



BEAR TRACKS



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



Roba's Family Farm

It's Fall in Northeast PA and that means...a trip to the pumpkin patch for the Elementary students! The children in the Elementary program joined with the Choices for Children Families for a fun filled day at Roba Family Farms. Students had the opportunity to practice Fall vocabulary, use listening skills as they went through the animal enclosure and practice speech skills to cheer for our favorite pig in the "Hillbilly Pig Races." Students were also able to connect many of the things they have learned in the classroom to a real-life experience at Roba's.

New for this year was a special treat when we got to see the "Marvelous Mutts" perform! Even cooler, they had a Deaf dog in the show. She was amazing! After a few hours of fun around the farm doing all of the different activities, each student was able to pick the perfect pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and head back to school! Going to Roba's is a yearly tradition that students look forward to every year, we can't wait for next Fall.





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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Students return for classes after a beautiful summer!

This year, we recognized that the first two days of school are the most essential days for our students. It is always exciting to see students come back taller, tanner, and filled with stories about how great their summer was. We were excited to welcome 57 students back to campus. Teachers focused on motivation, care, and creative lesson planning to welcome our students back to the classroom. Our goal was for each student to leave school on August 25th so excited about their school day that they couldn't wait to come back on the 26th. The children fed off teacher's positive approaches and energy. The teachers also tapped into each student's personal interest and made connections. Our teachers were so creative with allowing each child to:

- find success
- feel important and valued
- feel safe and comfortable
- begin to make connections with his/her peers

We are looking forward to a great 2014-2015 school year!



After-School Activities

The after-school activities at The Scranton School are off to a busy start. Thanks to the efforts of the newly formed After School Activities Advisory Committee, several new activities are being developed and implemented and a few new events are being explored.

One of the exciting new activities recommended by this committee and now in the planning stages – our Spring LEGO™ Club – will focus on the development of listening skills and reading comprehension through LEGO™ play. Watch for more details on this awesome program in the Spring edition of Bear Tracks!

The Bears soccer team is mid-way through what is turning out to be an excellent season with a 2-2-1 record. It is exciting to see 13 players improving their skills and teamwork with each and every game.

In addition to athletics, students have the opportunity to exercise their artistic muscles in the new Fall Holiday Craft Club. This club is open to students in grades K-8 and is focused on the fun of making crafts related to all of the holidays from Halloween to Christmas.

Finally, our after school Homework Helper and Learning LAB provide general homework assistance and tutoring support each week. These programs are open to Middle School students and are proving to be a valuable asset to our student's academic performance.



Extended School Year and Summer Preschool

This year, our summer program focused on a “water” theme. All academic work focused on this theme and how water plays a role in our everyday lives. Students were given the opportunity to go on three unique academic field trips: the newly renovated Hillside Park with a gorgeous nature walking trail alongside the pond, McDade park and its vast nature opportunities, and Lackawanna State Park to explore the lake. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn how water plays an integral role in our environment.

Teachers prepared challenging academic material so that our students were always engaged in learning. One of the highlights was the opportunity to build a simulated pond and to explore some of the natural water on our campus as well as across the street at our neighbors at Baptist Bible College. After 3 great weeks of hands-on learning, we were all sorry to see the summer program come to an end, but as they say “all good things must come to an end.”

Open House

The annual Fall Open House is always an exciting event and this year was the best-attended yet! As they arrived, our visitors took advantage of the opportunity to examine the student artwork, projects, and papers that covered the hallway walls and hung from the ceiling. Visiting parents and family members enjoyed the opportunity to observe their children in the classrooms and meet with school and dorm staff throughout the morning.



One of the highlights of the day was the presentation made by Cheri Dowling from the American Society for Deaf Children about strengthening relationships between parents and school personnel. Cheri provided us all with some valuable tips, insights, and strategies about how to keep making The Scranton School an even better experience for our students by building and strengthening these partnerships.

To end the day, a fantastic lunch, prepared by our outstanding chefs was served in the gymnasium. Parents and students ate with school staff and immediately began putting into practice some of the ideas from Cheri’s presentation. During lunch,

our friends from Pocono Raceway came and brought the pace car for everyone to see. What an impressive automobile that flies around the race track during NASCAR and Indy car races. Thank you to everyone who made the day a great success.

Jon Konzelman selected to lead the Scranton School

The Scranton School for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children will start the 2014-2015 school year with a new leader. Jon Konzelman has been named as the Director of the School. After teaching in the classroom for many years, Jon Konzelman obtained an M.Ed. from The University of Scranton and will move into his current role after serving as Assistant Director where he was responsible for community relations and development of the newest school for deaf and hard of hearing children in the nation.



“We are gratified to have an educator of the caliber of Jon Konzelman serving our students,” stated Donald E. Rhoten, Chief Executive Officer of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and The Scranton School for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children, “He is widely respected in our school community and brings a wealth of experience, energy and professionalism to the task. We look forward to seeing our school continue to grow and thrive under his leadership.”

“This school is deeply committed to meeting the individual needs of our students and supporting our families through the exceptional services our faculty and staff provides, Konzelman stated, “I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve our school community in this meaningful way.”

In addition to earning an M.Ed, Jon obtained a B.S. in Physical Education from Baptist Bible College and an M.S. in Exercise Science from California University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the National Academy of Sports Medicine. He serves on the Board of Directors for NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Sports and Adventure Camp 2014

The very first Sports and Adventure Camp at the Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children was a success! The campers enjoyed a few field trips, great food, and a ton of fun and games here on campus. Monday, the students took time to get moved in and acclimated with the dorm and the other campers. They played many icebreaker and team building activities to get to know each other. On Tuesday, the students experienced a hike near the beautiful waterfalls at Rickett’s Glen State Park. On Wednesday we made our way to Lahey Family Fun Park and played mini golf and drove the bumper boats. Following this trip the campers ate, “the best ice cream ever” as quoted by one of the students, at Mondale Dairy Ice Cream. Thursday was a great Day at South Abington Park where the students played baseball, soccer, basketball, and even had a chance to learn new games that are played all around the world in other cultures. It was a wonderful experience for the children. They learned how to work together, encourage each other, and they had a blast the entire week.



FAST Summer at Pocono Raceway

The sights and sounds of stock cars speeding down the racetrack at 180 miles per hour is an exhilarating experience for anyone attending a NASCAR or INDYCAR race. This summer Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, PA hosted 3 events, The Pocono 400, The Pocono INDYCAR 500, and The GoBowling.com 400. The Scranton School was given the unique opportunity to perform our National Anthem at all 3 events with a vocal performer.

The summer began in June with Eddie Racht performing at the Pocono 400. Sarah Gerhold performed in July at the Pocono INDYCAR 500. Capping off the summer, David Harclerode performed at the GoBowling.com 400 in August. Each of the students were able to enjoy a once in a lifetime experience performing in front of thousands in attendance and millions on television! Along the way, they also were able to meet some famous people. Eddie enjoyed meeting actors Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill as well as having his hat signed by driver Ryan Newman. David enjoyed meeting Grand Marshall and racing legend Richard Petty.



The Scranton School is thankful to Pocono Raceway for providing our students with these once in a lifetime opportunities to perform and get close to the action. Watch for us next summer at the track!

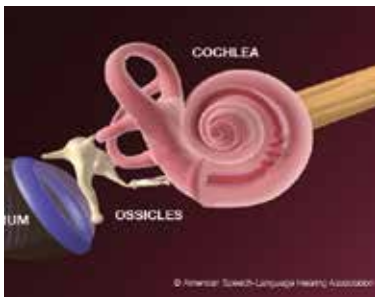
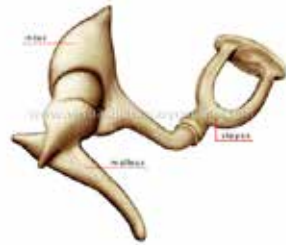


This year's Bear Tracks will feature a 4-Part Series called "Hear and Now." Dr. Denise Prislupski will author the series that will focus on hearing loss in adults, children, and what types of technology are available for those with a hearing loss. Part 2 of the series will focus on hearing aid technology.

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Types of Hearing Loss

The ability to hear is one of our amazing five senses. Our bodies are both beautiful and complex, especially when we look at how our ear functions with our brain to allow us to hear. Our ears must pick up a sound, transmit it to the brain where meaning is attached. This all occurs within a split second and seamlessly if there are no problems. The ear is fully developed at birth, allowing an infant to



hear sounds and speech which help them develop language. Infants can even perceive sound prior to birth. Sometimes however, problems develop in our ears which can cause a hearing loss to develop.

To better understand the different types of hearing loss that can occur, let's take a closer look at this magical process of hearing. The ear is divided into three parts before reaching the brain.

These parts are:

- The outer ear - this consists of the pinna (what we hang our earrings and glasses on), the ear canal and the tympanic membrane or eardrum. The pinna helps to gather the sound and funnel it into the ear canal. The ear canal channels the sound down to the eardrum which causes it to vibrate.
- The middle ear - this is the small area behind the tympanic membrane where the three small middle ear bones, or ossicles, are located. The ossicles connect to the tympanic membrane on one end and to a small opening that leads to the inner ear on the other end. These three bones are called the malleus, incus, and stapes or when I was in grade school- the hammer, anvil, and stirrup because of their shapes. When the tympanic membrane vibrates, that vibration is transmitted by the three tiny middle ear ossicles to the beginning of the inner ear.
- The inner ear - this is where the eighth cranial nerve or the nerve of hearing begins. The nerve is housed in a snail shaped structure called the cochlea. The cochlea is filled with a fluid. When the vibrations transmitted from the middle ear bones reach the beginning of the inner ear, the fluid begins to move which then causes movement to tiny hair cells in the nerve. The movement of the hair cells causes electrical impulses which then travel to the brain and are interpreted. The brain then gives meaning to the sounds.



Depending upon where a problem develops in the hearing pathway to the brain will determine the type of hearing loss that occurs. A conductive hearing loss occurs when there is a problem “conducting” or transmitting the sound through the outer and/or middle ear. The tympanic membrane and the middle ear ossicles do not vibrate properly and therefore the volume of sound being transmitted to the nerve becomes reduced. This type of hearing loss is usually temporary and very often a conductive hearing loss can be corrected by either medical or surgical means.

There are a variety of possible causes for a conductive hearing loss which may include:



- impacted wax (cerumen)
- swimmer’s ear (otitis externa)
- infection of the ear canal (external otitis)
- a foreign object lodged in the ear canal
- a malformation or absence of any part of the outer or middle ear
- a perforation or hole in the tympanic membrane
- fluid in the middle ear space which can become infected
- Eustachian tube malfunction
- cholesteatoma or tumors in the middle ear space

A sensorineural hearing loss occurs when some type of damage has occurred to the inner ear (cochlea) or to the hearing nerve pathways to the brain. Because the nerve does not function properly, the volume of sounds are reduced and in many cases the quality or clarity of speech is also diminished. This type of hearing loss is a more permanent type of problem and cannot usually be treated by medical or surgical means. Several possible causes of a sensorineural hearing loss might include:

- malformation of the inner ear or nerve of hearing
- hereditary factors
- various illnesses especially those which cause high fevers
- drugs which are toxic to the hearing nerve
- head trauma from falls or accidents
- exposure to high noise levels including music
- the normal aging process
- tumors which press on the eighth cranial nerve

Lastly, a conductive hearing loss and a sensorineural hearing loss may occur together. There may be a problem with the outer or middle ear along with the inner ear. When this situation occurs, the loss is referred to as a mixed hearing loss. Depending upon the causes, portions of the hearing loss may be correctable while some portion of the hearing loss may continue to exist.

Dr. Denise Prislupski Au.D. completed her undergraduate studies at Marywood University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders. She furthered her studies at Bloomsburg University where she received her Masters of Science degree in Audiology. She completed her post graduate studies at SALUS University formerly PCO in 2002. She practices at Audiology and Hearing Centers of NEPA. Their office was named 2014 Best Hearing Aid Specialists for The Scranton Times Readers Choice Awards.. Prislupski was named a Top 25 woman in Business in Northeast Pennsylvania and Best Audiologist in 2012 and 2013 for The Scranton Times Readers Choice Awards. She is also the audiologist at The Scranton School for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children.



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New Faces at the Scranton School



Bob Reese, *Security Guard*

Previous Related Work Experience:

was a police officer for 33 years. I was named Chief of Police in Newton Township and enjoyed serving in that position until I retired last Spring.

Why were you interested in working at The Scranton School?

I have a background in protecting and serving people as a police officer. I knew the people that worked at the School were great. There is a real family atmosphere here and I wanted to be a part of it. I also enjoy children and wanted the opportunity to protect students and be able to

interact with them. I'm learning sign language now and enjoy using it to chat with the kids.

What do you like to do when you aren't at The Scranton School?

I really enjoy sports, especially the Philadelphia Eagles! I also enjoy trains.



Mackenzie Flanagan, *Teacher Aide*

Education:

B.S. Elementary Ed., Deaf Ed., Flagler College

Previous Related Work Experience:

I was an itinerant hearing impaired teaching/consultant for Porter County in Indiana for 2 years.

Why were you interested in working at The Scranton School?

I was very interested in living in Pennsylvania and Clarks Summit is so beautiful! The fall colors are spectacular.

What do you like to do when you aren't at The Scranton School?

I love to watch Doctor Who, read, hang out with my husband (we got married this summer!), and watch my Philadelphia Eagles win!



Sarah Taylor, *Teacher Aide*

Education:

B.S. Elementary Ed., Special Ed., Bloomsburg University
M.S. Deaf Ed., Bloomsburg University

Previous Related Work Experience:

I was a hearing therapist for a local intermediate unit.

Why were you interested in working at The Scranton School?

I grew up in Northeastern Pennsylvania and even though I've done some traveling across the country, I've always seemed to end up back here! I checked into availabilities at The Scranton School and I fell in love with its teaching philosophy!

What do you like to do when you aren't at The Scranton School?

I love to be outdoors whenever possible! Some of my favorite activities are: hiking, camping, kayaking, and playing frisbee golf. I'm involved with a local board game group that meets once a week. I also enjoy reading, playing video games, and making art when I'm able to find the time.



Steven Dabney, *Residential Supervisor*

Education:

I am an alumnus of The Scranton State School for Deaf and I also graduated from the Hiram G. Andrews Center.

Previous Related Work Experience:

I enjoyed being a substitute at The Scranton School and I love working with the students. I really enjoy seeing them improve their communication skills with their peers and with the staff.

Why were you interested in working at The Scranton School?

I was very interested in living in Pennsylvania and Clarks Summit is so beautiful! The fall colors are spectacular.

What do you like to do when you aren't at The Scranton School?

I love to workout, especially jogging. Sunday afternoons I can be found watching my favorite football team, the Philadelphia Eagles! I also enjoy spending time with my wonderful wife (who also works at The Scranton School), two children, and my precious granddaughter.



Outreach

Hershey Preschool Update:

Preschool is in full swing in Hershey We started the school year with 3 girls. Our opening these was “All about Me”. We have learned body parts, our friends’ names, personal identification questions, and more. We have learned all about the letter A which is fitting because all of the girls names start with A! We have been busy with inclusion time, therapy, school, work, and getting to know each other. We are excited to attend the Scranton open house and go to the apple orchards in September as well as welcoming visitors into our classroom.



Toddler Group Update from Camp Hill:

Last school year we started a toddler group, similar to what WPSD has done. We served 7 families once a week for two hours. Michelle Campbell, our Hershey preschool teacher and CFC teacher leads this group. Each session is focused around a specific book. The children and parents learn the signs associated with the book, make a craft and assemble a snack related to the book of the day. The children interacting is always beneficial, but to see the moms and dads create friendships with other families as well is always wonderful to see.



TODDLER GROUP

FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

Who: Children ages 12-35 months and their parents

Winter Session

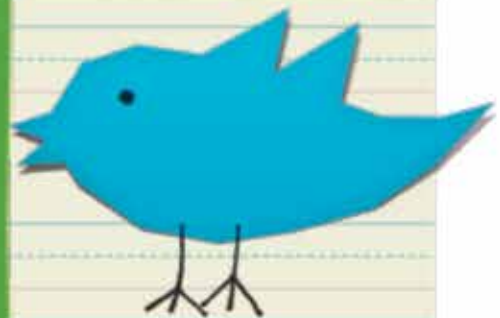
Thursdays, January 8 - February 26, 2015
from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Spring Session

Thursdays, April 16 - June 4, 2015
from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Where: WPSD/Scranton School Outreach Center
3820 Hartzdale Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Cost: \$20 registration fee per session, per family



abcde

A parent-toddler group focused on listening, language, learning and fun.

The WPSD/Scranton School Outreach Center will present a parent & toddler group for deaf and hard of hearing children, age 12 to 35 months, who have hearing loss.

During weekly sessions, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to participate in learning activities WITH their toddler. They will dance, sing, and laugh together as they learn silly rhymes and perform rhythmic movements.

TO REGISTER

SEND \$20 REGISTRATION FEE TO:

Toddler Group

3820 Hartzdale Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

payable to WPSD

CONTACT FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

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