



# Connection

QUALITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

A Publication of  
the Morris-Union  
Jointure Commission

June 2010

Visit our website at [www.mujc.org](http://www.mujc.org)

## MUJC Programs Focus on Fitness

**M**UJC students have been involved in a variety of fitness-related activities throughout the 2009-2010 school year.

### At the DLC-Warren

The **Adaptive Physical Education (APE)** program continues to provide all students with a foundation for the development of gross motor skills through participation in seasonal sports and games and other leisure activities.

The APE curriculum also incorporates intermediate and secondary level fitness programs, including walking and running sessions on the track, cardio fitness through the use of tread mills and exercise bikes, and a selection of step aerobic activities. One of our Friday afternoon social clubs, the "Milers," has collectively logged over 100 miles as the members walk for fitness.

All students regularly visit the Tokash Aquatic Center, where they learn beginner and intermediate swimming skills and participate in aqua aerobics and water sports.

Action Based Learning is an early morning pilot program that offers younger children an opportunity to reinforce motor planning skills and academics through a series of movement routines in preparation for cognitive learning during the day. Each year the APE Department coordinates a week-long series of activities related to nutrition and fitness.

### At the DLC-New Providence

**Fitness and wellness** are the focus of the adaptive physical education curriculum as well as the students' other classes at the **DLC-New Providence**.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a daily walking group, weekly fitness stations, Wii fitness games, relaxation club and dance club. The DLC-New Providence students travel to the DLC-Warren to participate in an aqua aerobics class.

Special fitness activities for the extended school year program include field trips to local fitness trails and hiking trails.

### At the DLC-Union

The students at the **DLC-Union** participated in a hockey tournament during **Olympic Day** in March.

The students were divided into teams and began the day by walking the track carrying their team banners they made for this event. Olympic theme music was played as the hockey games were underway. The students had a great time competing against other teams in the school and cheering on their teammates. At the conclusion of the games, all the students were awarded gold, silver, or bronze medals and certificates for participating.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR DLCs



## WARREN

**DLC-Warren** has partnered with St Hubert's, an animal shelter located in Madison, NJ. Each month students meet, pet, and learn about dogs. They have had visits by "Nick," a golden retriever, his friend "Zeno," and several other dogs. This program allows students who are fearful of animals to become more comfortable in their presence.

At the **DLC-Warren** 11 Boy Scouts and nine Cub Scouts have been working toward earning a weather badge. Using materials from a science kit, the Boy Scout troop has been charting daily weather patterns and building a weather station to measure wind, temperature, and rainfall. The Cub Scouts plan to earn their next badges for nature and photography.

The Girl Scout troop of 17 students has worked on activities to earn petals based on the Daisy curriculum. The girls earned their first petal for being friendly and helpful, and the bird houses the girls created for this petal will be hung outside the school. The troop is using a planting theme to work toward achieving their next petal for being caring and considerate.

All the scouts meet with their troops twice a month. The meetings are an opportunity for the students to make new friends while developing social, communication, and fine motor skills.



## UNION

The students at the **DLC-Union** participated in the schoolwide Pinewood Derby in May. Pre-cut wood cars for the Derby were donated by the Boy Scouts of America. In preparation for race day, students decorated and personalized their cars during art class.

The students raced their cars on a track that was also provided by the Boy Scouts and arranged in the school's gymnasium. The Pinewood Derby helped students learn sportsmanship and good citizenship as they cheered for their own cars as well as those of their friends.



## NEW PROVIDENCE

**DLC-New Providence** students participated in the DLC Winter Olympics earlier this year. Activities included making flags representing different countries, a "torch relay," Olympic events, and opening and closing ceremonies. Students learned about each country's customs, foods, and culture.

During opening ceremonies, the students paraded around the gymnasium displaying their countries' flags. Then they participated for two weeks in a variety of Olympic events including: luge, skeleton, two-person bobsled, curling, floor hockey, and biathlon. The adaptive physical education teachers modified the activities to accommodate the students' levels of skill. During closing ceremonies each student athlete received a medal and a certificate.



# Corporate Foundations Support MUJC Programs

The **PNC Bank Foundation Grants Program** has awarded the MUJC funds to complete Phase I of a pool mural in the Tokash Aquatic Center at the DLC-Warren.

The mural depicts a beach scene at the New Jersey shore and showcases Barnegat Light as the connection between the two pool areas. In addition to adding to the atmosphere, the array of colors and relaxing scenes in the mural provides a natural context for facilitating instruction in language and communication.

## NEW VICE PRINCIPAL AT MUJC

The **DLC-Union** welcomed new vice principal, Kristin Szawan, who came to the MUJC from the Roselle Park School District. There she was coordinator of the Early Childhood Center and a child study team social worker. Prior to that, Kristin worked in public schools and private settings with children ages 0-21 who have disabilities.

Kristin is a graduate of Kean University, has a master of social work degree from Rutgers University, and an education specialist degree from Seton Hall.

The **TD Bank Foundation** has awarded the **DLC-New Providence** a \$7500 grant to support its project, *Personal Finance: Developing Awareness and Responsibility*. The project is based on the premise that students must understand how money impacts their lives and independence.

The project implements the New Jersey Department of Education's directive that all students be instructed in financial literacy.

The grant will focus on helping students identify spending habits, differentiate between needs and wants, understand how advertising and propaganda sell products, set money goals and save money, understand the differences between checking and savings accounts, use an ATM machine, balance a bank account, and use credit and debit cards.

The TD Bank grant will provide students with interactive learning tools that focus on the basic principles of money, saving, understanding checking and ATM transactions and banking. Guest speakers, including TD Bank associates, will provide instruction on the value of money, the difference between saving and spending, balancing a check book, and planning a budget.

## Save the Date

**Monday, September 13, 2010**

## A Round for Autism

Hamilton Farm Golf Club

Gladstone, New Jersey

"One of the premier golf facilities in the state"

Sponsored by the Autism Education Foundation of the MUJC

Information about sponsorship and tickets: [www.aroundforautism.com](http://www.aroundforautism.com)

## New Faces on MUJC Board

The Board of Education for the Morris-Union Jointure Commission is made up of a representative from each of the 29 member school districts.

MUJC Superintendent Dr. Kim Coleman extends his best wishes to Dr. Richard Brodow, superintendent from Millburn, who is retiring this year.

Dr. Coleman welcomes the following newly appointed chief school administrators:

Kevin Carroll	Clinton
Sylvan Hershey	Kenilworth
Rita Seipp (Interim)	Montville
Gregory Tatum (Acting)	Union
Dr. Anthony Cavanna	West Orange

## MUJC's Student Transportation Service By The Numbers

### October 2009

Districts served	22
Students transported each day	1077
Routes operated each day	160
Vehicles owned and operated	126
Drivers and attendants	149

## "Champions" Raise Funds

The Champions for Autism Dinner Dance raised funds for the Autism Education Foundation of the MUJC, which supports the program and staff of the MUJC's Developmental Learning Centers. The event was held in April at the Berkeley Plaza in Berkeley Heights and included a special musical performance by the student chime choir and a student pianist.

Highlights of the evening included the presentation of Champions for Autism awards to the Provenzano family and Ted Beal of AXA Equitable.

# MUJC Names Three Teachers of the Year

Each year a committee of administrators and parents selects an outstanding teacher in each school for special recognition through the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program. This year's honorees are:

## NEW PROVIDENCE

**J**eff Shanfield has been an adaptive physical education teacher at the DLC-New Providence for seven years. Jeff enjoys trying new activities with his students. He planned and helped coordinate the Winter Olympic events, National Running Day, and Autism Awareness Walk. Principal Ethel Kozlik says, "His enthusiasm and dedication are contagious and assist in motivating the students and staff to become physically active."



## UNION

**H**eather Leichtman began her career at the MUJC as a teacher assistant prior to becoming a teacher in the primary program. She received her bachelor's degree from Kean University where she is currently working toward her master's degree. Andrea Marmolejos, principal, and Kristin Szawan, vice principal, describe Heather as "being committed to the students she works with and always willing to go above and beyond to help them achieve success."



## WARREN

**S**andy Clare's commitment to her students is as evident today as when she began her career as a DLC teacher assistant in 1996 and as a teacher in 1998. "She addresses the diverse strengths and needs of her students and provides support as she prepares them for adult life in the community," comments Barbara Starling, principal. Outside of school she raises and trains guide dogs for The Seeing Eye of Morristown.



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### MEMBER DISTRICTS

Berkeley Heights	Montville Township
Bernards Township	Mountainside
Boonton	New Providence
School District of the Chathams	Roselle Park
Clark	Scotch Plains - Fanwood
Clinton Township	Somerset Hills
Cranford	South Orange - Maplewood
Florham Park	Springfield
Harding Township	Summit
Kenilworth	Union Township
Livingston	Warren Township
Long Hill Township	Watchung Borough
Madison	Watchung Hills Regional High School
Millburn	Westfield
	West Orange

Dr. Kim B. Coleman, Superintendent  
Dr. Janet L. Pamelee, Assistant Superintendent  
Susan Yaniro, School Business Administrator

## MUJC'S ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY** The Morris-Union Jointure Commission is committed to a policy of affirmative action/equal opportunity with respect to its programs and personnel and offers equal educational opportunities to all students, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or disability. For information, contact Affirmative Action and 504 Officer Dr. Janet Pamelee at 908-464-7625.