



Purple &
Gold

April 2022

FIELD EXPERIENCE FOR UDHS STUDENTS

Make no bones about it...UDHS students keep it real! Upper Darby's hospital students, along with Family and Consumer Science Teacher Tara Zampirri, recently visited Drexel University's College of Medicine, where they received hands-on experience working with researchers in the neurobiology lab and witnessing how the medical researchers use stem cells and other treatments to help rehabilitate patients with spinal cord injuries. Through human cadavers in the lab, the class had an intimate look at our anatomy, including brains, hearts, and body systems.



SPECIAL EDUCATION CORNER



The UDHS Autistic Support and Life Skills Programs will soon be hosting our annual Rain Rally/April Showers Event! This event is held to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) and its Unified Champion Schools program. Participants commit by fundraising a minimum of \$40.00 to walk, run, dance, or skip through a water shower on behalf of students with intellectual disabilities (Special Olympics athletes) and their peers without intellectual disabilities (Unified Partners) that participate in Unified Champion Schools.

Last year with your donations, every student in the Special Programs was able to participate in the event as well as helping us raise over \$6,000! Our goal this year is \$5,000. Money that is raised by Upper Darby High School and our community goes directly to Special Olympics to help support year-round sports training and competition for thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities. Your contribution and involvement helps our athletes achieve their goals, live healthier lives, and have a sense of inclusion in the community. And, like last year, the department that raises the most money/student sponsors will be receiving a special treat from our program! Let the competition begin :)

Our event will take place here at the high school on Friday, April 22nd at 10:30am. Those of you who would like to sponsor and donate \$40.00 to one of our fabulous athletes can email me directly or complete the steps below. If you are completing the donation on your own, please send me an email of what department you're in so that I may keep track.

1. Visit <https://give.specialolympicspa.org/team/419822>
2. At the top, click on the search button/magnifying glass
3. Under Filter Results on the left hand side click "teams"
4. Type in Upper Darby High School in "search here"
5. Under Teams click on the Upper Darby High School icon
6. Click on "Members"
7. Select a student you would like to sponsor and donate :)

Thank you for all of your support!

ACADEMIC WINS

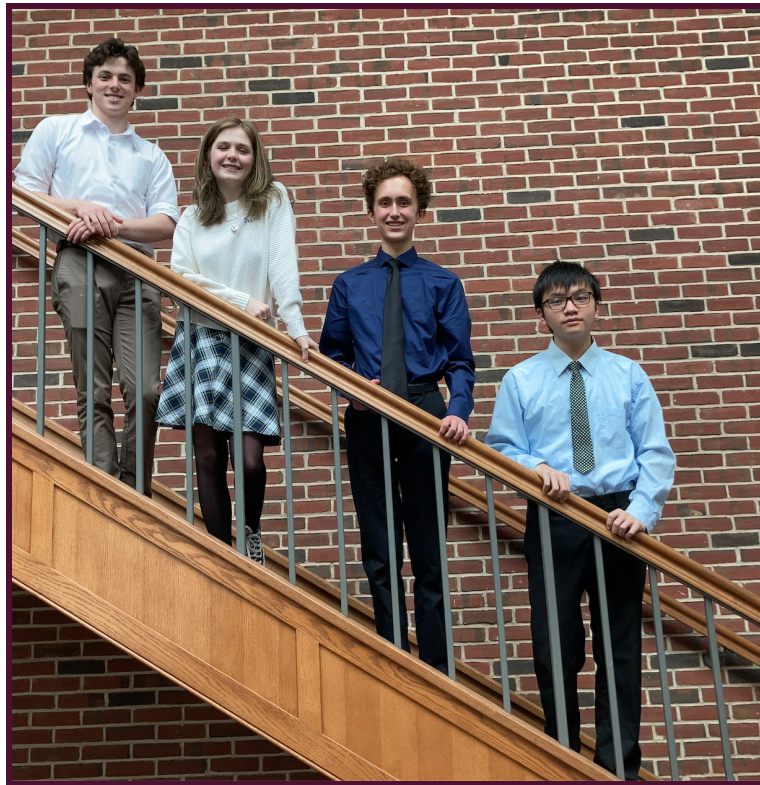
Upper Darby Students Going to States for National History Day

Upper Darby High School Students competed in the National History Day Regional Competition at the Chester County Historical Society with projects celebrating this year's theme: Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures and Consequences.

- Senior Caroline Kelly took 2nd place for her documentary entitled, "Blight to Flight: Ireland's 800 Year Struggle with Great Britain."
- Freshman Steven Guard took 3rd place with his documentary, "The Debate Over Violence in Video Games."
- Junior Rachel Fitzpatrick took honorable mention with her website, "The Trials of Thomas Garrett: Successes, Failures, and Consequences."
- Freshman Thomas Hong took Honorable Mention with his paper, "The Historical Implications of Smallpox: Successes, Failures, and Consequences."

Caroline Kelly and Steve Guard will go on to compete at the State Competition in May.

Good luck to our young historians!



Delaware County Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to all of our Delaware County Science Fair winners from UDHS and good luck to them as they move on to the upcoming Delaware Valley Science Fair on April 6. The posters are on display in the library - please check them out.

12th Grade Winners

Emma Gray - 1st place *The Effects of the COVID-19 Vaccine on Menstrual Cycles*

Taylor Emanuel-Jackmon - 2nd place *Effect of Particle Size on Reaction Rate*

Zachary Finley - 3rd place *The Ideal Structure for a Floating City Against a Natural Disaster*

Sana Saud - 3rd place *Social Media and Personality Types*

11th Grade Winners

Andy Luu - 1st place *Are teenage males or females more likely to be addicted to gaming?*

Josiah Saddick - 1st place *Permeability of Starch-Based Plastics to Water Vapor*

Luke Olmstead - 2nd place *Liquefaction Mitigation*

Abrar Laskar - 2nd place *Effects of Wind Turbine Wake*

10th Grade Winners

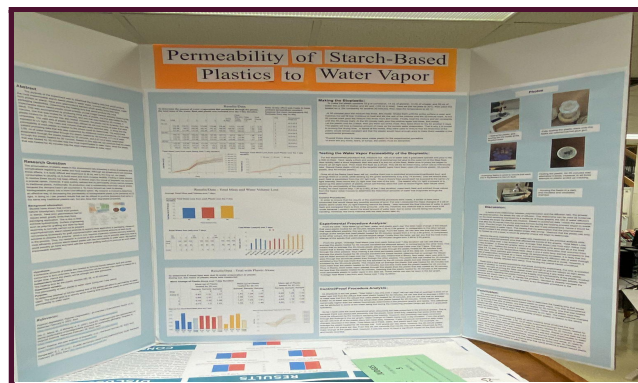
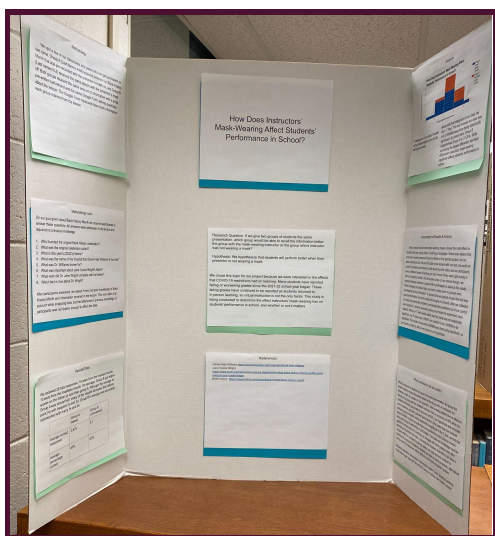
Elise Olmstead - 1st place *The Surface Composition of Pluto's Charon*

Lylah Hoque - 1st place *Relationships Between Dissolved Oxygen and Freshwater Temperature*

Alaina Swift - 3rd place *Learning Through Virtual School*

9th Grade

Delanie Jordan - 2nd place *Does gender at birth influence short-term memory?*



SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars for some big dates coming up in the UDHS social calendar:

Rain Rally/April Showers Event!--April 22nd

Freshmen Dance--April 23rd

UD's Got Talent--April 28th

Junior Prom--May 7th

UDHS Arts Festival--May 21st

Senior Prom--June 4th

After Senior Prom Party--June 4th/5th at Midnight

LIBRARY NOTES

Latest News



April is a very busy month in the library! We are celebrating Autism Awareness Acceptance Month, National Poetry Month, Ramadan, and Earth Day. National Library Week was celebrated on April 4-8, and as part of the celebration, students and staff were encouraged to visit and post about their favorite books or author on a special board. Students and staff, visit the school library this week and post your favorite book or an author on our board. Students were encouraged to participate and received raffle tickets to win one of five Dunkin' Gift Cards.

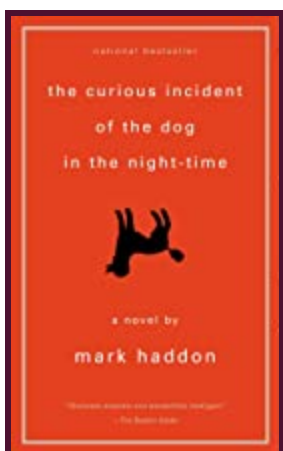


Bob Dambman, Arek Torosian, Julia Rion, and Carmen Vitanza celebrate library week

April's Book Recommendation

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time was a debut novel for English writer Mark Haddon, but what a debut! It's a murder mystery of sorts told from the point of view of an autistic teenager, who while a genius at math has difficulty understanding human emotions, especially his own.. The main character, Christopher, likes animals and is very upset about the murder of his neighbor's dog Wellington, which he is falsely accused of committing. On the encouragement of a school social worker, Christopher sets out to uncover what happened to the dog. A bit controversial because of its portrayal of a neurodiversity, it's nonetheless highly engaging and well worth the read. This book is available at the UDHS library.

Want to know more about autism? Check out some books by famed animal behaviorist Temple Grandin, such as *Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism*, *The Autistic Brain: Thinking Across the Spectrum*, and her recently released children's book *The Outdoor Scientist: The Wonder of Observing the Natural World*.

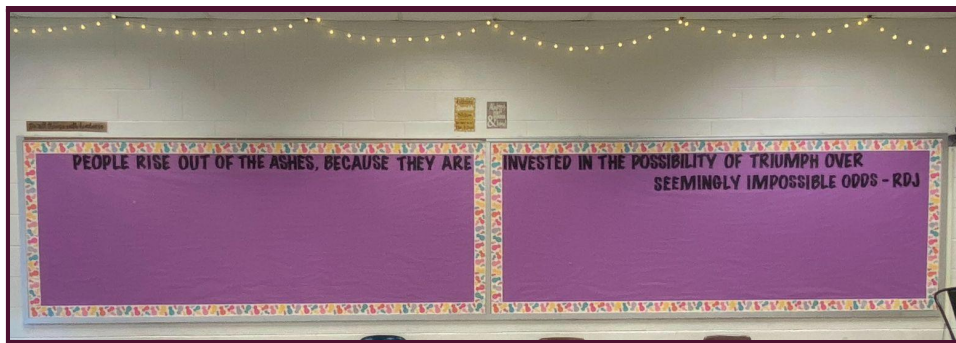
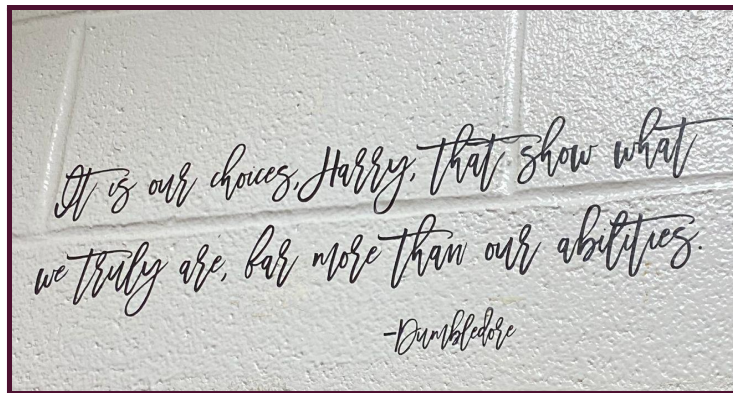


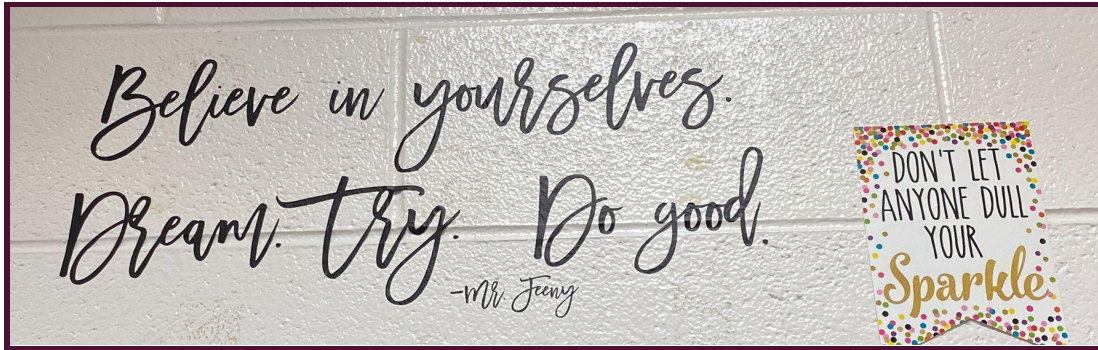
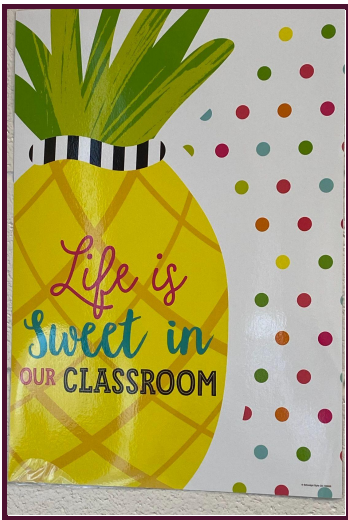
SPOTLIGHT ON...MS. BIANCHI'S CLASSROOM

At first glance it looks almost like a cozy living room, but when you look more closely at Ms. Andria Bianchi's classroom in Room 124, you see a welcoming space for learning. Ms. Bianchi utilizes "flexible" or open seating in her classroom. Students do not have assigned seats but can move around the room, stretch, lay down, roll around, or whatever they need to be comfortable. Seating options include several comfortable couches and cushions, cafe tables, and exercise ball chairs, along with traditional desks and chairs.

"It started approximately four years ago," says Ms. Bianchi. "I was on the Special Education Freshmen Academy Team. I had many students with IEPs, 504s, Autism, Emotional Disturbance. I was trying to come up with a way to get their attention more and work with them. I started researching on the web and stumbled upon Open/Flexible classrooms. I decided that I would do this and was going to put it together over the summer with donations of furniture. At the same time, Principal Simone put it out in an email that she wanted someone to pilot the same type of classroom. I wrote up my proposal, why it would be beneficial for my group of students and so forth, and it was paid for by the district. I picked up other things along the way, such as the lights, fidgets, and posters. It has done wonders for a lot of my students."

The room also includes inspirational quotes from figures real and fictional, all accented with pineapples, an American symbol of welcoming.







Have a story idea? Please email dzoccola@upperdarby.org.