this time, he does classroom visits, meets with individual students, and works on the Therapy Dog Literacy Program. This program allows students with reading anxieties and difficulties to sit one-on-one with Fitz and read a book of their choosing to him. Reading to a therapy dog has been proven to boost reading scores and literacy rates, as it provides the student with a non-judgmental and comforting presence to work on their skills. In his first month, Fitz has already been incredibly successful in helping students. He has bonded with students and staff alike, and is a favored member of the SSDHHC community.

How can I get more information on the Therapy Dog Program?

If you have any questions about the Therapy Dog Program, or would like more information about the work Fitz is doing with the SSDHHC community, please email Jackie Bailey at jbailey@thescrantonschool.org. ■





Blowout in a Winter Wonderland!

On Friday, January 31st, the PBIS Committee hosted its January Blowout. All students who earned the Blowout throughout the months of December and January were able to participate in the Winter Games. This very exciting celebration consisted of several winter-themed activities. The elementary Blowout was based on stations. Students rotated through a snow-sensory pool, snowball target games, Pie-Face Showdown, face painting, and a shaving cream finger painting table. The students participated in a dance party, and excitedly waited for the big finale – a paper snow fall! “Snow” fell from the ceiling of the gym as the kids ran around, played, made “snow angels,” and threw “snow balls” around.

Once the first round of “snow” was cleaned and packed away, the SSDHHC middle school students entered the gym for a riveting game of staff/student four-way dodgeball. To fit with the snow theme of the day, the game was played with “snowballs” made of marshmallows. The game was fun and exciting, and students worked together to take a win over the staff members. At the end of the hour, the middle school students had the exciting experience of a paper fall throughout the gym, just like the elementary students. They had so much fun frolicking in the “snow!”

All students are working very hard to show readiness, responsibility, respect, and safety to ensure that they earn this wonderful experience! ■

