



# BEAR TRACKS



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



## Partnering Together to Tell Our Story

In the Spring of 2017, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) made the decision to invest in The Scranton School's Technology Advancement Initiative. Coupled with an additional investment of resources from the Margaret Briggs Foundation, the school was able to provide over \$50,000 in educational technology equipment upgrades to students and faculty. The expanded equipment has increased the number of tools and resources available to faculty and students, providing impressive results.

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# 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**

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## Partnering Together to Tell Our Story

The ARC recently held its Annual Summit entitled "Transforming Appalachia: Embracing Change to Drive Progress." The Scranton School and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) were honored to present during the State's meeting regarding our distance learning education initiative. The meeting was chaired by Governor Tom Wolf and allowed The Scranton School to exhibit the distance learning options for students by connecting The Scranton School and WPSD for a live demonstration, an educational technology overview video, and testimonials from WPSD students about how technology has shaped their future opportunities and careers.

The Scranton School and WPSD were pleased for this great opportunity and look forward to partnering with ARC again in the future in support of our mission. ■



# First Day of School



## PBIS Program: A Huge Success

Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program picked up right where we left off last year. Teachers took the time in the beginning of the school year to remind students about our PBIS principles. We had our first "blowout," or celebration, in September, and all of the students enjoyed their own fruit smoothies in the cafeteria. Our second blowout in October was a huge success as well. All of the students had the opportunity to enjoy some fun activities and decorate their own pumpkin. Our students have also participated in a Bear Pride assembly where some gifts and prizes were given out and students were reminded of their Bear Pride Principles. We have seen great success with this program and both students and staff are enjoying the benefits. ■



## Exciting New Addition to The Scranton School

An exciting addition for this school year is work on a "Four Seasons at The Scranton School" mural. Spanning forty feet, the mural will include a donor tree, student handprints, the aurora borealis, and an exciting area dedicated to graduates and retired staff honoring them for their impact on The Scranton School.

Mrs. Bernie Hess is our master mural artist and will be completing the project with the assistance of one of our gifted and talented student artists, Estalin. We look forward to enjoying the progress on this great piece of art over the duration of the school year. ■





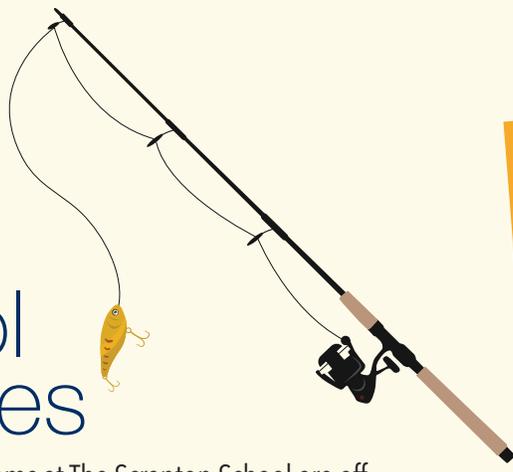
## KIDS Camp 2017

Kids-Investigating-Discovering-Smiling... that's what KIDS Camp is all about! Long before camp opened, our Camp Staff was spending lots of time learning new skills and preparing to lead another incredible experience for our week of KIDS in Camelot! (Thanks to our new friends at Camp Orchard Hill for sharing some of their tips and secrets for running an awesome camp!)

The Blue Templars and the Golden Knights went on lots of daring adventures throughout our very own Sherwood Forest, and all across the realm. Campers learned some really cool new games, and also practiced the medieval skills of archery, jousting, and fencing! We invaded a huge castle with a giant slingshot and a REAL TREBUCHET! We talked about chivalry, honor, teamwork and loyalty... we even conquered some pesky dragons that were threatening to ruin the Royal Feast and Tournament of Champions on our last night at camp! (No one wants to sleep outside in a tent when pesky dragons are in the area!)

The Royal Feast was an incredible display of delicious medieval foods and fun (who needs utensils - it's camp!!!). Of course, no Royal Feast would be complete without a King and Queen, stories and performances by court jesters and demonstrations of the skills that our young lords and ladies were learning all week. Talk about FUN!!! Tell your friends - even MORE fun is in store for KIDS Camp 2018! You won't want to miss it! ■

# After School Activities



The after school programs at The Scranton School are off to a great start with our Soccer and Fishing Clubs kicking things off! Fishing Club has had our largest group ever out on the waterfront each week even though the season has been a bit slow. Our Bears Soccer team is having a terrific season with a 5-2-1 record and nearly every game being decided by a one-goal margin! This year we added a fun school-wide bonfire celebration at the end of the season and invited all of our families and students to join us. What a fun time!

Additional activities, including new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) focused activities will be introduced later in the school year as we aim to expand our co-curricular options for students. Stay tuned for more on these exciting changes! ■



# Dorm Activities

Fall has officially arrived, providing ample opportunities for trying our hands at seasonal decorating and crafts, homemade pie making, fun imagination projects, and off campus trips. The Residential students and staff have also been practicing our hospitality skills as we host one or two commuter students each week for an hour or two in the afternoon while they are waiting for their transportation to arrive. These activities are creating a homey feel in the dorm and helping students take ownership of the environment in which they live during the week. This approach is a great way to equip students for greater independence and prepare them to pursue their own dreams and visions for what their homes will one day look and feel like. ■



# Trip to the Apple Orchard

Apple picking was a new experience for our students! Our preschool and elementary students went to Roba's Family Orchard in Scott Township, PA on October 6th. The orchard farm had 16 different types of apples to choose. Every fall, students go pumpkin picking at the Roba Family Farms, which is owned by the same family. This year, we decided to do something new: apple picking! Prior to our exciting trip, students learned about apples in class – how apples grow, types of apples, parts of an apple, and things you can make with apples. The students also read a book called Johnny Appleseed and learned about the history of apple trees.

The farm had a lot of fun activities for the students to do; apple picking, corn boxes to jump in, cow train rides, giant games (Checkers, Tic-Tac-Toe, Connect Four, and Jenga) and a pumpkin bounce. The students went on a hayride to go apple picking. The students walked and ran in many different aisles of the corn maze. Everyone smiled and laughed the whole time! Each student filled their bag with apples and brought them home. Some students couldn't resist and had to take a bite of their apples! Before returning to campus, students had lunch at the farm. The weather was perfect and it was a lot of fun! ■



# Parent Open House



# Outreach News: Central Pennsylvania



## First Responders Breakfast

On October 20, The Scranton School hosted a First Responders Breakfast on campus. Most participants attending were from the NEPA area. Some traveled from across the New York border. Hannah Theborge, Doug Boersma and Jessica Marks presented on cultural awareness and taught basic words and phrases in sign language. Participants were given a binder and a DVD with signs we hope they will be able to take back to their coworkers and share. This is one way the School can give back to the community while also hoping to raise awareness. ■



## Busy Start to the Year at Hershey Preschool

The Hershey preschool classroom hit the ground running this year! We have been lucky enough to receive new iPads, participate in fall related field trips, learn new things, and continue to build upon what we've learned in the past. ■



## Outreach Department Provides Hearing Screenings

The Outreach Department recently provided hearing screenings for a local daycare in Shiremanstown. The screenings are a commitment to the community and provide parents with information if the screening detects any concern. ■

## Camp Hill Hosts Literacy Workshop

On September 30, the Camp Hill office hosted a literacy workshop that encouraged reading, provided tips on how to read with your Deaf child and tips on how to make this activity exciting. Reading Specialist Sheri Morgan highlighted effective approaches, including sequence. Here is an example of sequencing. First, our attendees entered and mingled with other families in the room; second, they participated in a presentation and in transportation themed activities; and finally, they enjoyed snacks and treats. ■

