

## The First CASHS History Day Had 350 Student Participants

Taylor McDaniels has always loved the storyline of the movie Titanic. That interest resulted in her winning first place in the exhibit division of the first annual History Day competition that took place at CASHS recently.

Her display included a suitcase from a second class passenger on the Titanic's twin sister ship, a deck chair from a ship that sailed a month before the Titanic, and also a ladies dress that would have typically been worn during the time that the Titanic made its' maiden, yet fateful journey. Those artifacts were courtesy of her grandmother's antique shop, Red Door Antiques in Mount Holly, PA.

"The theme of History Day was Exploration, Exchange, and Encounter and students could choose any topic that fit within that theme," explained Jackson Green, CASHS social studies teacher and coordinator of History Day. "History Day is a national event that provides opportunity for the students to first participate at the local level, then move to a regional competition, and finally, to a national competition. This was our first year so we just did this at the local level. I'm very pleased with our results. We had about 350 students participate. I've wanted to make it happen here for several years. It just didn't seem to work out before."

"One of the reasons it came together is because of Lisa Schoenleber who is a new assistant principal at CASHS. Mrs. Schoenleber was excited about this event and made it possible for me and three other teachers to travel to Messiah College to see a regional competition. This really helped build enthusiasm for the event and it gave us a better understanding of how to put the event together," Mr. Green said.

The event is very similar to a science fair. Students could pick any topic as long as it relates to the theme. Students had many options for presenting their projects. They could choose to make an exhibit such as Taylor did, they could write a historical research paper, create a website, produce a documentary, or give a performance on stage in front of judges, Mr. Green explained.

"One of the goals of this project was to have students understand why and how history is important to our everyday lives. To make this project even more meaningful, we partnered with the English department. In addition to their research efforts, students had to write a thesis statement and they had to properly do an annotated bibliography," Mr. Green said.

"The storyline of the Titanic is amazing. I have always been fascinated by this ship that carried 1,500 passengers and was supposed to be unsinkable. I had a lot of fun researching and doing the exhibit," said Taylor, who is a ninth grader and loves history.

In addition to the artifacts that she gathered from her grandmother's antique shop, Taylor's exhibit included a large map of that marked the Titanic's route, as well as newspaper clippings that chronicled the ship's fate.

"I am definitely looking forward to doing this again next year. It was a real motivator," Taylor commented.

