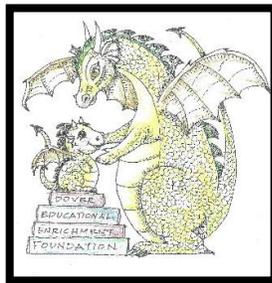


Dover Union Free School District

Second to None



DEEP Matters

A Newsletter of the
Dover Education
Enrichment Program
(DEEP)

Berkshire Taconic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Dover Elementary School (DES) Junior History Club

For Dover Elementary School's 4th and 5th Grade students, the Junior History Club brought to life the words of famed historian David McCullough that "History is who we are and why we are the way we are." With reorganization of the Town's Historical Society and building renovations to the historic Tabor-Wing House located next to the school in 2012, Society members were eager to introduce students to local history.



Twelve students applied to join the DES Junior History Club and with their Historical Society mentors, toured prominent local historical sites dating from the American Revolution to the Second Industrial Revolution. Among the sites were Old Drover's Inn, the Dover Second Baptist Church, the Dover Plains (electricity) Powerhouse, Hunt Country Furniture and the remnants of an iron ore smelting furnace.

A DEEP grant helped fund transportation for site visits and the publication of an interpretive booklet prepared by Junior History Club students that was presented to their fellow students at an end-of-year school assembly.

The following school year, DEEP funded another cycle of the Junior History Club and the publication of "Excerpts from the 1908 booklet, 'Historic Dover' by Richard Maher" for discussion at club meetings.

Meetings and booklet discussion provided the inspiration for the students' design and creation of a 5' x 5' quilt with Historical Society mentors' assistance. The quilt was presented to the Dover Town Board and is on display at Town Hall.

DEEP was established in 2013 in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, DUFSD administrators, faculty and community leaders to provide a permanent endowment for school-based and extracurricular educational enrichment programs. DEEP grants are awarded annually to DUFSD teachers, staff and community organizations to offer innovative new learning opportunities to engage students' imagination and instill a lifelong love of learning.

"It's important that our students learn "who they are" in the social tapestry of Dover's history. To become future leaders and change agents, they first need a sense of belonging and community to help gain perspective and draw inspiration" reflected Katie Palmer-House, a DEEP Advisory Committee member.



Junior History Club students shared copies of their interpretive booklet with fellow students at a school assembly



Junior History Club students presented their historical quilt to the Dover Town Board