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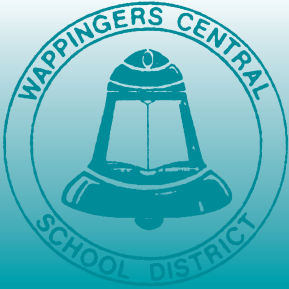
WAPPINGERS

Central School District

newsletter

May 2010 Volume 12.1

The Wappingers Central School District Newsletter



inside

- 2 [WCSD Budget Notice, Proposition, Comparison Charts](#)
- 3 [Contingency Budget, Property Tax Report Card, Budget Component Summary Chart](#)
- 4 [Board Candidates, 2010 WCSD Retirees](#)
- 5 [Student Accolades, Festival and Award Recipients](#)
- 6 [Character Education Articles](#)
- 7 [Arts in Education Articles](#)
- 8 [Helping Hands Across the District](#)
- 9 [Honors, Awards, Announcements](#)
- 10 [Continuing Education/Camps](#)
- 11 [Valedictorians/Salutatorians](#)

VOTE

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fishkill Elementary
Fishkill Plains Elementary
Gayhead Elementary
Myers Corners Elementary
Vassar Road Elementary
Sheafe Road Elementary

If this newsletter was mailed to you,
 please check the address label for
 your polling location or call
 298-5000 ext. 145

2010-2011 WCSD Budget Issue

From the Superintendent and Board of Education President

Dear Residents:

Wappingers Central School District, like other districts across New York State, is at a crossroads. We find ourselves facing the most



difficult financial challenge in many years. As of this writing, our school district has been notified that our state funding will be reduced by more than \$6.1 million for the 2010-2011 school year. Our local revenues, such as interest income and more, will also decline. We are also facing significant increases in costs due to contractual obligations, health insurance premiums and mandated contributions to retirement systems. Moreover, the reduction of the district's fund balance over a four year period commencing in 2003-2004 has hindered our ability to offset these increased costs. As a result of these factors, it was clear that we had to reduce expenditures in order to prepare a budget that could be supported by our community during these difficult economic times. At the same time, we had to remain mindful of our core responsibility to provide a quality educational program for our students. This was not an easy task. Painful decisions have been made in order to balance the educational needs of our students with the fiscal realities that we are facing.

The result of the Board of Education's budget deliberations at many meetings over the past few weeks, is an adopted budget of \$184,175,215. It represents an increase of 3.11%. To achieve such a modest increase, the Board of Education examined a number of proposed budget reduction measures and cost savings opportunities. In total, approximately \$8 million of budget reduction measures and cost savings opportunities are reflected. The reductions, including programs, staff, and other pertinent information can

be found on the district's webpage at www.wappingersschools.org. The associated tax levy increase of 9.53% is largely due to the tremendous reduction in revenue and the District's low fund balance. Using current assessment information (which will be updated next month), this represents an average increase in school taxes of approximately \$324 for homeowners. It is important to note that the proposed budget, while reflecting many cost reductions, provides our students with the quality education our community has come to expect.

A contingency budget has also been adopted which could be implemented should the community fail to approve the proposed budget. The contingency budget contains more than \$3.8 million dollars of additional reductions, further impacting faculty and staff, music, sports, high school electives, alternative school, co-curricular activities and use of facilities by community organizations. The contingency budget is \$180,346,643 which is an increase of slightly less than one percent (.96%). The tax levy associated with the contingency budget is 6.23%. Using current assessment information, this represents an average increase in school taxes of approximately \$212 for homeowners, which is \$112 less than the proposed budget.

Please consider the proposed budget carefully. It achieves our goal of providing a quality education for our students in this very difficult economic environment. All residents are encouraged to participate in our school budget vote on Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

Yours truly,

James Parla,
Superintendent of Schools and
Douglass A. Bitteker,
President, Board of Education

Wappingers Central School District Budget Notice

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2010-2011 by the qualified voters of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, will be held

at the following schools: Fishkill Elementary, Fishkill Plains Elementary, Gayhead Elementary, Myers Corners Elementary, Sheafe Road Elementary and Vassar Road Elementary

on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted 2009-2010 School Year	Budget Proposed 2010-2011 School Year	Contingency Budget 2010-2011 School Year*
Total Budget Amount	\$178,623,391	\$184,175,215	\$180,346,643
Increase/decrease for the 2010-2011 school year		\$5,551,824	\$3,828,572
Percentage increase (decrease)		3.11%	
Change in the consumer price index		-.4%	
Resulting estimated property tax levy		\$127,094,580	
Component Breakdown			
Administrative component	\$18,469,503	\$19,084,456	\$19,046,846
Program component	\$140,744,547	\$145,541,959	\$142,279,282
Capital component	\$19,409,341	\$19,548,800	\$19,020,515
Total	\$178,623,391	\$184,175,215	\$180,346,643

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2010-2011 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.

Budget

VOTE: YES NO

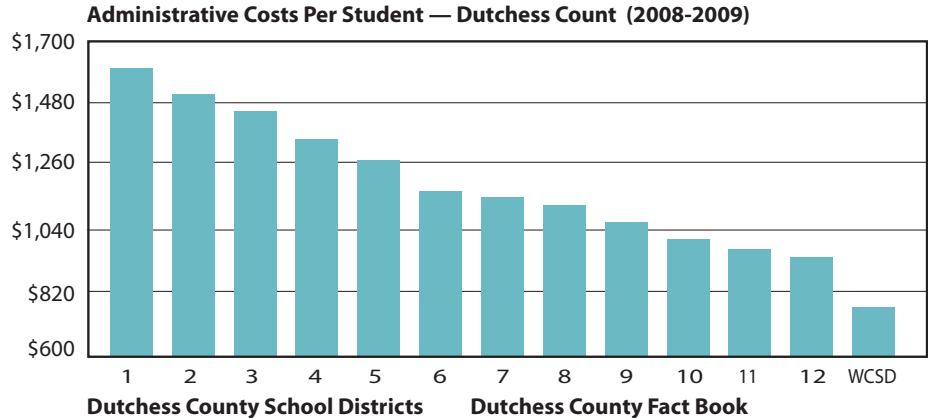
Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, in the amount of \$184,175,215 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

Proposition #1 - Bus Proposition

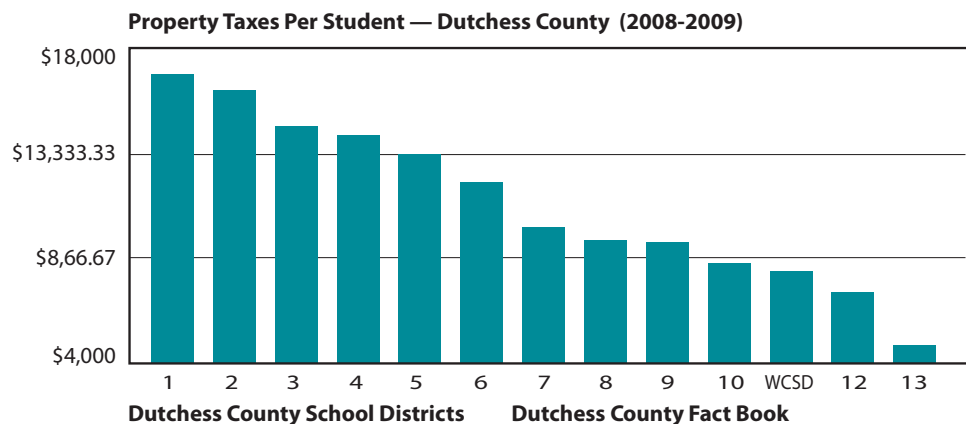
VOTE: YES NO

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to purchase the following student transportation vehicles: twenty 72 passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$2,113,460; which a total estimated maximum sum of \$2,113,460, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by law, and for which obligations of the District may be issued?

WCSD Administrative Costs Per Pupil Rank Last in County



WCSD Property Taxes Per Pupil Ranks Among the Lowest in County



Should the budget be defeated and a contingency budget be in place, an additional \$3.8 million, in addition to the initial \$8.2 million in cuts, would be required!

Contingency Reduction Measures (in addition to initial cuts)

Equipment	Maintenance/Grounds	Technology Integration Teacher
Supplies	Social Workers	In School Restriction (ISR) Teachers
Sports	Co-Curricular Activities	
High School Electives	Guidance Counselors	
Orchard View Lease	Psychologists	
School Security Officers	Music	



STAR Tax Savings

Basic STAR tax savings

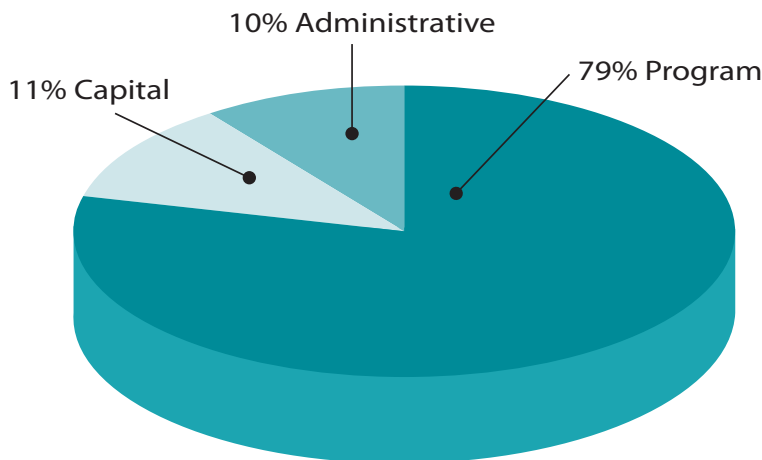
**Budget Adopted
2010-2011 School Year**

\$578.57



2010-2011 Property Tax Report Card			
	Budgeted 2009-2010	Budgeted 2010-2011	Percent Change
Total Spending	\$178,623,391	\$184,175,215	3.11%
Total School Tax Levy	\$115,809,564	\$127,094,580	9.53%
Public School Enrollment	12,482	12,405	
Consumer Price Index	3.8%	-0.4%	
Reserved Fund Balance			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000	
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance	\$2,500,000	\$2,700,000	
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance as a % of the Total Budget	1.50%	2.58%	

Budget Component Summary Chart



Contingency Budget

A contingency budget is prepared and adopted by the Board when the voters have rejected the proposed budget.

The Board of Education may present a proposed budget to the community only twice.

The total spending authorization imposed under a contingency budget is limited by formula. The increase over the year's budget may not exceed the lesser of either: (1) 4%; or (2) the result obtained when multiplying the national consumer price index by 120%. For the 2010-2011 school year, a consumer price index of -.4% equates to an authorized increase of 0%.

Based upon the budget adopted by the Board of Education taking into account the types of expenditures that can legally be used to modify this formula, the contingency budget calculated for the 2010-2011 school year would be \$180,346,643. If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget items in the table below would be eliminated. The difference to the average homeowner, based on current assessment information, would be approximately \$112 per year.

If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget will be reduced by the following:

- Majority of Sports Funding
- High School Electives(TBD)
- Orchard View Lease
- 8 Remaining School Safety Officers
- 1 Maintenance Mechanic
- All Remaining Social Workers
- Majority of Co-Curricular Activities
- 1 Guidance Counselor at each High School
- 2 School Psychologists
- 5.3 Music Teachers
- 3 Technology Integration Teachers
- 1 Groundskeeper
- Student Supplies
- In School Restriction Teachers
- Equipment

If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the address label for your polling location or call 298-5000, ext. 145.

BOARD CANDIDATES

(as they appear on the ballot)

VOTE FOR THREE BY PLACING A ✓ OR ✕ IN THE BOX UNDER CANDIDATE'S NAME.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ramesh Babu NANDI	Marilynn SHULTZ	Versie WALKER	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in

BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

1 Ramesh Babu Nandi:

My name is Ramesh Babu Nanadi. I am currently the Chief Technology Officer at Allianz Global Investors, a financial arm of Allianz, based in Manhattan. I have over 20 years of industry experience in both business and technology. I have a BS in Engineering and a MS in Computer Science.

I was born and raised in Bangalore, India and have lived in the Hudson Valley for almost 20 years. My wife Shobitha works for IBM and my two sons attend John Jay High School.

I have been involved in the community as a travel soccer and basketball coach, a volunteer for some of my son's classes where I taught Indian culture and about explorers of the world, and a co-leader of a senior teen group teaching children how to give back to society.

I am very passionate about education and feel we need to continuously engage ourselves and provide all our children with the best education possible. My goal is to help set strategy and a long term vision for our WCSD.

2 Marilynn Shultz:

My name is Marilynn Shultz. I retired from the District after 27 years of service, and have been active in real estate for over 15 years. I served as Board Vice President 2008-2010 and was on the WCSD Board in 2007-2010.

I am a 35 year resident of Wappingers. All of my children have attended WCSD. Currently I have two grandchildren attending schools in our District.

I believe that communication is key. As a Board member I have always made myself available to listen to concerns, ideas and questions from the public. During my three years on the Board, the budget-to-budget increases have been historically low. Even this year while faced with the decreased state aid and rising costs that are outside of our control, we were able to put together a budget, that while far from perfect, will keep our educational programs sound. The budget-to-budget increase is 3.11%, only slightly higher than last year's increase. The impact on our taxpayers will be as small as possible without totally decimating our school district. I will continually work to provide our children with the best education possible while being mindful of how and where your tax dollars are being spent.

3 Versie Walker:

My name is Versie Walker. I am originally from Chicago and moved to the Wappingers School District in 2003 with my family. I am an author, publisher, and public speaker with over 20 years of sales experience. I became self-employed in 2005 and now manage several retail stores from the east to west coast. Prior to 2005, I worked as a series 7 licensed financial advisor.

I play an active role in my children's education. I personally involve myself in school projects, activities and I am very visible in the community. If elected, I will bring to the WCSD Board the same discipline, focus, and self-determination that it took to become successful in both my personal and professional endeavors.

Being a product of an inner city public school system, I know firsthand that a quality education is critical, especially in today's environment.

I decided to run for the BOE because of my own children and to be a voice for other students who may not have active parents in the home. I firmly believe that a quality education shouldn't be an option, it should be a priority.

Congratulations 2010 Retirees

Michael Arrucci, Custodian; Barbara Boben, Bus Driver; Dollie Chase, Bus Driver; William Dean, Custodian; Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, Bus Driver; Angelo Forzano, Custodian; Susan Greinacher, Bus Driver; Peggy Jones, Food Service Helper; Patricia McGuire, Bus Driver; Charlotte Mulkins, Bus Driver; Jackie Vanwart, Bus Driver; Marie Emig, Account Clerk/Typist; Barbara Cutrone, Sr. Typist; Sherrill Murray-Lazarus, Secondary Principal; Cheryl Musante, Secondary Principal; Cathryn Reynolds, Senior Stenographer; Joseph Didonato, Coordinator -Social Studies and Foreign Language

VOTE
Tuesday, May 18, 2010
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Student Accolades and Kudos

- Over the past three years, the number of Regents exams taken by district students has grown by over 10%.
- Over the past three years, the passing rate on the 15 different Regents exams given in the district has risen from 84% to 90%.
- 90% of last June's graduates planned to go on to a 2- or a 4-year college.
- 90% of last June's graduates received a Regents Diploma while almost half of those received a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- 35 % of district high school students take at least one Honors or Advanced Placement course.
- 40% of district high school seniors take at least one Advanced Placement or college course.
- District AP scores consistently exceed those of the state and nation.
- More than 100 district students received AP Scholar awards this year.
- SAT scores consistently surpass both national and state averages.
- One-fifth of all 8th grade students take high school level math and science Regents courses.
- The district has 2 National Merit finalists and more than a dozen other National Merit award winners this year.
- Based on its participation in the Advanced Placement program, JJ High School is on the Newsweek Challenge Index of top 1500 high schools in the United States.
- A RCK High School team competed at the National Academic World Quest Competition in Washington, DC, for the third time.
- 9 JJ and 4 RCK students qualified for the NYS Math League Championship.
- 1 RCK student and 3 JJ students took first place for the NYSML team competition.
- 1 RCK student took first place in the buzz round at the NYSML.
- 2 RCK students won DECA competition at the state level.
- 1 RCK student was elected to a state officer position in DECA.
- 2 JJ and 3 RCK students qualified for the Mathematical Association of America national level championship.
- Both JJ and RCK Science Olympiad teams placed in regional competition and went on to the state competition.
- At the 2010 Dutchess County Science Fair, district students took first and second places in the 5th grade, 6th grade team, 9th grade, and senior team divisions; and 3rd place in the 5th, 6th, and 9th grade team divisions.
- Over 200 students participated in the annual WCSD All-District Elementary Music Festival.

WCSD Festival and Award Recipients

FESTIVALS

NYSSMA All-State Festival:

4 Students

NYSSMA Area All-State Festival: 50 Students

DCMEA Junior High All-County Festival: 54 Students

DCMEA Elementary All-County Festival: 47 Students

AWARDS

Exemplary Media Awards: 36 Students

2010 Hudson Valley Scholastic Art Awards:

8 Gold Key Awards
14 Silver Key Awards

NYSATA Portfolio Project: 7 Students

Grand Reopening for Roy C. Ketcham Courtyard Greenhouse



RCK students celebrating Earth Day in front of the greenhouse

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Roy C. Ketcham High School on April 22, to celebrate the re-opening of the greenhouse on Earth Day. Originally donated to the school over twenty years ago by English teacher Marguerite Adams, the greenhouse has been a fixture in the courtyard, but has been used for storage. Two years ago the school Greenworks Club decided to clean it up and put it to good use. Teachers and students have been donating vegetable seeds and young plants for the greenhouse. When the plants are mature they will be sold to raise funds for the group's activities, which include school and community environmental projects. The Greenworks Club has helped to implement a more efficient paper recycling program within the school, and they are providing bins for recyclable plastic bottles and aluminum cans in the cafeteria.

Prior to the first official Earth Day, which was in

1970, RCK had an environmental club called PYE, an acronym for Protect Your Environment. Director of Human Resources, Joanne Sereda, an RCK and club member alumna fondly recalls that her club planted trees on school grounds, and held village clean up days. Those early days at RCK inspired her love of gardening and recycling.

The greenhouse project influenced RCK student and Eagle Scout, Dave Willie, along with the Pride Committee and Student Council to design a butterfly garden for the courtyard. For his Eagle Scout project Willie intends to install a walking path and native plants that are attractive to butterflies.

Principal Tom Stella believes that eventually the greenhouse can become a centerpiece for the school. His vision includes having two points of egress from the building for science teachers to conduct biology and earth science classes outdoors. With some seating areas, the courtyard could possibly be used as a senior privilege for lunch time during warm weather. We have some very dedicated environmentalists at RCK, and the possibilities for the courtyard and greenhouse are endless.

Advisors for the Greenworks club are Chris Luhmann and Mitch Manzo, both RCK science teachers.

Raptors Around Us Assembly at FPES



Henry and his hawk

An image of a dinosaur “raptor” is displayed on the Smart Board in Mrs. Le-

one’s fourth grade classroom at Fishkill Plains Elementary School. “What’s a raptor?” Henry, an assistant from the Hudson Outdoor Information Center asks the students. “Raptors are birds of prey,” an enthusiastic student calls out. “I like that answer!” Henry responds, “Dinosaur raptors have evolved into what we know today as birds of prey.”

To wrap up the informational presentation which included photos of many different raptors in their natural habitats, Henry stood by the cages in the back of the classroom to take out a rehabilitated Red Tailed Hawk and a Barred Owl for students to observe.

When the two birds were younger they sustained irreparable wing damage from encounters with cars. They were brought to the Hudson Outdoor Information Center for recovery and now are permanent residents.

Henry and his two raptor companions travel around the Hudson Valley teaching students about the fascinating lives of raptors. Bringing nature into the classroom enables children to make a distinct connection with earth and nature, demonstrating how their personal choices can affect their communities as well as local wildlife.

WCSD Character Education Program

School-based character education programs and on-going and effective student prevention and intervention programs are important for the development and improvement of the teaching/learning environment. Teaching core values such as honesty, respect, generosity, kindness and equality help to build a foundation of integrity and good character.

Robot Teaches Character Ed Skills at Fishkill Plains

A six-foot tall, green and silver colored interactive robot named Gizmo, came to the Fishkill Plains Elementary School gym on January 15, to chat with third, fourth and fifth-grade students about the value of taking care of their bodies, and the benefits of striving to achieve their personal best in life.



Gizmo the robot interacting with students

Gizmo maneuvered around the gym, asking students many questions, one of which was, “Who wants to be a millionaire?” Almost every hand in the room went up. When he asked, “Who is the million-dollar machine?” They shouted, “You are!”

Flattered, Gizmo explained to the students that they are actually the million dollar machines, and no price could be put on them—because they are priceless. Gizmo exchanged stories with students all the while stressing the importance of taking care of their bodies, inside and out.

Students found conversing with an authentic robot to be quite intriguing and delightful. He even engaged the teachers in dialogue, and made them laugh!

P.A.W.S. Presentation at Myers Corners Elementary

Humane Law Enforcement Volunteer, Bill Reilly came to visit Myers Corners Elementary on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 to educate students about how to handle pets correctly and how to be safe with animals.

Using a PowerPoint presentation Reilly demonstrated the acronym P.A.W.S by using photos of healthy and unhealthy animals to help students remember the components of suitable pet care. He explained, that the “P” in P.A.W.S stands for Proper. Pets need the proper amount of food and appropriate food for optimal health. Overfed pets stand the risk of obesity, arthritis and diabetes. “A” stands for Attention. Pets require dai-



Billy Reilly speaks to Myers Corners students about proper pet care

ly grooming and hygiene, affection and proper veterinarian care. “W” stands for Water. Pets require a constant supply of fresh, room temperature water in a clean bowl. And “S” stands for Shelter. Pets need shelter from the elements to keep them safe.

Reilly emphasized the dangers of leaving animals in a car or truck unattended when it is hot or cold, even if the window is left open a few inches. He reminded the students that hurting animals can be a crime and that violent behavior is never okay, and there is never an excuse for animal abuse.

Ryan’s Story Assembly at Roy C. Ketcham High School

Ryan Halligan, a 13 year old young man from Vermont died by suicide in 2003 after being bullied by classmates at school and online via cyberbullying. His father John Halligan, devastated by the loss of his son, was determined to help other young people avoid the same fate as Ryan by devoting his life to telling Ryan’s story to middle school and high school students around the country. Last fall Halligan came to RCK to talk about how best to deal with bullying, cyberbullying, and teen depression.

Halligan spearheaded a bully prevention law in Vermont that holds schools much more accountable in preventing and responding to this growing epidemic. He also works closely with I-Safe America, a worldwide leader in Internet safety education, to raise awareness about cyberbullying and the severe emotional impact it can have on a young person. Visit Ryan’s Story website at: <http://www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org>

Around The Schools: Arts in Education

Arts in Education Programs at WCSD

Arts in Education programs include literature, visual arts, music, dance and drama. These programs offer the means for students to learn through tangible experiences. Active engagement with art experiences instills a development of curiosity and bring students in touch with themselves, in order to awaken their connection to the world around them.

School House Rock! Jr., the Musical at Gayhead Elementary

Fifth grade students from Gayhead Elementary School performed *School House Rock! Jr., the Musical*, an educational, entertaining musical play, for peers and parents, on February 4, 5 and 6.

The original Schoolhouse Rock series are a collection of animated videos featuring characters that utilize song, and rhyme to teach kids about grammar, science, math and American history. It first aired on TV in 1973, and continues to be used to teach elementary grades. Based on the original Schoolhouse Rock, *School House Rock! Jr., the Musical*, is part of the Broadway Junior Collection, originally adapted and produced for stage by Theatre BAM.

This is the second time Gayhead students have performed this particular play. The first performance was four years ago, when the current fifth grade students were in first grade. Four years later, the original cast of the play are now freshman in high school.



Students singing during performance

Participating in theatre is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn new skills, such as operating house lights, set construction and costume design, which may inspire them to become involved in theatre arts at the middle or high school levels. It enables students to experience a wealth of learning, creativity and self-confidence.

The fifth grade musical is made possible by the Gayhead PTA Programs Committee, which sponsors Arts in Education programs throughout the year.

Suminagashi Demonstration



Christina Dimarco demonstrating the art of Suminagashi

To promote Youth Art Month, in March, Myers Corners Elementary School art teacher Ruth Lancer invited local artist Christina Dimarco into her classroom to demonstrate the ancient art of Suminagashi to the third grade class of Mrs. Bilsback/ Mrs. Calahan.

Suminagashi is an ancient Japanese technique of marbled paper. For the demonstration, Dimarco carefully dropped ink into a tray of clean, still water making it float. By alternating the black ink with a drop of repelling surfactant, delicate patterns floated on top of the water. Dimarco then gently laid a piece of paper on the surface of the water where it absorbed the ink. The paper was quickly removed and rinsed in cool water and left to dry. Dimarco set up workstations of water trays and ink for the students to create their own marbled paper. Students worked in pairs to make the process easier. They were fascinated by the technique and delighted with the beautiful prints they created!

Kinry Road Elementary School Mural

In honor of Youth Art Month, Black History Month, Read Across America, and Music in our Schools Month some Kinry Road students, along with art teacher Ms. Crista Roa, and her student teacher Miss DiSanto, worked on the creation of a school mural. Most of the work was accomplished by the students during recess and art class.

Based upon the children's book *This Jazz Man*, by Karen Ehrhardt, the mural merges images from the book inspired by the illustrator R.G. Roth. The mural captures the energy of jazz through color, composition and movement.



WAPPINGERS SCHOOLS

Elementary Schools

Brinckerhoff.....	897-6800
Evans.....	298-5240
Fishkill.....	897-6780
Fishkill Plains.....	227-1770
Gayhead.....	227-1756
Kinry Road.....	463-7322
Myers Corners.....	298-5260
Oak Grove.....	298-5280
Sheafe Road.....	298-5290
Vassar Road.....	463-7860

Secondary Schools

Van Wyck JHS.....	227-1700
Wappingers JHS.....	298-5200
John Jay HS.....	897-6700
Roy C. Ketcham HS.....	298-5100
Orchard View	
Alternative HS.....	298-5000

WCS D OFFICES 298-5000

167 Myers Corners Road, Suite 200
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent
James Parla

Deputy Superintendent
Technology, Testing & Assessments
Charles Hill, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction
Judith Belfield

Director/Special Education & Student Services
Johanna Hudak

Business Manager
Michele Moloney

Director/Human Resources
Joanne Sereda

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Jump Rope for Heart at Oak Grove

On Friday, February 12, 2010, Oak Grove had



70 students from 4th and 5th grades stay after school to fight heart disease and stroke with *Jump Rope for Heart*. During their physical education class that week, all grades participated in jumping rope stations in order to promote a healthy heart and learn the importance of exercise at Oak Grove. This year students raised \$5,382 in the campaign for the American Heart Association. Over the last 18 years, Oak Grove students have collected a total of \$110,365 for the American Heart Association.

Van Wyck Junior High School Raises Funds for Haiti

After a massive earthquake struck southern Haiti on January 12, students at Van Wyck Junior High sprung into action under the guidance of sixth grade teacher, Jennifer Colucci.

Students sold blue and red wristbands imprinted with *Van Wyck Cares...Help Haiti*, for \$2 each, and collected non-perishable food items and medical supplies such as bandages, medical tape, antiseptics, tweezers, etc.

Over \$1,200 was collected for the Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development fund!

Oak Grove Family Pasta Night



Fifth grade student, Vincent Granata, wearing "meatball and spaghetti" costume

The Oak Grove Elementary PTA held their third annual Pasta Night on Thursday January 21. One hundred fifty-seven tickets were sold to Oak Grove families for this event. Spaghetti, antipasto, and garlic bread were prepared at the school. Volunteer Patti Granata, made 250 meatballs in her home to bring to school for the dinner.

As tradition dictates, after the meal and dessert, families sat down at the long lunch tables to play games together. It's a simple, family fun night to relax and have a good time. Money collected for the tickets went to purchase the food. Any leftover funds went directly back to the PTA for the children.

Are You Smarter Than the Principal?

Wappingers Junior High School students held a Bookfair fundraiser at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Poughkeepsie on March 4th for the school's



(Left to Right) Wappingers Junior High School Principal Vince Di Grandi, Mark Rizzo and Joseph Nieves-Luecke

PTA. Students rotated teams to play several rounds of *Are You Smarter Than the Principal?* with WJHS Principal Mr. Vincent Di Grandi. Questions were extracted from material students were studying in their classrooms. Following the game the school chamber string ensemble performed Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, among a few other selections. Additionally, the school drama club promoted their play, *The Music Man*, by singing some songs. A good time was had by all.

Kinry Road School Holds Second Annual Walk for Diabetes

Teacher Michelle Murphy, head of the Student Council "Gold Team", along with school P.E. teacher, Anne Seymour are helping to organize their annual school-wide Walk for Diabetes which will be held on May 18. Last year the school raised over \$4,800 for the The American Diabetes Association (ADA). Walk for Diabetes paper cut-out sneakers are be-

A Taste of Ketcham Fundraiser



Interact Club students serve food at the annual international fundraising dinner

Students from the Interact Club at Roy C. Ketcham High School held their annual international fundraising dinner, *A Taste of Ketcham* last fall. Every year the Interact Club raises money for an international cause—it is their biggest annual project. Over eight hundred-fifty dol-

lars were raised at the dinner to be donated to an orphanage in rural China. Teachers, students, parents and local businesses donated food, gift cards and services. Tickets or "passports" were purchased at the door for either \$8 (seven samples) or \$10 (ten samples) allowing each person to sample a menu item of their choice. After the food sample was placed on the plate, a number on the ticket was stamped, similar to an actual passport. Free desserts and beverages were provided. The ethnic foods served included Italian, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Spanish, Japanese, German, Jewish, American, and more. A group of ninth-grade students will be traveling to China this summer and one of their stops will be to visit the orphanage to deliver the much needed supplies and monetary funds. Teacher Patty Glancey, is the Interact Club advisor.

Interact is Rotary International's youth service club for students ranging from 14 to 18 years of age. Each year, Interact Clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Projects help foster helpfulness and respect for others, understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work, and advancing international understanding and goodwill.

ing sold for \$1 each to raise funds. The classroom with the most donations will be rewarded with an additional P.E. class. Some of the funds will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). According to the ADA, 23.6 million children and adults in the United States—7.8% of the population—have diabetes.

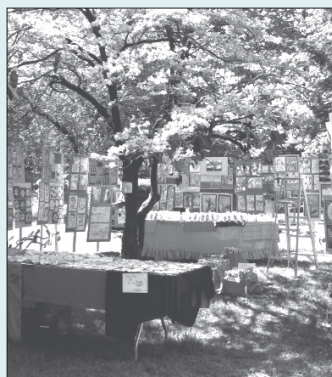
Around The Schools: Honors, Awards and Announcements

WCSD Gears up for 60th Annual Festival of The Arts

**Saturday, May 15, 2010 (rain date – Sunday, May 16)
Mesier Park, Village of Wappinger Falls
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (most activities end at 3:30 p.m.)**

The arts are an integral part of education in the Wappingers Central School District. During the school year, the District's art and music departments work to bring new experiences and opportunities to Wappingers students, including guest conductors, visiting artists, national competitions, and field trips to museums. These opportunities have earned the District a long-standing reputation for high-quality arts education, while affording the students even greater opportunities in life. Wappingers students are regularly sought out by art colleges and scouts for special programs in the arts. This year the District celebrates its achievements, the achievements of its thousands of alumni, and the 60th anniversary of the annual Festival of the Arts – the District's showcase and gift to the community for supporting the arts and our children's creative pursuits.

It's a one-day outdoor celebration, and student artwork will be on display from all 15 schools that make up the Wappingers Central School District. Student performances will happen throughout the day and will be heard throughout the park. Current students will be giving painting demonstrations and showing festival goers how to throw pottery on the wheel. Color your own t-shirt, make your own hat, or simply kick back and enjoy the sights and sounds. Original artwork will be on sale to support the Steven A. Parascandola Memorial Art



Scholarship – the first visual art scholarship in the district. Buy a handmade bowl or a mug to support the Empty Bowls project. This year, students are organizing a food drive to benefit the Zion Church food pantry. Bring a non-perishable food item to fill the gazebo for this worthwhile cause.

Please come out, enjoy the day, and celebrate with us.

Fishkill Elementary Centennial

June 12, 2010 is the day our community will celebrate the 100th birthday of the Fishkill Elementary School Bell Tower. We are inviting the community to participate in this historic event. There will be a parade, Country Fair/Festival and Fishkill Elementary School open house and tours.

Help us make this celebration a success... save the date and join the fun!



John Jay Students Win Spelling Bee



Winning team, Blake Rodriguez and Christina DiDonato

18 to raise funds for Literacy Connections, a volunteer-based literacy organization serving Dutchess, Columbia and Greene Counties. Among the spellers were high school students, college students, teachers, social service agency employees, and adult community members with an aptitude for spelling.

There were 58 teams of two partners each participating in the Spelling Bee. This year two students from John Jay High School, Christina DiDonato and Blake Rodriguez, won the competition.

The 19th Annual Community Spelling Bee was held at the Marist College Student Center on March

Dutchess County Regional Science Fair at DCC

Dutchess Community College was home to the 51st annual Dutchess County Regional Science Fair on Saturday April 10. Students from around the county participated in the event. They submitted science projects based on biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science, engineering, earth and space sciences, environmental sciences, behavioral and social sciences. The Dutchess County Regional Science Fair is open to all qualified students from 5th through 12th grades attending any public, private, parochial or home school in Dutchess County. Students must be top place winners in their local science fairs in order to qualify. Congratulations to all the winners from the Wappingers Central School District. Please check the website for winners names.

WCSD Named Designee for Best Community Music Education

In the spring of 2009 WCSD was notified that it had been selected as a 2009 *Best Community for Music Education* designee. This selection was announced by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM).

This national selection was made after detailed information was submitted for review. School districts were measured across curricular and programmatic criteria, as well as public support of their music programs. The districts named as recipients demonstrate an "unwavering commitment to provide music education for their students. The potential of music to help children reach their full development is understood by the districts represented," according to Mary Leuhsen, Executive Director of the NAMM Foundation.

Mary Bish, WCSD's Coordinator for Fine and Performing Arts states, "This honor is a true reflection that in Wappingers, the entire community values the music program and believes that all students deserve the benefits of an education that includes and values music. The community is designated for this recognition, and we are very proud to have been selected."



Wappingers Middle School Chamber String Group performing at Barnes and Noble

High School Athletics

**Hall of Fame 2009-2010
John Jay Sports Information**

League Champions

Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls Tennis,
Lacrosse for Girls Wappingers

Section Champs

Girls Soccer

Individual All League Champions

Spring: 35; **Fall:** 36; **Winter:** 24

Individual All Section Champions

Jeff Schult (Baseball), Brittany Pinto (Softball), Alex Rodriguez (Softball), Mike Belluzzi (Track), Brian Jennings (Lacrosse), Melissa Mahoney (Lacrosse), Anna Ausanio (Golf), Samantha Mcguire (Girls Soccer), Keara Hunt (Girls Soccer), Geena Kooner (Girls Soccer), Matt Yackel (Boys Soccer), Rob Salomone (Boys Bowling), Kevin Winant (Boys Bowling), Joe Ayala (Boys Bowling), Brian Weinblatt (Wrestling), Mike Moretoni (Wrestling), Steve Moody (Wrestling)

Individual All County Qualifiers

Irene Santiago (Track), Daniella Bernasconi (Track), Ally Bernasconi (Track), Grace Tilearcio, Kevin Joyce (Track), Ryan Gomba (Track), Rich Wetzelberger (Track), Mike Beluzzi (Track), Lauren Crawford (Track), Amanda Guisto (Track), Michelle Granuzzo (Track), Irene Santiago (Track), Gabrielle Drummond (Track)

Roy. C. Ketcham Sports Information

Fall

Football

2009 Bowl Champions

Cheerleading

Conference Champions
Grand Champions

Winter

Cheerleading

Conference Champions
Grand Champions

Boys Bowling -

League Champs - Frank Backer -
State Qualifier

Girls Basketball -

Briana Jones, 2nd all time leading scorer
for career at Roy C. Kectcham

WCSD Continuing Education

Wappingers Community School

Jeffrey Behnke, Coordinator 298-5000 ext. 130

Kathy Theiller, Secretary 298-5000 ext. 137

Driver Ed is Returning To Wappingers!

Driver Education is returning to WCSD with the first session starting July 6th!

This 48 hours of instruction leads to a NYS driver education certificate (MV285). This certificate, in most cases, assures students a reduction in their auto insurance for three years which practically covers the cost of the program. Students are also then eligible to receive their senior license at 17. Applications will be available on the Wappingers website beginning May 1st. The cost is \$375 and is open to WCSD students. Students must be 16 years of age by the start of the first class & have a valid learner's permit. Applications are processed on a first registered, first served basis.

Look for Continuing Education's FALL CLASS SCHEDULE on the Wappingers website in August!

Go to www.wappingersschools.org and click on the Continuing Ed link. For more information call 298-5000, ext. 137.

Summer Camps

Offered through Wappingers Continuing Education

Art Camp

June 28-July 2

Computers

July 12-16

Tae Kwan Do

Mondays
starting May 17th

Band Camp 6th/7th grade

June 28-July 2

Hands-On Science

July 6-9 &
July 12-16

Theater Camp

July 19-23

Band Camp 8th/9th grade

July 19-23

Spanish Camp

June 28-July 2 &
July 12-16

Zumba

Mondays & Fridays
starting in July

For specific times, locations, costs & grade levels, go to www.wappingersschools.org and click on Continuing Ed.

Around The Schools: High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian

JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL

Royce Hwang, Valedictorian



From the beginning of ninth grade, Royce has demonstrated a rare, refreshing and admirable quality of courtesy and teamwork which has earned the respect of the teachers and administrators who have worked with him. Royce has served as Class Treasurer and Secretary of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Society. He is a member of the

National Honor Society, Young Democrats Club, the Debate Club and has worked as the Copy Editor of his school newspaper. He is a member of the school orchestra and chamber orchestra. As a volunteer staff assistant in our local hospital, Royce works for three hours a week and has done so for the past two years. Royce spends an additional four hours per week as a volunteer tutor in his high school. He is also a fine tennis player. Royce is a Finalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship program, an AP National Scholar and an AP Scholar with distinction. He has won numerous awards in both mathematics and science. Royce is the recipient of John Jay's Exemplary Character and Citizenship award. He has participated in Model Congress throughout high school. As a member of the New York State Mathematics League, Royce has been awarded the Highest Team Scorer Award. He has also participated in Columbia University's Honors Program. Royce will be attending Cornell University in the fall.

Anna Zhu, Salutatorian



Genuine, honorable, caring, passionate, talented and intelligent are just a few attributes that make Anna Zhu the extraordinary student and young lady she is. Since the beginning of her freshman year, Anna has established a reputation with teachers, administrators and students as a hard working, compassionate young lady who truly cares about the world around

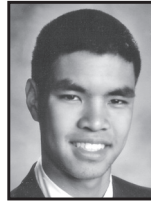
her. She will leave an indelible mark on the John Jay Community.

Anna has achieved many accolades during her high school career and has taken on many different roles. She was the Vice President of the National Honor Society, a member of the Spanish Club, Math Honor Society, Math Team, Spanish Honor Society, Photo Editor/Computer Layout/ Photo Editor of the Yearbook Club, Layout Editor of The Patriot Newspaper and the Secretary of SADD/Reality Check. Outside of these roles, she also volunteers her time as a tutor at the school learning center and a volunteer at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie. She has played tennis for the John Jay Varsity tennis team and also danced for the Mid-Hudson Chinese Youth Dance Group.

Anna is a Finalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program and a recipient of the John Jay Exemplary Character and Citizenship Award. She also became one of the few John Jay students in history to receive an award from the National Council of Teachers of English for Superior Performance in Writing. For all that, Anna is one of the most grateful, humble young ladies you will meet. Anna will be attending Cornell University in the fall.

ROY C. KETCHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Alex Leung, Valedictorian



Alex Leung is an outstanding individual who is highly respected by all those he encounters. He is highly motivated and dedicated in achieving his goal and aspirations. Academically, Alex is an accomplished student, having maintained an A+ average while taking numerous Honors and Advanced Placement courses throughout his academic career. He is a National Merit Scholar Commended Student as well as an AP Scholar with Distinction, and is involved in RCK's chapter of the National Honor Society as the Historian. In addition, he is Treasurer of the Biology Club.

Outside of academia, Alex balances his time between athletics, music and volunteer commitments. He is a captain of the Roy C. Ketcham varsity soccer team, and participates in ski club and track and field. Within music, Alex takes great interest in playing both violin and piano. He is a member of the RCK orchestra and chamber orchestra and has performed in many concerts including the NYSSMA solo and ensemble festival, among others. He has volunteered countless hours throughout his community, including the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum, Empire State games, and local nursing homes and churches. In the fall, Alex plans to pursue a major in electrical and computer engineering and is considering either Carnegie Mellon University or Cornell University.

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Alanna Smith, Salutatorian



Alanna Smith is a member of the Masque & Mime Drama Club where she has served as treasurer, poster designer, make-up artist, and principal actress. She sings in the Chamber and Women's Choirs, and was selected for the Area All-State Mixed Chorus in 11th and 12th grades. In July 2008, Alanna traveled to France and

Belgium with the RCK Traveling Choir. She has played both harp and piano for almost 10 years and was a member of the bell choir at St. Mary's Church in Fishkill. Alanna has been an active member of the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution since 2002, in which she has held several local and state officer positions. Alanna, an avid reader, volunteered for many years as a reading and ESL tutor at Grinnell Library, where she now works as a student page. In 2009, she was inducted into the National Honor Society, where she has served as both President and Vice President. She is an AP Scholar with Honors, and a National Merit Commended student. In both 2007 and 2009, Alanna was honored with the RCK English Department Award of Excellence. At the end of her junior year she was the recipient of the Rosemary Evaul Award for Outstanding Achievement in English. Alanna plans to continue a family legacy by attending Providence College in their Liberal Arts Honors Program on a distinguished St. Dominic Presidential Scholarship.

**Get More
Budget
Information**
www.wappingersschools.org

Relay For Life Fundraising Walk

Join the Dutchess County American Cancer Society's 9th Annual *Relay for Life* event on Friday June 18th from 3pm-midnight at All Sport Fishkill. This is an event that will receive 60% of the monies raised for our Dutchess County ACS. These monies will go towards local support groups, the ACS call center website, *Reach to Recovery* and other programs which benefit cancer patients, caregivers and their families. Several Wappingers schools are participating. Won't you join them? Together we can all make a difference!

Contact Gail Buckle at 896-5087 for additional information.

Important District Announcement Regarding Megan's Law

"... From time to time local law enforcement officials will notify the District when an individual with a history of sex offenses against a child is being paroled or released into the community. Upon written request to the principal, notification will be provided by the principal to the community members who have made the request

of the fact that such an individual has been paroled or released into the community. Requests for particulars about the individual being released will be referred, at the request of local law enforcement, to the hotline number or the website provided..." **1-800-262-3257**
(www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/index.htm)

FINE & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
60TH ANNIVERSARY
SATURDAY MAY 15, 10 AM - 4 PM
MESIER PARK, WAPPINGERS FALLS

ART EXHIBITS, DEMOS
MUSIC PERFORMANCES
ALUMNI EVENTS, KIDS
ACTIVITIES, T-SHIRTS

& FOOD DRIVE
TO BENEFIT THE FOOD PANTRY
LOCATED @ THE ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH
★ PLEASE BRING FOOD DONATIONS TO THE GAZEBO IN THE PARK ★

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY MAY 16, 10AM - 4PM

Roy C. Ketcham High School 2010 Summer Sports Camps

Field Hockey Camp: June 28 - July 1, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Cheerleading Camp: July 12-15
Contact Erin Mulligan erin.mulligan@wappingersschools.org or 298-5100 x144

Baseball Camp:
Session 1: June 28-July 1, **Session 2:** July 6- July 8
Session 3: July 12- July 15, **Session 4:** July 19 - July 22, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Contact Patrick Mealy patrick.mealy@wappingersschools.org or 298-5100 x138

John Jay High School 2010 Summer Sports Camps

Girls Basketball Camp: July 12-15 **Volleyball Camp:** June 28 - July 1

GRADUATION DATES:

John Jay High School
Friday, June 25 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 6:30 p.m.

Roy C. Ketcham High School
Saturday, June 26 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 11:00 a.m.