

InPrint

WAPPINGERS

Central School District

newsletter

The Wappingers Central School District Newsletter

December 2013



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WCSD

"The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community."

2013 - 2014 School Year

Message From The Superintendent



Dear Wappingers Families and Community Members,

The middle of December in a school district is a typically lively time with concerts, decorations, and a sense of excitement reflective of the holiday season. Our District, excelling in the teaching and learning of the Arts, is a great place to be this time of year. Two significant historical milestones this year have already given us cause for celebration and reflection. On November 20th Brinkerhoff Elementary School celebrated its 50th Anniversary and this September marked the 75th year of the District's centralization.

This year the District continued with its groundbreaking work in strategic planning by adopting a mission statement, a framework of core values, and strategic objectives. We enter the next phase of our work in strategic planning with the formation of action teams, a measurement team, and a strong commitment to planning for the future of the District. This year has seen the District make considerable strides in addressing critical infrastructure issues. Sorely needed replacements of a number of heating systems at schools around the District and the prudent conversion from heating oil to natural gas have been completed resulting in cost savings and a high quality heating system that will serve our schools well for years to come. The plans for many other improvements in physical infrastructure have undergone development and refinement and at this time we are awaiting the State Education Department's final approval so that we can begin. These plans include the construction of a bus garage, site drainage, window replacements, roofing, and technology improvements related to increasing the security of our schools.

The Common Core Learning Standards, adopted by New York State in 2011 and implemented in 2012-13, continue to be a major theme in the instructional work of the District. This State Education Department initiative, along with the other components of the Regents Reform Agenda, represents a monumental shift in practice, requiring resources for professional development, and given the complexity and scope of the change, time to fully comprehend and properly implement. Our educators and educational leaders have worked hard to meet this professional challenge and provide an excellent experience in learning for all of our students.

The year to date, while far from over, has been rich in accomplishment and experience. The words of Robert Frost, "And miles to go before I sleep," come to mind as we look at the rest of the year through the lens of Winter 2013 and what we may achieve in the months ahead.

Wishing all the very best of the Holiday Season,
Marco F. Pochintesta,
Superintendent



Message From BOE President

Dear Parents, Employees, Students, and Community members,

Greetings to all from the Board of Education.

Please join me in wishing our community the best holiday season yet! It is the time when families get together, people travel short and long distances to be with their near and dear ones and celebrate. We decorate our homes, our streets, towns and cities with lights and hope that there will be no darkness anywhere: on our streets, in our homes and in our hearts. This is the time when we reconcile our differences, come together and celebrate together. We open our hearts, not only to our friends and families but also for those less fortunate. This is the American tradition.

This is also a very special time for our children. They await the season and wish for lots of toys and gifts. Our children have worked very hard throughout the year and they deserve all of our attention, praise, love and our blessings. I am also taking this opportunity to wish a very happy holiday season to all my fellow Board Members, our administrative staff, our teachers and teaching assistants, our secretarial staff, bus drivers and custodians, school nurses, cafeteria workers and facilities staff and their families. It is a real pleasure to work with each and every one of you towards our common goal of educating our children to their best potential. Our children are our future and the Board of Education admires and appreciates the contribution made by everyone towards the development of our children.

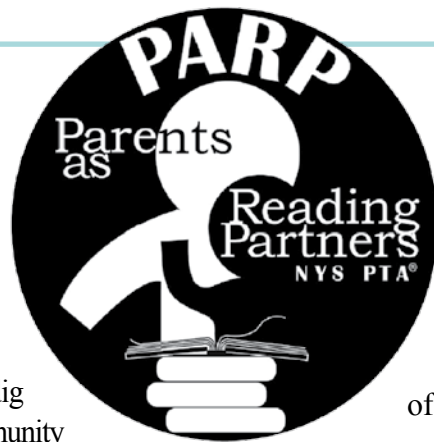
Let us forget all of our differences and celebrate this holiday season as one big Wappingers School District family and come back as a well rested, relaxed and happy family to deal with our opinions, differences and our projects after the season. On behalf of the Board of Education, I also wish you a very happy, prosperous and productive New Year as we welcome the year 2014. May all your wishes be fulfilled in the coming year.

Ved Shrivah,
President

“Passport to Adventure” Won the New York State PTA Parents as Reading Partners Award

The Fishkill Plains Elementary School PTA won the New York State PTA Parents as Reading Partners Award (PARP) 2012-2013 for best program. The winning theme centered their books, projects, and activities on a “Passport to Adventure”.

This PARP group was not stopping there! Over the summer, the PARP Committee partnered with children’s librarian Cathy Nudig and the East Fishkill Community Library to provide a six week summer reading program, “Dig Into Reading”. Sixty seven Fishkill Plains’ students completed the program by reading for two hours a week and completing one project a week for six weeks. From among the seventeen project choices, students designed ‘Wanted Posters’ and planned parties for literary characters.



There are also several parents who volunteer their time to hand out prizes, organize, and supervise Literacy Nights. The program has been a huge success! They have given out numerous prizes and over 2,000 books to students, families, and teachers, encouraging a love of learning and knowledge.



This fall, the Fishkill Plains PARP program committee has raised the bar yet again, creating a new fun filled and experience rich theme titled, “Travel Through Time with Books”.

On September 12th, the PARP kicked off the 2013-2014 school year with a free book giveaway and Book Nook set up in the main lobby filled with books for students to take.

Thanks to Tim Stinson, the Arts in Ed Coordinator, the students enjoyed fabulous literacy programs which included, first, a storyteller who provided an interactive rendition of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, followed by James Preller, renowned children’s author and creator of the “Jigsaw Jones” series, and, finally, Alexandra Siy, photographer and science author. These programs enthralled students and teachers alike.

The programs are chosen for their ability to contribute to understanding the importance of reading and literacy activities in a family and community setting. The PARP Committee, Kara Slosower, Debbie Gleeson, Eddy A. Slosower, Amy Cook, Michelle Pineiro, Jessica Morsey, Christine Southard, Pam DiDomizio and Michelle Reese, work diligently to prepare projects, contests and literacy nights related to the theme.

Thanks to a \$2,000 grant received from Target, there are new projects, contests and literacy nights as well as an emphasis on Social Studies, Math and Science in addition to Reading planned. These and a contest for this year’s logo complete the fall schedule. They are certainly looking forward to a fun filled, informative year of learning that may perhaps include another NYS Award.



If you are interested in joining the Fishkill Plains PARP committee or need more information, please contact us at fpptaparp@gmail.com.

John Jay Rotary Interact Takes a Crop Walk



Sunny with a pleasant breeze, Sunday, October 20th was a gorgeous day for a stroll around the neighborhood. The annual CROP Hunger Walk, a community wide event sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council (DCIC) and Church World Service (CWS), raised funds to end hunger at home and around the world. A 6.3 mile walk beginning and ending at the Poughkeepsie Jewish Community Center, the event drew community members both young and old, eager to raise money for the notable cause.

Over 20 members from John Jay High School’s Rotary Interact Club participated along with numerous other volunteers.



CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events where local congrega-

tions come together and raise funds to put an end to hunger on both a local and global scale. Founded in 1946, CWS is a co-operative organization working together to eradicate hunger and poverty, promote peace and justice among the world’s most vulnerable people. It serves people of all faiths.

This year Ken Moody, a CROP Hunger Walk enthusiast and organizer, contacted the John Jay Rotary Interact Club looking for volunteers to join, aid in set-up, and help with spreading awareness for the event. Club members enthusiastically gathered to help out with the logistics of setting up chairs and tents, signing up fellow walkers at different check-points, and selling baked goods.



In 2011 and 2012, respectively, the DCIC CROP Walk for Hunger raised \$54,141 and \$57,903, making the DCIC event the #1 highest yielding CROP Hunger Walk in the Southern New England region.



Hopes for the 2013 event were equally high, as the money raised goes to a variety of programs to relieve hunger and poverty and respond to emergency situations around the world, with 25% of the money raised stays right here in Dutchess County to help fight hunger in our own community.



Annual Fun Night at James Evans ES

At approximately four o'clock in the afternoon on October 25th, the doors of Evans Elementary School closed to the public. Voluntarily, the entire Evans staff, with the help of Evans' amazing PTA, quickly converted the school into a building decorated for fun. Students in grades K-6 attended the historic Evans event with their families and participated in exciting activities that were creatively designed and facilitated by the staff and PTA.



The evening began with a pizza dinner as families enjoyed spooky music. Afterwards, the costumed children and their parents went around in teams to five different stations during the two hour event.

The activities included cupcake decorating for a sweet dessert, fun carnival games, a chilling Haunted House, spooky stories, crafts, and a sing-a-long.

For the second year in a row, the Hudson Valley Karate



School, owned by Mr. Peter Antonelli, hosted a Bully Prevention Workshop as one of the stations. The workshop helped students and their families build their confidence and know how to defend themselves.



The evening was enjoyed by all and children left with smiles and many sweet treats.

Evans' Annual Fun Night would not be possible each year without the dedication and time of the teachers,



staff, parent volunteers, and teen volunteers from Roy C. Ketcham High School's Interact Club and National Honor Society who help make each activity a great success.



Kinry Road WALK-A-THON

A committee that plans events to raise funds to build a much needed playground has been formed by a group of parents at Kinry Road Elementary School. As a result Kinry Road held its first ever walk-a-thon on October 11th as part of its 10-day Walking Challenge. Prior to the walk-a-thon, students were asked to obtain pledges for each lap they were to walk on the 1/3-mile course.

The school holds a friendly competition each year with Oak Grove School where students track the number of steps they walk during a 10-day period. The Oak Grove Squirrels took back the trophy in 2012, however, Kinry was poised to bring it back to Cougar Country after the walk-a-thon. Steps were counted during and after the school day by not only students, but also family members. During the walkathon, students ran and walked while DJ Frankie from Premier Entertainment played music. Students also earned prizes for their participation.



Congratulations, **more than \$1,500** was raised to benefit the Kinry Road Playground fund. According to Principal Mary Bish, the event was a huge success for the entire school as students and staff enjoyed an afternoon of exercise, fun, and community. Future fundraisers will include Penny Wars, a night at Buffalo Wild Wings, and Zumba.

Fishkill Plains Change Bandit Makes a Difference

Congratulations to **Angela Stasiak**, a fifth grader at Fishkill Plains Elementary School, who collected **\$845.17** in donations for the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center through their "Change Bandits" program.

"Change Bandits" are people or groups who collect change (and bills and checks, too!) in a fundraising effort for the Hospital's many worthwhile services. The hospital, which is near and dear to Angela and her family, provides advanced, life-saving care to over a million children in the Hudson Valley region. Through her fundraising, Angela aimed to make a difference so that children with life-threatening illnesses can be helped by the hospital's amazing doctors and nursing staff.

The class that donated the most change received homemade loom bracelets that Angela made herself. Mrs. Bohlinger's class collected the most change, contributing to an outstanding cause. Thank you to all who participated!



Getting to Know You: James S. Evans ES

Lauren Guerrero is the new principal of James S. Evans Elementary School. A veteran to the Wappingers Central School District, Ms. Guerrero has worked in the schools for the past ten years. Previously, she held the position of 6th Grade Assistant Principal at Van Wyck Middle School, where she led a group of 20 teachers. Prior to that, she taught 7th and 8th grade Spanish at Van Wyck Middle School.

Ms. Guerrero is an alumni of the district, having attended Gayhead Elementary School, Van Wyck Middle School, and John Jay High School as a child. After graduating from John Jay, Ms. Guerrero attended Ithaca College, where she studied Business Administration with a minor in Mathematics and Spanish. After graduation, she worked for Liberty Mutual Insurance, putting her business degree to use before deciding that teaching was her true goal.

She enrolled in a transition program at Mount Saint Mary College, which aimed to support professionals in their career change to education. While studying education, she observed her former Spanish teacher at Van Wyck, and was recruited for maternity leave coverage. She started her teaching career at her former school in 2005. She completed her Master's in 2008.

Ms. Guerrero furthered her education by attending the College of Saint Rose, where she earned her Master's in Administration in May 2010. In her new position, her typical day includes spending time in the classroom and communicating with parents and teachers. Ms. Guerrero said, "My first day on the job, I greeted the kids as they got off the bus, and then in the first classroom I visited, a little girl got out of her seat and came right over and gave me a hug! It was so sweet."

She loves that every day her job is different. She feels the ability to impact the lives of young kids and work with awesome teachers and administrators to empower their students is a great privilege. Starting a new job means no off time as there are many new demands, but Ms. Guerrero loves the challenge.

What you do matters! When you make good decisions, you can really help these kids fly!"

JOHN JAY VARSITY VOLLEYBALL MAKES HISTORY

The John Jay High School Varsity Volleyball team hadn't won a section title since 1991, but at the start of the season, when Coach Kalah Boscia asked the girls what their goal was for the season, they unanimously replied, "We want to make it to states!" It was this attitude that led to a record-breaking season that won't be forgotten.

Coach Boscia (Lipinski) knew from day one how special and talented this group of girls was and that, if they worked hard, they absolutely had the ability to reach their goal. As their coach, she was determined to do everything she could to prepare them for the fierce competition they would face. Post-season training included intense practices not only focused on strengthening their volleyball skills but, more importantly, strengthening their mental toughness and communication skills.

This season's schedule was stacked with tough competition. However, she knew it was crucial for the girls to face this level of competition before the team entered the playoffs or they would have been at a significant disadvantage. Their first six matches were against the top programs in the area. This included teams from Arlington, Hendrick Hudson, Walter Panas, Haldane, John Jay-Cross River, and Yorktown high schools. With each match, the John Jay Varsity Volleyball team was predicted to lose; however, the girls came out stronger, tougher, and more determined to win than their coach had ever witnessed before. They wanted to prove to the world that they were a talented group of girls and that they were a force to be reckoned with, and they did just that!

The team's record was 5-1 against their rival programs, their only loss coming from their namesake rivals, John Jay-Cross River. Coach Boscia recalled, "To prepare for this level of competition, we focused so much of our practice time on our defense, reading the hitters, communication, speeding up the pace of the game and playing aggressive. We may be smaller in stature in comparison to some of our opponents, but we're quick, aggressive, and relentless and the girls understand the physics of the game."

As the season continued, the bond that the girls had was stronger than ever, and nothing could break this group of girls apart. As their coach, Ms. Boscia knew how important it was to reiterate that the magic of the season was earned at practice. This is where all twelve girls worked their hardest and encouraged each other to reach their full potential. This is where the real work was done to prepare for game days. Coach Boscia remarked, "It took all twelve girls on this team working together to reach the level of success that we did. Each player contributing in their own way and understanding that everything we did was for the good of the team and not for any one individual. We ended the regular season 17-1 which placed us as the number one seed for Section 1 Class AA entering playoffs." This was an amazing accomplishment, but the team knew the hardest work was yet to come.

The team went on to face Mahopac, Arlington, Suffern, and Corning high schools on their journey to the State Final Four Championship. Once again, the girls came out with fire in their eyes and



determination in their hearts. They were fierce; they left their heart and souls on the court and walked away with the **Section 1 Class AA Championship and Regional Championship titles!**

They had done it; they were now on their way to the State Final Four Championship in Glens Falls. No one has believed that this group of girls had what it would take to make it, but that merely fueled their desire to win.

Making it to the state championship was a dream come true and Coach Boscia was very happy that this group of girls had the opportunity to experience this level of success. She said to the girls, "Win or Lose, I'm proud of what you've accomplished. Let's leave it all on the court so we can walk away with our heads held high, knowing we gave it all we had". She asked them one final question before they took the court against defending state champions, Our Lady of Mercy, "Do you believe yet?" And she could tell at that moment that they did.

The girls went on to play the best volleyball she'd ever seen them play. The girls split the match with the defending state champions, Our Lady of Mercy, won both sets against Massapequa, and lost both sets against Baldwinsville. The John Jay Varsity Volleyball team went 3-3 at the state tournament, which broke a record for Section 1 Class AA. No other Section 1 Class AA team had ever won

a set at the state tournament and they won 3! Coach Boscia commented, "I've never been approached by so many strangers in my life complimenting me and the girls for the way they played. Words alone could never truly convey how incredible they played and how hard they fought. We fell short of making it to the championship match the following morning, but it didn't matter. We were already champions. We had already surpassed everyone's expectations for the season. I've never been so proud of being a part of something in my whole life."

Coach Boscia feels these girls have shown her what it truly means to work hard and fight for one's dreams. She explained, "This is a group of girls I will never forget and an experience that I will hold dear to my heart forever. When I look back and reflect on the season, it was the passion and dedication of these girls to themselves and each other and the sport of volleyball that achieved this success.

They were truly a team. They won together, they lost together, they celebrated together, and they cried together. I'm honored that I had the opportunity to coach this amazing group of girls."



ROY C KETCHAM'S 4TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL AND CAR SHOW



Roy C. Ketcham PTSA held its 4th Annual Fall Festival/Car Show, being host to some of the Hudson Valley's finest cars and, Acappella Performance from the RCK Chamber Choir and Musical Performances by the Roy C. Ketcham Jazz Ensemble.



Thanks to all the folks who stopped by to support the RCK Clubs and PTSA Sponsored Clubs; visiting their booths and tables for some fun and refreshments. With



support from the community and local businesses, the festival is a fun-filled family activity that is becoming an area tradition.



This auto exhibition featured muscle car models as well as out-of-production classics. One of the car show enthusiasts commented, "We had to come out and support the



students, it's all about helping them..."



Calling All Careers at Wappingers JHS

On Wednesday October 23rd author Jeff Hirsch visited WJHS school and spoke with the 8th grade students during an assembly about the process of writing young adult fiction. He is a well known author who has written three books with another on the way. Two of these books were being showcased at our Scholastic Book Fair during the time of the assembly: *The Eleventh Plague* and *The Darkest Path*. This was an awesome opportunity for the students to see and speak to an author who is local, very current and popular in the young adult fiction world. Thanks and gratitude to ELA teacher Ken Lewis for organizing the presentation.

This and other events were capped off by the Wappingers JHS 2nd Annual Career Day brought over forty local businesses to the school. A live broadcast of K104's "The Wood Man in the Morning" was also featured. Students in 7th and 8th grades were able to interact directly with representatives from many diverse career paths and venues. The overall objective was to expose younger students to various careers in hopes of inspiring them to pursue their interests from both an educational and vocational standpoint. The students took away a deeper understanding of how their personal education relates to potential careers.

Special thanks to WJHS Guidance Counselor Mr. Paul Nostrand and Parent Coordinator Ms. Diane DeDominicis. Keep an eye out for information on the school's Spring College Fair!

SOMETHING SCARY AT ROCK

This October, the Poughkeepsie Journal conducted their 18th Annual Scary Story Contest among the Mid-Hudson Valley School Districts in their readership area. The contest asked students to write an original Halloween themed story no longer than 300 words in length. In each category, local children's book authors and illustrators anonymously critiqued the entries for a winner and runner-up. They received almost 250 entries from four grade categories.

Abby Cobb's story "Shadows" won first place in the grade 9-12 category. Cassandra Leonard was the runner up in this category with her submission. Both students are seniors at Roy C. Ketcham High School. Eszther Beahan, a Roy C. Ketcham freshman, won an honorable mention!

The winners had the opportunity to narrate and act out their story for the video you will find at the Poughkeepsie Journal's scary story link below. The runner-up entries are available there as well. The winners and runners-up received gift cards as prizes.

A special thanks to Teresa Sutton for her instructional support of Abby and Cassi!

http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/interactive/scary_13/

GOOD JOB!

Vassar Rd ES Green with Eco Arts&Crafts

On Thursday October 17th, the Vassar Road SLT committee sponsored a Reuse-Recycle-Repurpose program, where over 70 students made Halloween pumpkins out of recycled household materials. Students used brown paper bags from the grocery store, stuffing them with old newspapers and plastic bags. They then shaped the bags into spheres, closing them with rubber bands. Empty toilet paper rolls were attached to the tops to serve as the pumpkin's "stem." Students then painted their pumpkins orange and tied green plastic bags and raffia to them as leaves and vines.



Spearheaded by Jennifer Gambichler, the program has done many interesting, creative and fun projects after school with the children.

BRINKERHOFF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Each year, during the week of October 9th, in order to remember the destruction caused by fires in the past, Fire Prevention Week is observed to increase awareness of how everyone can help prevent fires. It's a great time to introduce children to the dangers of fire and how they can help maintain fire safety at home and school.

The Great Chicago Fire that burned through the city on Oct. 8 and 9, 1871, is known in history as one of the nation's worst fire disasters. On the same day an even more terrible fire devastated northeastern Wisconsin known as the Peshtigo Fire. The fire killed over 1,000 people in several towns and burned more than 1 million acres of land.

The Fire Marshals Association of North America began commemorating the anniversary of these fires in 1911 by promoting fire safety awareness. Sunday through Saturday of the week that includes October 9th has been observed nationally as Fire Prevention Week since 1922.



Beginning in 1927, the National Fire Prevention Association, established in 1896, has given a theme to Fire Prevention Week, focusing on a specific area of fire prevention. The theme for 2013 was Prevent Kitchen Fires, focusing on the fact that most home fires are started by cooking-related accidents highlighting the dangers of unattended cooking and risky kitchen habits.

The Rombout Fire Department gave multiple presentations at Brinkerhoff Elementary during Fire Safety Month. The fifth grade students learned how to react to a fire inside the "Smoke House". This is where a kitchen fire is simulated.

Grades 1 - 4 had an assembly in the gym reviewing safety tips and meeting with a fire fighter in all his gear while the Kindergartens met with a fire fighter in their classrooms. He let them see him in his gear, so if there was a fire they would not be afraid of how a fire fighter looked. All grades had an opportunity to view the fire truck with all its equipment.

Supportive Hands Project at Myers Corners ES

The Myers Corners "Supportive Hands Project" is a school-wide initiative aimed at encouraging a greater spirit of community among the older elementary students. Serving as a part of the school's PeaceWorks Anti-Bullying Program, students in 4th grade have the opportunity to put their handprints on a very special wall in the school. The handprints represent the school community's support of one another. Emphasizing the ability of hands to be helpful over hurtful, the handprints are representative of students' personal commitment to the anti-bullying pledge, which ties into the school's Character Education Program.

The "Six Pillars of Character" mural is central to the concept of the signed handprints, providing a visual sense of anticipation, belonging, ownership and community. Principal Vasquez commented, "The 'Supportive Hands Project' will be a legacy left behind when the students move on to middle school or visit in years to come. I intend on seeing these walls absolutely covered!"

K-6 school, Myers Corners Elementary is the second home to several age groups, and the "Supportive Hands" wall is

a familiar site to more than most of the student body. When the students reach 4th grade, it is a very exciting for them to "finally" be able to participate. Some of the students' parents join in the event, making it even more memorable.

Before the annual "Supportive Hands Day," Principal Vasquez delivers a presentation to 4th grade students by visiting each class in the beginning of the year to discuss the purpose, meaning, and reason for placing their handprints on the wall.

Sheafe Road Elementary School students, who attend Myers Corners Elementary School for the 6th grade, are invited to come to the school to put their prints on the wall at the end of 5th grade so that in September, they already feel a part of the school's community. Any newly admitted student in grades 4-6 is also afforded the opportunity. Ms. Charlotte Newan, who attended "Supportive Hands Day" with her son, Robert, commented, "This event starts the kids off with a great foundation in citizenship, not just in elementary school but also for life as a part of society."

Thanks to PTA volunteers for conducting the event and supplying the paint!





Marks 10th Year of Leadership Training



With more than 100 years of leadership in research, technology and service, IBM professionals continue to give back to their communities by teaching important skills to future leaders. IBM Project LEAD, is a free, pay-it-forward program designed ten years ago by graduates of the company's IBM Leadership Excellence University program in Poughkeepsie. According to Diane Brent, Certified Executive Project Manager and one of the original program founders, the program is continually updated and improved based on feedback from the students.

On November 2nd and November 9th, 10th grade students from high schools in Dutchess, Ulster, Columbia and Orange counties took part in the 10th Annual Leadership Education event hosted at the IBM Poughkeepsie campus. Students participate in four interactive sessions aimed at enhancing their individual and team leadership skills, breakthrough thinking capabilities and techniques for effectively communicating their ideas. IBM volunteers first offered the program to seven area high schools but its popularity resulted in continuous expansion of the program, now nearly tripling the number of participating schools since its 2004 debut.



Project LEAD participants are chosen by their teachers and guidance counselors. Schools select four students from their sophomore class who exhibit an interest in extracurricular learning and who may already be in positions of leadership or be deemed to have the raw talent to lead. Project LEAD is an excellent opportunity to prepare students for college, the workforce and civic leadership.

Approximately fifteen IBM volunteers spent several months planning, reviewing, revising, and restructuring the original curriculum in order to create the high-school level program. The goal was to convert 8 classroom

courses taught over a 12-month period into four modules to be taught over the two Saturdays. In delivering the material, Project LEAD is meeting its goal of augmenting the science, math, and technology curriculum that is being taught in our schools today with some valuable teamwork, innovation, and communication skills which are key to successful careers at IBM and elsewhere.



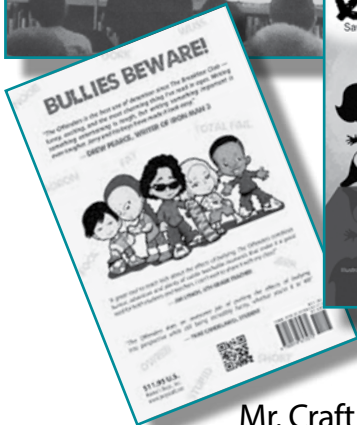
Leadership Excellence University originated in IBM Austin, Texas, to focus on its pipeline of leadership talent and to offer comprehensive leadership development training. The program offers participants the opportunity to apply new tools and techniques and to practice skills critical to achieving success in leadership roles.

Project LEAD continues to deliver this invaluable content to our area high school students. Ray Watroba, Vice President and Poughkeepsie Senior Location Executive, is the executive sponsor for the program.

The IBM volunteers donating their time and expertise to Project LEAD are part of IBM's On Demand Community, a global volunteer initiative. Through the On Demand Community, IBM is able to contribute technology and expertise to build and sustain strong communities.



IBM employees are able to volunteer as IBMers, with the resources of the company behind them. In doing so, they call attention to the company's basic brand attributes of innovation, expertise, reliability and trust.



Cartoonist Takes Cover at Van Wyck JHS

On Thursday, October 3rd, Van Wyck JHS was honored to host award-winning cartoonist Mr. Craft. Jerry presented to 6th and 8th grade student assemblies, discussing the event's Bully-Free theme. Mr. Craft was welcomed with loud cheers heard throughout the auditorium during both presentations.

In addition to speaking about anti-bullying, Mr. Craft explained why he decided to become a cartoonist, author, and illustrator while sharing examples of his Spanish homework "doodles" from his own junior high school days.

Mr. Craft also participated in several "Career Café" sessions, where students were very excited to have an opportunity to learn how to draw some of their favorite cartoon characters.

Last year, Mr. Craft honored the Van Wyck 6th grade students by asking them to vote on which of two covers he should use on his latest book, The Offenders. To the amazement of the entire Van Wyck community, Mr. Craft surprised the school assemblies when he opened his book to the dedication page and showed everyone the acknowledgement and special thanks to Van Wyck JHS printed there. Mr. Craft was kind enough to sign books for anyone who wanted him to. With each signature, he included a special message for each individual.

The Offenders text, cover art and illustrations copyright ©2014 Mama's Boyz, Inc.
 Book design by Danni Ai courtesy of DACCo Multimedia, Inc;
 Jaylen and Aren Craft produced by Autier and Jerry Craft ©2014
 Special thanks to Ernestine Eisenhauer, Greg Amos, Eric Velasquez, Deb Strait; Cathy Bonczak;
 Carrie Smith; Trisha Barron; Jeanne White; Drew Pearce; Alex Roehner; DoSomething.org; Angela
 Weigle; and Steven Shuchat, Theresa Chirico, Allyson Rubin & the rest of my friends at Van Wyck
 J.H.S.

Hudson Valley Region Area All State Music Festival



The All-State journey begins around the start of the New Year with a student and their music teacher spending innumerable hours preparing for the NYSSMA Adjudication season. Last Spring, over 100,000 students from across the state of New York selected and prepared to play or sing a piece appropriate to their level of ability from the repertoire lists in the current NYSSMA manual. The students audition for several reasons including confirmation of ability, constructive feedback, and for many upper level students, All-State Conference (state-wide) consideration.



Late spring finds between five and seven thousand students were recommended for All-State consideration. Whether in the concert band, orchestra, or choir, many of these students participate in the Area All-State Festivals to showcase their talent and gain invaluable experience. WCSD is a part of an 'area' designated as Zone 10 which is comprised of Columbia, Dutchess, and Putnam Counties.



This particular Area All-State Festival included a concert band, orchestra, mixed choir and women's choir. Each ensemble rehearsed with a music teacher and conductor, and performed onstage at the Taconic Hills High School in Craryville, NY. The performance of these musicians and vocalists was magnificent! Bravo! Bravo! Bravissimo!

In late August, approximately 900 students received notification that they were selected to participate in the NYSSMA Conference All-State music groups. These are the crème de la crème performers who have successfully and expressively executed a Level VI All-State Solo.



WCSD has has three students selected as performers and six students selected as alternates who have been invited to take part in the **78th Annual NYSSMA® Winter Conference** in Rochester, NY.

2013 Area All-State Band Members from WCSD

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kamron Daneshvar – trumpet | Abigail Young – flute |
| Joseph Gusmano – trumpet | Venkata Chaluvadi – oboe |
| Daryan Daneshvar – tuba | Victor Battista – clarinet |
| Matt Kline – percussion | Asna Gupta – clarinet |
| Brandon Smith – percussion | Kelly Harper clarinet |
| Ashok Vallamattam – percussion | Sarah Cullen – alto saxophone |
| Emma Pogge – string bass | Riva Scheck – tenor saxophone |
| | Rachel Moody – bari saxophone |
| | Matthew Coladangelo – trumpet |

2013 Area All-State Chorus Members from WCSD

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Morgan Carroll – soprano | Sean Coghlan – bass |
| Victoria Muller – soprano | Corey Crysler – bass |
| Valerie Scarano – soprano | Liam Cullen – bass |
| Stephanie Zielinski – alto | Elijah Haven – bass |
| DeSean Morrow – tenor | Ryan Kleess – bass |
| Samuel Oppenheim – tenor | |

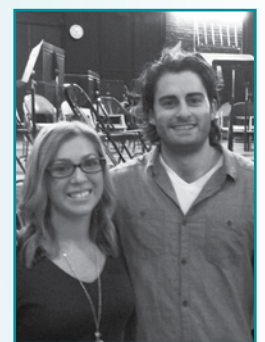
CCLS Message Brought to Life at WJHS

On the morning of October 16th, Mr. Dan De Francesco, a sports writer for The Journal News, visited the Wappingers Junior High School to talk with 7th graders about his experiences as a student, and athlete, and a professional writer.

During the interview-style assembly, Mr. De Francesco answered questions about his career path and how his education directly influences his current career. Prior to the assembly, 7th grade English Language Arts (ELA) teachers asked Mr. De Francesco to consider several speaking points, including how skills that are being taught in the classroom can be applied to future careers, how sports articles are based on facts, evidence, and statistics, and how grammar and spelling are important facets of all types of journalism.

The assembly brought to life the Common Core Learning Standards' message that students must be college and career ready upon the completion of their education from secondary school. Mr. De Francesco was extremely engaging and spoke precisely to the nature of how his education helped grant him a fulfilling career. The 7th grade students were gracious hosts and their guest's message was well received and inspirational. This type of assembly undoubtedly provides the spark for many future classroom conversations.

Wappingers Junior High School would like to thank ELA teacher Mrs. Heather Cameron for arranging to have Mr. De Francesco as a guest speaker for the students.



Young Knight Poised on the Edge of the Board



Young Brandon Wang is a chess player on the move. Currently a 4th-grader at Gayhead ES, he is number one in the age-8 group and number seven in New York State in the Monthly National Junior Ranking

Brandon Wang, a 4th grader at Gayhead Elementary School, is currently the number 1 chess player within the age 8 category in New York State. In the national rankings, tabulated monthly by the United States Chess Federation, Brandon is ranked number 7 in his age group.

Brandon's interest in chess stems from his father, Mr. Wang, who, as a child growing up in China, was an avid player of Chinese chess, a board game that shares an origin as well as many similarities with the game of chess widely known in America. Mr. Wang, wishing to share this part of his childhood with his American-born son, attempted to teach Brandon the game when he was 4 years old, but with little success.

It was when Brandon turned 6 that his interest, and his talent, emerged. Using a chess-based board game called *NoStress Chess*, Brandon learned the rules of the game as well as various techniques for choosing moves. Mr. Wang recalled, "After Brandon played *NoStress Chess* for a few months, he moved from playing me or my wife to using chess software called *Chessmaster, Grandmaster Edition*, for playing games and for learning chess."

The game levels Brandon played ranged from easy to hard to impossible-to-beat,



and included lectures created by International Chess Master Josh Waitzkin. In the fall of 2011, as a 2nd grade student, Brandon was obsessed with *Chessmaster* playing 5-10 games every evening. Most players at his Sunday Chinese School Chess Club were young children as well, and after playing there for over a month, Brandon was winning every game.

After consulting with local chess teachers and players, Mr. Wang began registering Brandon to compete; having him play in rated tournaments while researching ways for him to improve. Brandon took less than six months from his first rated game to become a top-100 player in his age group, maintaining that status for almost a year.

This past summer, Brandon made incredible progress and is now a national top-10 player in the 8-year old age group. His next goal is to represent the US at the annual World Junior Chess Championship Tournament. Brandon's father explained, "He also has goals of becoming a National Master and achieving higher international chess titles, but he will have to do it one step at a time.

The steps he's taken are unusually large, so I can see him achieving his goals with continued dedication and hard work."

When asked about his future plans, Brandon said, "First, I want to make the US team. I am 8, going on 9, and when the next list of top 100 8 year olds comes out, I will be at least in the top 15. Next year, I need about 120 points to be in the top 5. This would also put me in the U.S. Chess School. The best players of each age get invitations to the World Junior Championship. The winner of the under 10 section gets an automatic FIDE Master title from the World Chess Federation (*Federation Internationale des Echecs*, known as FIDE from its French acronym).

Next, I want to be in the Kasparov Chess School. It was founded by the former World Champion Gary Kasparov. Only the top 3 make it. Then, I want to get past the expert level, the National Master title, the FIDE Master title, and go up and up."



"Abilities First" Graciously Hosted by Orchard View HS



Orchard View Alternative High School's student advisory teams came together to create a "Halloween Hallway". For their October competition they decorated their classroom doors and entryways for a special event. This year, the students went all out, even transforming the schools main hallway into a Halloween showcase for the children taking part in the "Abilities First" Trick-or-Treat Parade.



Students, parents, and district staff were all impressed by the range of imaginative sights the competition inspired. It was from a standpoint of pride, character, and cooperative learning that the students of Orchard View put together such a great display. The children enjoyed their visit very much.

The November team competition focused on "Thanksgiving Baskets," a competition to raise donations and collect food for needy families in our community. The students of Orchard View look forward to the next competition on the calendar!



MaTH • Ma→Tt(er)→+S

at Myers Corners ES

"Math Matters," a new and exciting tutoring program that is free of charge for all Myers Corners Elementary School students in grades K-6, is now in full swing! Principal Ms. Sydnie Vasquez proposed the idea of making available a free tutoring program and quickly found Board approval for the idea. After meeting over the summer with a group of retired teachers, the program began to take shape, modeled after a similar program offered in the District for grades seven through twelve.



"We have to keep thinking outside the box to help our kids be successful. Math is moving at a quick pace and this is for the K-6 students and their parents who need extra support during these critical formative years," Principal Vasquez explained.

Parents and guardians attend the program alongside their children, who are taught by retired educators from the District as well as IBM employees. The parents, teachers and students receiving instruction commit to an hour a week over the course of a ten-week session, offered first in the Fall and again in the Spring. The idea behind the parent involvement is that the parents will be prepared and comfortable to help their children at home should further tutoring be helpful to them.

The program is a commitment that supports the students, the parents and supplies the retired teachers' community with an avenue through which they can give back and support their colleagues through the adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards and beyond.

Gayhead Serves Lunch POS-Style

Whether your child is a kindergartner or a fifth grader, coming to school holds lots of fun, new experiences, and having lunch at school is one of them! The cafeterias at Gayhead Elementary School operate on a computerized "Point of Sale" (POS) debit system. It's a great alternative to your child bringing money in daily to purchase items in the kitchen. Whether your child buys lunch each day, brings lunch from home, or enjoys purchasing a snack and/or milk, they will undoubtedly come into contact with this new and very convenient system.

When a child is registered for school, they are assigned a PIN (personal identification number). This PIN number stays with them throughout the years they are in school in the Wappingers Central School District and is used to identify your child's account at the register. After making their food selections, the cashier will assist your child in paying for those items. There is a computer with a keypad, where your child can 'key in' their PIN number. We'd like to ask for your help in acquainting your child with his or her PIN so they are familiar with the process when they come to school.



After making their food selections, the cashier will assist your child in paying for those items. There is a computer with a keypad, where your child can 'key in' their PIN number. We'd like to ask for your help in acquainting your child with his or her PIN so they are familiar with the process when they come to school.

To deposit money into the Point of Sale system, you must first register at www.nutrikids.com. Transactions using credit cards carry a \$1.75 fee and take about 24hrs to hit the account while E-checks/PayPal transactions take almost a week. The website has a low balance alert feature and enables you to view 30 days of transaction history.



The School Lunch Fund is a self-supporting entity not dependent on the school district's General Fund. Therefore, we depend on your business. Our goal is to make lunch in school an exciting and pleasurable experience for your child and to make you feel comfortable about your child eating with us.



If you have any questions please contact our office at 298-5075 or email: www.foodservice@wcsdny.org. We look forward to meeting your children this year!

www.foodservice@wcsdny.org, We look forward to meeting your children this year!

Getting to Know You: Fishkill Plains ES

Eric T. Seipp is the new Principal of the Fishkill Plains Elementary School. Mr. Seipp. He has previously served as Assistant Principal at both Gayhead Elementary School and Wappingers Junior High School. An alumni of John Jay High School class of 1990, Mr. Seipp is glad to be back home in the Wappingers Central School District.



After earning his Bachelors in Elementary Education from Mount Saint Mary College and his Masters in School Administration from Mercy College, Mr. Seipp began his career in education teaching Physical Education at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. He also coached the girls and boys varsity soccer teams at Our Lady of Lourdes. He also served as Director of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education at the school, where he continued to teach three Physical Education Classes. He stayed in this role for 10 years before being appointed Dean of Students and Assistant Principal, which he did for three years.

Now happily at Fishkill Plains, Mr. Seipp explained, "Based on my experiences here at the District, I think I'm really fortunate because I've been in the district working as an administrator, I'm familiar with all the things that are going on in terms of the initiatives, in terms of what we're doing across the board, so it's not really new. I'm continuing to plug away and be supportive of the staff. There's a consistency across the board in the philosophy and the rhythm of how the district runs. I love the interactions with the kids, being a part of their learning, I love being in the classroom and especially now with the new focus on the learning being student-led – I love their ideas and their creativity. I just love that part of the job, every single day."

Mr. Seipp is married with four children, and continues to coach on the youth level.

Getting to Know You: Administration



Mr. José Carrion is the District's new Assistant Superintendent for Administration. New to the District, Mr. Carrion was previously Assistant Superintendent of the Poughkeepsie City School District.

Previously, Mr. Carrion served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction as well as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in the Poughkeepsie City School District.

Mr. Carrion began his career in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District after earning his Bachelors in Spanish and Secondary Education from SUNY New Paltz. Mr. Carrion later earned a Masters in Teaching English To Students of Other Languages (TESOL) as well as a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in School Administration. His experience includes nine years of teaching, and over ten years in administration across K-12 levels.

Mr. Carrion explained, "Assistant Superintendent for Administration was a different opportunity for me because it allows me to work directly with principals – that's my primary responsibility. Coming from a large school district, I understand how large school districts work, and getting the opportunity to be the one to work directly with the principals and vice principals is an opportunity I was grateful to be recommended for.

My experience lends itself to walking the talk – I know what principals and assistant principals have to do on a day-to-day basis. I understand how important and how critical that leadership role is to making good schools. Leadership is key."

Fishkill On Parade!

The week of October 24th, Fishkill Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Events took place throughout the week, bringing the anti-drug message to the students. Activities planned for the week fostered self-esteem, good choices, and family bonding in celebration of a drug-free and bully-free community.



Monday's Red Rally launched the week, with each student receiving a red band bracelet to be worn throughout the week. The bands had reminder mottos on them, such as "Choose a Drug Free Friend," and "Never Join In on Bullying." All grades brainstormed an anti-drug/anti-bully slogan to adopt, and the fifth grade chorus presented a song. The week continued with students dressing according to the theme for that day to show their support and participation. While red was worn to the kick-off rally, Tuesday's theme, "United We Stand in a Drug Free Land," involved the wearing of red, white, and blue. Other themes that week included "Team Up Against Drugs," when students wore sports apparel, and "Hats On – Drugs Off," when they wore hats for the day. The week culminated in a VIP parade, where students dressed as "Very Important People" that they admired, including literary characters and people from throughout history. Neighborhood businesses handed out candy and encouragement as they passed through town.



Students spend time in November preparing crafts and thank you card for the businesses. If the weather cooperates, students will also be caroling in town this month.

Student Records FERPA Rights Policy 5500

The Board of Education recognizes the legal requirement to maintain the confidentiality of student records. The procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of student records shall be consistent with state and federal law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and its implementing regulations. The Board also recognizes its responsibility to ensure the orderly retention and disposition of the district's student records in accordance with Schedule ED-1 as adopted by the Board in policy 1120.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for ensuring that all requirements under federal statutes and Commissioner's Regulations shall be carried out by the district.

Annual Notification

At the beginning of each school year, the district will publish a notification that informs parents, guardians and eligible students currently in attendance of their rights under FERPA and the procedures for exercising those rights. This notice may be published in a newspaper, handbook or other school bulletin or publication. This notice will also be provided to parents, guardians, and eligible students who enroll during the school year. The notice will include a statement that the parent or eligible student has a right to:

1. inspect and review the student's education records;
2. request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
3. consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and
4. file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education alleging failure of the district to comply with FERPA and its regulations; and In addition, the annual notice will inform parents/guardians and eligible students:

1. that it is the district's policy to disclose personally identifiable information from student records, without consent, to other school officials within the district whom the district has determined to have legitimate educational interests. For purposes of this policy, a school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel; a member of the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official performing his or her tasks). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review a student record in order to fulfill his/her or his/her professional responsibilities.

2. that, upon request, the district will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

3. that personally identifiable information will be released to third party authorized representatives for the purposes of educational program audit, evaluation, enforcement or compliance purposes.

4. that the district, at its discretion, releases directory information without prior consent, unless the parent/guardian or eligible student has exercised their right to prohibit release of the information without prior written consent.

5. that, upon request, the district will disclose a secondary school student's name, address and telephone number to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning unless the parents or secondary school students exercise their right to prohibit release of the information without prior written consent.

6. of the procedure for exercising the right to inspect, review and request amendment of student records.

The district shall arrange to provide translations of this notice to non-English speaking parent(s) or guardian(s) or eligible student(s) in their native language or dominant mode of communication.

Directory Information

The district has the option under FERPA of designating certain categories of student information as "directory information." The Board directs that "directory information" include a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major course of study, participation in school activities or sports, weight and height if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent school attended, class schedule, enrollment status, photograph, e-mail address, class roster, and ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (only if the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity).

Once the proper FERPA notification is given by the district, a parent/guardian or eligible student will have 14 days to notify the district of any objections they have to any of the "directory information" designations. If no objection is received, the district may release this information without prior approval of the parent/guardian or eligible student for the release.

The district may elect to combine both the annual notice of rights under FERPA and the annual notice of "directory information" designations into one notice.

Student Attendance Policy 5100

The Wappingers Central School District believes that students who are most successful academically, socially and emotionally are those who attend school on a daily basis. We believe parents, teachers, staff and community need to be responsible for implementing an attendance policy that will enhance educational success. The Wappingers Central School District supports the following objectives in its attendance policy:

- To maximize the opportunities for student academic success through daily class attendance.
- To confirm that students are meeting compulsory attendance requirements.
- To know the whereabouts of every student for safety and school management reasons.
- To foster lifelong habits and attitudes of personal responsibility and accountability.

The Board of Education, in accordance with the State Education Law, requires that each minor regularly attend school full-time from the first day of session in September of the school year in which the minor becomes six years of age on or before December 1, through the last day of the school year in which such minor becomes sixteen years of age, unless he/she has completed a four-year high school course of study. He/she may attend a school other than a public school or receive home instruction, provided the instruction is equivalent to that given in the public schools.

In order that students, parents, teachers and administrators are notified of and understand this policy, the policy will receive wide distribution through district venues such as student handbooks, distribution of plain language summaries, school newsletters, the district web site and district publication's.

Record Keeping

In order to regularly monitor student attendance records and identify related attendance concerns and issues a daily register of school attendance will be maintained in a database.

Students absences, tardiness and early departures will be recorded as excused or unexcused as defined by our attendance policy. The school on a regular basis will review the attendance data to identify patterns or trends in student absences. The school will implement student and parent accountability measures. The school will assist with the accountability measures through its parent notification and reporting procedures.

At the elementary level, teachers will take attendance in homeroom on a daily basis.

At the junior and senior high levels, teachers will take attendance in homeroom and in each class period on a daily basis. A daily attendance bulletin will be published in a timely manner.

At the elementary level, parents will call the school at the opening of school to report their children absent for the day. The school will make phone calls to the homes of the parents of absent children who have not notified the school of their children's absences. The building administrator will send a letter home if the pattern of excessive or unusually absences occurs.

At the junior and senior high levels, a student absent from class after homeroom will be immediately reported to the attendance office. a daily phone call will be made to the home unless the attendance office is notified of the reason for the absence during the day. The attendance office will call home or send a letter if a pattern of excessive or unusual absences occurs. Parent notification for unexcused absences and tardies will be made through the mail. If a student does not bring in an absence note within seventy-two hours, an unexcused absence will be recorded until an absence note is brought in. The administration will have the right to request a doctor's note for excessive absences. If a student has excessive absences without proper documentation from a doctor, or is believed to be excessively absent without good reason, the parent/guardian will be notified with an explanation of the additional steps the district will take.

Excused and Unexcused Absences

The Board recognizes the following as reasons for excused absences, tardiness and early departures from school, each of which must be verified by the student's parent/guardian or school personnel, where applicable:

1. Personal illness
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Impassable roads or weather related problems
4. Religious observance
5. Legal obligation, required attendance in court
6. Quarantine
7. Doctor/dental/professional appointment
8. Military obligations
9. College visitations
10. Approved school-sponsored activities, including field trips, interscholastic athletics, musical and other competitions
11. Approved cooperative/work study program
12. Suspension
13. Other excused absence per district discretion
14. parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for, is on leave from or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting to be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide a written excuse upon the student's return to school following an excused absence. Any category of absence not provided for on the excused list shall be deemed an unexcused absence.

Unexcused absences, tardies and early dismissals will result in disciplinary action consistent with the district's Code of Conduct.

Course Credit Standard

Elementary children's attendance is dependent upon the parents. Therefore, absences, excused or unexcused, will not impact the children's grades if the work is made up in a timely manner. However, due to the nature of the classroom work, it may not be possible to replicate class work and the children's grades will reflect that loss of instruction.

At the junior high level students who are absent from school and/or a class are responsible for completing all missed class work and homework within three days of their return to class. The student and parent are responsible to check with his/her teacher/guidance counselor to determine the class work or homework that must be completed. Assignments not completed within the three-day time limit will receive zeroes. If a student has an unexcused absence on the day of a local final exam, he or she will receive a zero on that test.

At the high school level, a student's final grade may be based on classroom participation as well as the student's performance and homework, tests, papers, project. Unexcused absences, tardies and early dismissals will affect a student's class participation grade for the marking period. If a student has an unexcused absence on the day of a quiz, test, or exam, he or she will receive a zero.

Teachers are not required to provide advanced classwork and homework for planned unexcused absences. The student and parent are responsible to check with his/her teacher/guidance counselor to determine the class work or homework that must be completed.

Process of Developing Intervention Strategies

Schools will set up procedures to intervene with students with excessive absences or tardies or with unusual patterns of absences or tardies. These procedures may include contacting the parent/guardian, referral to a building multidisciplinary team to recommend appropriate steps, Youth Services referral, filing a PINS petition, with probation if needed, or contacting Child Protective Services.

Sanctions and Incentives Related to Attendance

Schools may set up a program of incentives and sanctions to encourage responsible attendance. Incentives could include a letter from the building administrator for perfect attendance, attendance commendation certificates, school recognitions for perfect attendance each marking period, end of the year ceremony for students with perfect attendance, consideration of students with good attendance for special privileges and activities that are unavailable to all students, and Renaissance program.

Schools will enforce the sanctions in the district's Code of Conduct as it applies to unexcused absences, tardies, and early dismissals from school or class. The Code of Conduct prescribes a range of disciplinary steps dependent upon the level of school and severity of the problem.

Oversight Responsibilities

The Building Principal and/or his/her administrative designee shall be responsible for reviewing student attendance records and initiating appropriate action consistent with this policy.

The Board of Education shall annually review building-level student attendance records and, if such records show a decline in student attendance, the Board shall revised this comprehensive attendance policy and make any revision to the plan it deems necessary to improve student attendance.

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

WCSD OFFICES 298-5000
167 Myers Corners Road, Suite 200
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent Marco Pochintesta
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Janet Warden
Assistant Superintendent for Administration José Carrión
Director of Special Education and Student Services Joseph Simoni
Director of Human Resources Joanne Sereda
School Business Manager Kristen Crandall
Director of Technology Daren Lolkema
Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations Ronald Broas

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Editor: Susan Penney
Designer: Desiree Ferrara
Produced in cooperation with the Dutchess BOCES Public Information Service

WCSD NOTICES

Title VII - Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy & Compliance Officer for Students

The Wappingers Central School District does not discriminate in offering educational opportunities on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, and military/veteran status, a genetic predisposition, marital status, and domestic violence victim status or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or Federal Non-Discrimination laws.

Inquiries should be directed to the districts compliance officer for students:

José Carrión, Assistant Superintendent for Administration (845) 298-5000 ext 40131

Title IX - Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy & Compliance Officer for Employees

The Wappingers Central School District does not discriminate in offering employment opportunities on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, and military/veteran status, a genetic predisposition, marital status, and domestic violence victim status or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or Federal Non-Discrimination laws.

Inquiries should be directed to the district compliance officer for employees:

Joanne Sereda
Director of Human Resources
(845) 298-5000, ext 40136

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)



"It Can Wait" at Roy C. Ketcham

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), in conjunction with AT&T's "It Can Wait" initiative and Assemblyman Lalor's office, hosted an assembly against texting and driving for upperclassmen at Roy C. Ketcham High School.



The assembly illustrated the consequences of texting and using other devices while driving. Through speeches, viewing of a documentary, and other presentations, students, teachers, parents, and other members of the school community were encouraged not to text and drive in hopes of preventing dangerous situations and disastrous consequences.



An online texting-while-driving simulator was also employed to illustrate the point of the assembly. The online experience allowed users to preview the dangers of distracted driving in hopes of deterring them from experiencing them in real life. Students were then asked to take a No Texting and Driving Pledge.

Also discussed was the very dangerous potential of drunk driving. Mary Pineiro, a member of MADD, told her moving story of being hit by a drunken driver. "On May 31, 2001, I was rear-ended by a drunk driver with my daughter Kristin in the car. It took me 12 years, God's grace, the love and support of my family, friends, and a great team of doctors to get where I am today. It took countless surgeries, procedures, physical therapy, pain management, tears, determination, and faith to get my life back. I speak on behalf of all of the victims of drunk driving crashes when I ask you to please plan ahead, designate a sober driver, please don't drink and drive!"



Students were visibly moved by the assembly. It is the hope of the organizers that they took away a very serious message that will stay with them when they're behind the wheel. For more information, please visit www.itcanwait.com.

Getting to Know You: Administration

Janet Warden is the new Assistant Superintendent for K-12 Curriculum and Instruction for the District. Previously, Ms. Warden was principal of James S. Evans Elementary School. A graduate of Ketcham High School and SUNY New Paltz, Ms. Warden is a member of the community who feels a vested interest in graduating students who also want to be a vibrant part of the community. She recalls, "When I first graduated from college I was a teaching assistant at Fishkill Plains Elementary School for one year, and then at Van Wyck Middle School for a year while I was getting my Master's in Special Education at New Paltz."

Her day's work includes working on curriculum, implementing the Common Core Standards, collaboration with the building Principals, and professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators. Ms. Warden comments, "I love the professional development component of my position." A research and learning enthusiast herself, she feels the best part of her job is teaching teachers and administrators. She enjoys discovering what's going on in research and education and applying those things in the district. Strategic planning is a large component of her job. First establishing the district's vision and mission statements, her next step is implementing the strategies toward fulfilling the specified mission and vision for the district. She explains how the state regulates the standards and the district retains the option to choose the resources to implement to meet and exceed those standards. She notes, "The state provides curriculum options as a usable resource or as a benchmark to understanding the new standards. We work on the best scope and sequence for each course and collaborate to compose curriculum and choose resources that serve those parameters. We take into consideration the end of year goal, what skill set the student is coming in with and map out what, how, and when to teach new skills enabling them to meet the rigor, complexity, questioning techniques, and assessments of the new standards by the end of each year."

Ms. Warden further comments, "We have excellent teachers teaching all through the district and we are assisting them with really understanding the new standards; equipping them to make sure every student in every grade level meets the standards."

The idea is to have students that are ready to go to college, develop a career and maybe return to give back to the district they were raised in; educating students that have the opportunities while possessing the skill set to do just that. A mother of a seven year old, her off-time is filled with activities as well. However, she does consider her job as a part of her life-style. Constant reflection on a broad scale she often thinks, "What are our teaching practices, what are we doing and how can we do it better?"

Pesticide Notification

Initial notification to persons in parental relation and staff pursuant to section 409-h of the state education law and commissioner's regulation 155.24*

New York State education law section 409 – hand state education department commissioner's regulation 155.24, effective July 1, 2001, require all public in a public elementary and secondary schools to provide real notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year. The WAPPINGERS central school district is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications.

The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following applications;
- antimicrobial pesticides and products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile insecticides in the form of ready to use pastes, foams or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- basic acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides;

- the application of EPA designated exam to materials under 40CFR152.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect the individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets, etc; or
- an emergency application of a pesticide to protect against an imminent threat to human health.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

TO RECEIVE PESTICIDE NOTIFICATIONS:
If you would like to receive 48 hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please click on the following link:
<http://groups.google.com/group/wcsd-pesticide-notification>

Or, if you do not have internet access, please call WCSD Facilities and Operations office at 845-298-5150, extension 112 to receive notification of pesticide application by regular mail.

If you would like further information about pesticide application or any of these requirements, please contact **John Parasella** at the above phone number. *NOTE: registration for notification must be done annually (we do not maintain any database from prior registrations).

John Jay Spells W-I-N-N-E-R!



The 22nd Annual Community Spelling BEE is a Literacy Connection's "signature event" held at Marist College in Poughkeepsie. The BEE is supported by more than fifty area businesses and organizations. Spellers come from the community; sponsors can send their own teams or a team is found to represent them.

Teams are comprised of high school and college students as well as adults. The Spelling Bee brings people together for a fun-filled day of competition while supporting reading programs for adults and families throughout Dutchess County.

The 2013 SPELLING BEE BEST HIGH SCHOOLS category winners were John Jay High School's Team-E, comprised of spellers: **Kanthi Bommarreddy** and **Jimmy Caffrey**. Team-E was sponsored by Riverside Bank.

For more information, please visit:
www.literacyconnections.org/

