

InPrint


 WAPPINGERS
Central School District

budget newsletter

The Wappingers Central School District Newsletter

May 2013 Volume 13.2



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Summer Camp Offerings from Continuing Ed

There are student Baseball, Basketball and combo camps available as listed on the back page.

Flyers will be available in all school lobbies and on the WCSD website under "Continuing Ed".

Or for more information call:
298-5000, ext. 40137

VOTE

**Tuesday, May 21, 2013
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

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

**Sheafe Rd is NOW at
Wappingers JHS**

If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the address label for your polling location or call 298-5000 ext. 40145.

2013-2014 WCSD Budget Message From The Superintendent



Dear Wappingers Families and Community Members,

This year, the Board-adopted school budget was developed in the midst of unprecedented increases in mandated expenses and considerable decreases in revenue, especially in terms of aid from New York State. Despite these negative factors, our objective has been to develop a budget that can preserve and advance our educational program to the greatest extent possible. Balancing this goal with the need to be fiscally prudent and conservative has been a challenge and arriving at reductions in staff and programming has been very difficult.

Nevertheless, this budget represents the potential to accomplish a great many goals that support our District's overall academic progress. It supports the full implementation of the new Common Core Learning Standards through the provision of appropriate reading and writing resources for our instructional staff and our students. This budget addresses the growth in the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students with modest increases to key staff positions. The Board-adopted budget for 2013-2014 also maintains much of the good that is part of our District. Crucial programs have been preserved, such as advanced placement courses, electives and honors courses, extra-curricular activities, high school sports, and full-day kindergarten. We have seen our District graduation rate increase steadily since 2004-2005 from 74% to 84.3% in 2011-12. This budget supports student achievement gains and an established pattern of growth through early intervention and by funding resources that have a strong track record, like credit recovery for our high school students and leveled literacy libraries for our elementary students. All students gain when we create a favorable climate for staff to engage students in more enrichment activities and when resources can support a greater capacity for the differentiation of instruction.

On May 21st, the public will have the opportunity to vote on the Board-adopted budget and a proposition that provides for critical improvements to all school buildings as well as a sorely needed bus garage. These improvements have been planned to repair and rebuild District and school building infrastructure while saving taxpayer money through a combination of state aid, energy savings, and rental cost elimination. The bus proposition supports our ongoing student transportation needs through the replacement of vehicles that must come out of service because of mechanical or frame failure due to rust. Our ability to reduce the frequency at which we need to replace vehicles is addressed by the improvements made possible by the Capital Improvements Project Proposition. This is another example of a cost saving measure made possible by preventive maintenance, a long-standing goal addressed by the Capital Improvements Project Proposition.

For full information on the Board of Education adopted budget, our Capital Improvements Project Proposition, and the Bus Proposition, please visit our 2013-2014 Budget Information page on the District website. This link will provide you with a schedule of Superintendent's budget presentations. If you are unable to attend a presentation, you can still see the information and presentation materials by accessing this link.

Regards,
Marco F. Pochintesta

Message From BOE President

Dear Community Members,

At the Monday, April 8th meeting of the WCSD Board of Education, the proposed budget for the 2013-2014 school year was approved in the amount of \$205,013,864. This represents an increase of \$8,031,824 in spending over last year's budget. The increase is due to a \$4.0 million increase in health care costs and nearly a \$4.2 million increase in retirement contributions, over which the Board of Education has no control. Due to the decrease in New York State aid, the tax levy amount this year is \$145,068,860. Since part of these state mandated increases are exempt from the tax cap, which we have kept under 2%, the tax levy is 5.9%, even though our spending increase is only 4.08% including the increased cost in health insurance and retirement system contributions. Your actual tax may be more or less depending on other factors. As you know, the Board of Education can only determine the spending; the tax levy depends on the aid given by the State. If the State gives us more mandates and less money, property taxes go up. Unlike the County, school districts only have two sources of revenue, State aid and property tax.

In order to lower our tax levy and keep it under 2%, the Board of Education had to make some very difficult decisions. We had to cut 11 teaching positions, 27 teaching assistant positions, 14.6 monitor positions, 6 clerical staff positions, 6 custodial positions. There were several other spending cuts as well, including \$102,849 from modified sports. These changes were made with a heavy heart. Board members had to approve these cuts because we had pledged to ourselves not to go over the tax cap and request a 60% vote to override the tax cap. The current budget is under the tax cap as allowed by the law and requires a simple majority to get voter approval.

The Board of Education also approved a contingency budget of \$196,926,933, which, by law, will be \$55,107 less than last year's budget and would require us to make further cuts in the amount of over 8 million dollars. This will have devastating effects on the education of our children. If this budget does not meet voter approval and further cuts are made, full-day kindergarten would be scaled back to half-day, Orchard View School would have to be closed, and varsity sports would be eliminated. Additionally, several programs and several positions would have to be eliminated or severely reduced, including business education, arts, music, interscholastic, extra curricular, after school transportation, technical education, etc. \$1.5 million would have to be borrowed to pay for retirement system.



continued on page 3...

Wappingers Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted 2012-2013 School Year	Budget Proposed 2013-2014 School Year	Contingency Budget 2013-2014 School Year*
Total Budget Amount	\$196,982,040	\$205,013,864	\$196,926,933
Increase/decrease for the 2009-2010 school year		\$8,031,824	\$ 55,107
Percentage increase (decrease)		4.08%	(0.03%)
Change in the consumer price index		2.10%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$136,981,929	\$145,068,860	\$136,981,929
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,370,043	\$5,679,575	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$134,611,886	\$139,389,285	
B. School Tax Levy, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$134,932,051	\$139,389,285	
Difference: A - B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$320,165	\$0	
Administrative component	\$19,221,770	\$19,975,431	\$19,046,089
Program component	\$156,643,244	\$161,449,857	\$155,142,268
Capital component	\$21,117,026	\$23,588,576	\$22,738,576

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2013-14 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Separate List of Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements.)

Description	Amount
Capital Project	\$38,715,000
Bus Proposition	\$1,780,644

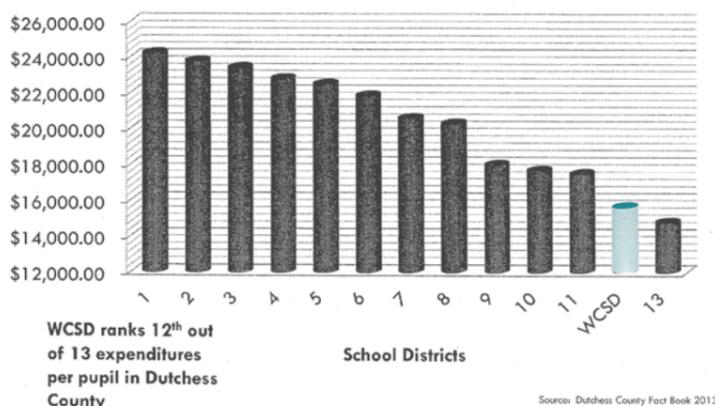
Under the Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

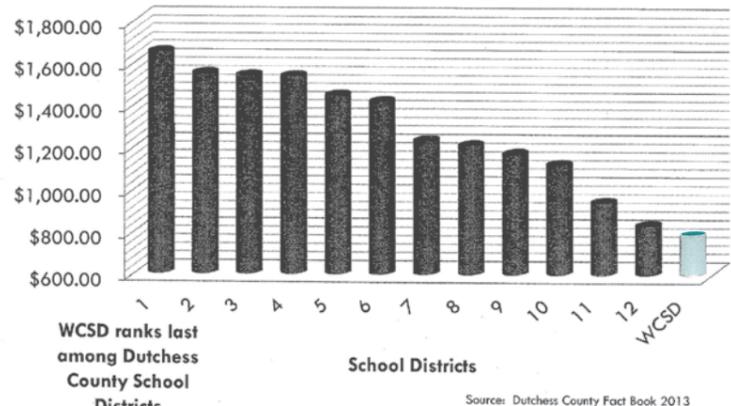
\$706.55

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2013-2014 school year should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, **the additional cuts would be made:** Equipment, ERS Amortization, FDK to half day, Interscholastics, Business Education Department elimination, Orchard View grades 10-12, Technology Education Teacher reduction, In School Suspension reduction at HS, Tech Integration Teacher, Social Worker & Speech new hires, Monitors HS, Districtwide Art & Music reduction, Foreign Language reduction MS, Extra-Curricular, and After school runs - HS & MS.

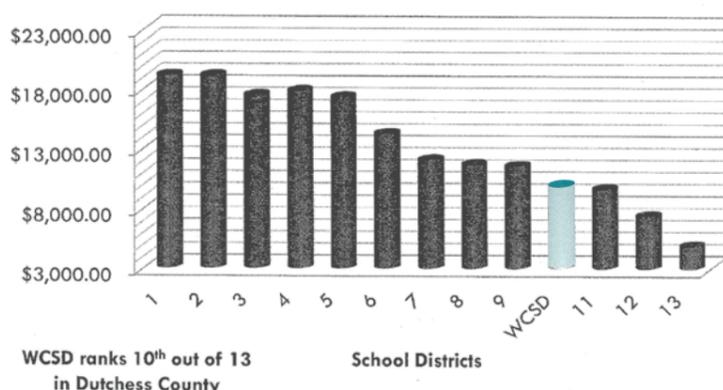
TOTAL EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL 2011-2012



TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST PER PUPIL 2011-2012



PROPERTY TAXES PER PUPIL 2011-2012



VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2013 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

- Fishkill Elementary
- Fishkill Plains Elementary
- Myers Corners Elementary
- Vassar Road Elementary
- Sheafe Road Elementary **NOW** at Wappingers JHS
- Gayhead Elementary

If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the address label for your polling location or call 298-5000 ext. 40145

From Our Board Candidates: On May 21, 2013, the voters will be asked to cast their vote to elect three trustees to the WCSD Board of Education. Three Board candidates are running for these three available seats. Each candidate was asked to write a brief statement. The candidates' statements appear in the order that they will appear on the May 21st ballot.

BOARD CANDIDATES (as they appear on the ballot)		
Vote for only three by placing a 4 or 6 in the box under candidate's name.		
1	2	3
Colleen HARDIMAN	Thom PILIOURAS	Somaiah SOMA

1 Colleen Hardiman

My husband and I are homeowners and taxpayers in Wappingers Central School District. We are residents of the town of Fishkill and have a wonderful daughter who is a sophomore at John Jay High School.

I have been an educator for 20 years and received a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, a master's degree from Bank Street College, and a certificate of advanced study from SUNY New Paltz. I am knowledgeable about the Common Core standards, the new APPR process for teacher evaluation, and NYS testing.

I believe the Board of Education must bring about initiatives that make our schools superlative, while being fiscally responsible to the community. Because the best students are well-rounded students, I support strong programs in the arts, music, athletics, and character education, as well as academics. I will work to uphold Wappingers' recognition as a school district of the highest quality. I will strive to find ways to maintain the financial stability of the district in these challenging economic times.

I am concerned about the education of our children, about the tax burden for our community, about home values in our district, about preserving the strength of public education, and about giving a voice to all. I ask for your support and look forward to serving you.

2 Thom Piliouras

Mr. Piliouras completed his Bachelor of Music Degree at Manhattanville College, and subsequently accepted a position with the Peekskill City School District in 1974. He was awarded the Master of Arts in Education from Columbia University in 1975 and the Professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University in 1984. He has worked with children on every grade level, K-12.

Thom retired from the Peekskill City School District in June 2008 as Director of Project Potential, a Jacob Javits Grant funded program. He was directly responsible for leading faculty teams in the development of programs offering accelerated instruction to students in the areas of Music, Art, Mathematics and Science. Utilizing resources from The University of Connecticut at Bridgeport and the College of New Rochelle, the program also offered graduate study and staff development opportunities to faculty in pursuit of certification in the area of Gifted and Talented Instruction.

M. Piliouras has been the recipient of numerous awards in the field of education. He has been twice nominated for the prestigious New York State Teacher of the Year Award, and was honored by the Peekskill Education Foundation as the Teacher of the Year in 2006.

He currently serves as the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls, the Vice President of Retired Peekskill Educators, a foundation awarding scholarships to high school seniors that pursue careers in education, and Consultant to the Peekskill Employees' Benefit Fund and the Millbrook Teachers' Benefit Trust.

3 Somaiah Soma

Somaiah Soma has been a WCSD and Dutchess County resident for 40 years. Married for 39 years, he is the father of two children who attended Wappingers schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. He is a former candidate for Poughkeepsie Town Council who is currently retired following a 30 year career with a major financial services company.

He delivers Meals on Wheels for homebound seniors in the Hudson Valley and is an Elections Poll Watcher. Involved with Hudson Valley Home Matters, he assists and supports seniors who want to remain happy and independent in their own homes as they age. Mr. Soma was Vice President of the Board of Trustees as well as member of the Board for nine years at the Hindu Samaj. He also regularly attends WCSD meetings, Town of Poughkeepsie and Arlington Fire District.

Mr. Soma has a Bachelor and Master's degrees in Business and a Master's degree in Economics. He accepts responsibility with a "can do" attitude. A respecter of personal differences and values, he listens attentively to what others are communicating. He remarks, "I am committed to advancing the WCSD's educational priorities while being cognizant of our area's fiscal realities. I am looking forward to working with our students and the community. I hope you will support me on May 21."

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 the Property Tax Cap Legislation. The tax cap of a contingent budget cannot exceed the prior year's levy, thus representing a zero percent increase.

The contingency budget calculated for the 2013-2014 school year would be \$196,926,933. If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget items listed below would be eliminated. The difference to the average homeowner, based on current assessment information, would be approximately \$0 per year.

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

- Equipment
- ERS Amortization
- FDK to half day
- Interscholastics
- Business Education department elimination
- Orchard View grades 10-12
- Technolgy Education Teacher reduction
- In School Suspension reduction at HS
- Tech Integration Teacher
- Social Worker & Speech new hires
- Monitors HS
- Districtwide Art & Music reduction
- Foreign Language reduction MS
- Extra-Curricular
- After school runs - HS & MS

BUDGET INFO

Does the tax cap mean my annual property tax can not increase more than 2%?

Not necessarily. New York's Property tax cap law establishes a tax levied limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula. School districts are then allowed to take certain exemptions that may boost their tax levy limits to more than 2% or the inflation rate.



If a school district's proposed tax levy increases within its limit, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval. If a school district's proposed tax levy increase exceeds the tax levy limit, a super majority of voters (60% or more) would be required for budget passage.

What may school districts exempt from their tax levy limit?

There are a limited number of specific exemptions to the tax cap that school districts may take. They include growth in "brick and mortar" development that increases the value of a school district's full taxable property, contributions toward employee pensions above a certain amount, expenditures for some court orders, and the local portion of capital expenditures.

Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

No. The tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay to contribute to the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another based on such things as equalization rates and assessed property values, and may exceed 2%.

What if voters reject the proposed tax levy?

If voters in the district reject the proposed budget the school board may put up the same or a revised budget for second vote, or adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied the previous year. If voters reject the spending plan twice, schools must adopt a budget with the same tax levy as the prior year – essentially a 0% cap.

WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALLOT FOR THE MAY 21, 2013
BUDGET AND ELECTION VOTE

YES _____ NO _____

BUDGET

Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013, in the amount of \$ 205,013,864 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

YES _____ NO _____

BUS PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to purchase student transportation vehicles at a maximum estimated sum of \$1,780,664; 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?

YES _____ NO _____

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to construct and reconstruct various School District facilities and sites, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, site and athletic field improvements and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$38,715,000, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued?

YES _____ NO _____

BOARD CANDIDATES
(VOTE FOR 3 ONLY - PLACE AN X OR ✓ IN THE BOX OVER THE CANDIDATES NAME)

1	2	3	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Colleen HARDIMAN	Thom PILIOURIS	Somaiah SOMA			

After you have marked your ballot, fold it and enclose it in the envelope. SIGN THE BACK OF THE OATH ENVELOPE. This ballot is void if you enclose any paper or article in the folded ballot or deface or tear the ballot or make any erasure thereon.

If you are unable to vote in person, you can vote by absentee ballot. Applications are available online or in the office of the District Clerk. Please call 298-5000, ext. 40145.

Message from BOE President continued from page 3...

The Board of Education also approved two separate propositions for voter consideration. The first is to replace very old buses, which are unsafe for the transportation of our children. The second consists of safety measures for all our schools and capital improvement to our infrastructure, as well as to eliminate the rental space for our bus garage and central office staff, which the school district has been renting for the last 22 years. We have already cancelled the leasing space for Orchard View School and the remaining leases will be cancelled after we have our own space to move the central office and bus garage. Most of our buildings are over 50 years old and need immediate fixes. We are reimbursed for over 50 % of the cost of these repairs by the State. Our bus garage will save us over \$120,000, which we are currently paying for rental space, and it will include a bus wash which will prolong the life of our buses by preventing corrosion. By moving our Administration to our own facility, we will save the million dollars that we are currently paying for rental space.

Please visit our website for more information on the budget and propositions before voting. We strongly urge you to vote on May 21, 2013.

Ved Shrivah
President, WCSD Board of Education

Wappingers CSD Capital

The Capital Improvements Project is Estimated to Save the District over \$16 Million Dollars Through Rental Cost Elimination and Gas Conversion Savings Over the Lifetime of the Bond.

Project Budgets

Proposed Project	Total Project Budget	District Share w/ 55% State Aid
Security Improvements	\$3,500,000	\$1,575,000
Facility Improvements and Rental Cost Elimination	\$24,470,000	\$11,011,500
Fuel Conversions	\$900,000	\$405,000
Transportation Improvements and Rental Cost Elimination	\$9,845,000	\$4,430,250
Totals	\$38,715,000	\$17,421,750

Project Impact on District Tax Levy

2013-2014 Total Annual Cost to Taxpayers is\$ 0

2014-2015 Total Annual Cost to Taxpayers is\$ 69,801

(This is a one time cost of no more than \$2 per household with savings every year thereafter.)

2015-2016 Total Annual Savings to Taxpayers is(\$241,236)

2016-2017 Total Annual Savings to Taxpayers is(\$253,350)

Savings increase each year of the Bond's Debt Service

VOTE·VOTE Tuesday, May 21, 2013 7:30am to 9:00pm **VOTE·VOTE**
 Sheafe Rd ES NOW votes at Wappingers JHS

Wappingers CSD Proposed Capital Improvements per School

John Jay High School

- Correct Storm Drainage
- New Running Track and Bleachers
- New Cafeteria Windows
- New Gymnasium Wall Pads
- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Security Improvements

Brinckerhoff Elementary School

- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Security Improvements
- Convert to Natural Gas

Fishkill Plains Elementary School

- Correct Storm Drainage
- Replace Windows
- Repair Exterior Masonry
- Security Improvements

Van Wyck Jr. High School

- Replace Windows
- Replace Roof
- New Gymnasium Bleachers
- Security Improvements
- Additional Parking

Gayhead Elementary School

- Correct Storm Drainage
- New Sewer Line
- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Security Improvements
- Convert to Natural Gas

Fishkill Elementary School

- Correct Storm Drainage
- Replace Windows
- Security Improvements
- Convert to Natural Gas

Roy C. Ketcham High School

- Replace Windows
- Replace Roof
- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Recoat Track, Replace Bleachers
- Security Improvements
- Convert to Natural Gas

Oak Grove Elementary School

- Correct Storm Drainage
- Replace Windows
- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Security Improvements
- Convert to Natural Gas

Vassar Road Elementary School

- Correct Storm Drainage and Parking Lot Ponding
- Replace Windows
- Security Improvements

Wappingers Jr. High School

- Replace Fire Alarm System
- Replace Smoke Detectors
- Security Improvements
- Additional Parking

Sheafe Road Elementary School

- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Security Improvements

James S. Evans Elementary School

- Replace Windows
- Replace Heating System
- Security Improvements
- Convert to Natural Gas

Myers Corners Elementary School

- Replace Cafeteria Flooring
- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Security Improvements
- Convert to Natural Gas

Kinry Road Elementary School

- Replace Unit Ventilators
- Upgrade Emergency Lighting
- Security Improvements

Main Garage

- Replace Roof

Improvements Project Budget

Benefits of Transportation Improvements

- Elimination of Rental Property at Airport Drive Facility Saves District \$117,000 per Year
- Centralized Locations for Bus Fleet Parking can Result in Shorter Runs and Increased Efficiency
- More Workday Space Allows for Timely Repairs by District Staff
- Multiple Lifts Increases Worker Productivity and Safety
- New Wash and Paint Bays will Extend Bus Fleet Service Life
- Previously Out-Sourced Repairs and Maintenance Will be Done in the New Facility at a Cost Savings
- Required Department of Transportation Inspections Will no Longer Take Workdays out of Service

Transportation Improvements
Wappingers Central School District
 Rhinebeck Architecture & Planning PC

Vote Tuesday, May 21st

VOTE·VOTE Tuesday, May 21, 2013 7:30am to 9:00pm **VOTE·VOTE**
 Sheafe Rd ES NOW votes at Wappingers JHS

Capital Improvement Bond Proposition to Benefit Children

Members of the Wappingers Central School District community will cast their vote on three important items on Tuesday, May 21st. In addition to the budget vote and the bus proposition, the District is presenting a Proposition to undertake critical Capital Improvements that, if approved, will repair aging infrastructure, improve security and enhance energy efficiency, and save the District millions of dollars in rental costs, fuel costs, and other contract fees.

The Capital Improvements Project has several components:

Improve Security: The District seeks to improve the security of every school building with the addition of modern-day security advancements. Entrance control systems, video and audio intercoms and hardware upgrades that will improve building security and response time in the event of an emergency will be installed at every building. These items qualify for state aid, meaning the district will receive 55 cents for every dollar spent to offset the costs.

Repair Aging Infrastructure: Most of the District's 14 schools and service buildings were built in the 1950's and 60's. Many have original windows, boilers and drainage systems, along with aging roofs and antiquated mechanical and electrical systems. This proposition includes urgent repairs at every District school, including replacing the roof at Roy C. Ketcham High School, fixing drainage issues, and replacing old, inefficient windows at many District schools. The District receives 55% state aid on these repairs.

Fuel Conversions: Seven school buildings that now burn oil for heating fuel will be converted to natural

gas with an annual savings estimated at \$489,000 at current fuel prices. With significant facilities support from Central Hudson and AMERESCO, the District has begun this process. The aging boiler system at Van Wyck Junior High School has been replaced with a new, efficient, dual-fuel system, saving thousands of dollars just in the few months it has been operational. These valuable upgrades qualify for 55% state aid reimbursement.

Transportation: The District seeks to build a new, smaller and more efficient bus garage on the site of its old bus garage near Fishkill Plains Elementary School. It also seeks to provide parking for all District buses by repaving and / or adding bus parking space to existing locations on three school properties. The District currently rents a bus garage and unpaved parking space at a cost of over \$12,000 per month. In addition to this rental savings, the new bus garage will allow the District to paint its own buses at significant savings. A bus wash will also reduce rust, which shortens the useful life of buses, allowing the District to buy fewer buses in the future. Construction of the new transportation facility will receive 55% state aid.

"This is a unique, time-sensitive opportunity for taxpayers to maintain district properties, eliminate rental costs, improve efficiency AND save money due to the combination of historic low bond rates and state building aid," said Ron Broas, Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations for the District. "We have been strategically using state grants and building aid within the District budget to address the highest needs of our campuses. With 14 aging schools and other service buildings, \$100,000 a year is simply not enough to keep up."

The process of identifying needed improvements

throughout the District began with a state-mandated Building Condition Survey in 2010. In March of 2011, a Capital Needs Assessment plan was presented to the District identifying nearly \$95 million worth of priority repairs and replacements. A Capital Improvements Committee was formed including the District's architect, Rhinebeck Architecture and Planning to evaluate the report and recommend the highest priority repairs, narrowing the immediate needs to \$24.47 million. District needs beyond the repairs, including fuel conversions, the bus garage, and new security improvements recommended in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, were also included. Total savings of the project over the life of the bond exceed \$16 million.

"Educating children is our highest priority," said District Superintendent Marco Pochintesta. "Students and the people who educate them must have buildings that are well-maintained and secure. This bond allows the District to maintain healthy buildings AND save taxpayers money. Living within the Tax Cap requires us to continually improve efficiency. This bond makes significant, money-saving improvements possible."

Residents can see the needed repairs, and the improvements that have been completed to date, by visiting the District's website at

http://blogcast.wappingersschools.org/capital/capital_project

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the bond issues and the District budget on Tuesday, May 21st. Residents may check the District website to find their polling location.

John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham Top Seniors, Class of 2013

WAPPINGERS SCHOOLS

- Elementary Schools**
 Brinckerhoff897-6800
 Evans298-5240
 Fishkill897-6780
 Fishkill Plains227-1770
 Gayhead227-1756
 Kinry Road463-7322
 Myers Corners298-5260
 Oak Grove298-5280
 Sheafe Road298-5290
 Vassar Road463-7860
- Secondary Schools**
 Van Wyck JHS227-1700
 Wappingers JHS298-5200
 John Jay HS897-6700
 Roy C. Ketcham HS298-5100
 Orchard View
 Alternative HS298-5000

WCSD OFFICES 298-5000

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

ADMINISTRATION

- Superintendent**
 Marco Pochintesta
- Assistant Superintendent
 for Curriculum and Instruction**
 Dr. Kathleen Walsh
- Assistant Superintendent for Administration
 Interim - Joseph Corrigan**
- 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

- President**
 Ved Shrivah
- Vice-President**
 Marilyn Shultz
- Douglass Bitteker
 Norma Drummond
 John Lumia
 Daniel Miller
 Ramesh Babu Nandi
 Robert Rubin
 Versie Walker

InPrint: WCSD Newsletter

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

GRADUATION DATES

John Jay High School
 Friday, June 21
 Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 6:30 p.m.

Roy C. Ketcham High School
 Saturday, June 22
 Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 11:00 a.m.

JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL



Zhengjia Jiang, Valedictorian

Zhengjia (Jimmy) Jiang is a sophisticated and humble individual who has been exceptionally successful here at John Jay. He takes pride in his academic career and stays very busy with extracurricular activities.

Jimmy always strives to exceed expectations and demonstrates initiative in everything he does. He has continually challenged himself with the most demanding courses we offer, and ranks number 1 in a class of 532. Along with many other extracurricular activities, Jimmy is President of the Math Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society and Italian Honor Society. He is the JJ Math Team Captain, founded the JJ Woodwind Quintet, and has played the Bassoon in Symphonic Band since 2010. He gives his time as a volunteer teacher at Huaxia New York Chinese School. Jimmy has been recognized for numerous awards in academics, and is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. For the past four years, Jimmy has played Hudson Valley Water Polo.

Being Captain of John Jay's 2011-2012 Math Team, Jimmy led the team in having their most successful year yet. His strong motivation and drive was infectious as he led other teammates in trainings to prepare for competitions. He won league winner and twelve others qualified for the league's team for the state championship. Another impressive accomplishment, several summers ago Jimmy took a course in game theory and became interested in voting theory. He conducted research over a few years and presented a research paper at the 23rd International Conference on Game Theory at Stony Brook University. This research paper was recently published in the Canadian Center of Science and Education's Journal of Mathematics Research, Vol. 5, No. 1, March 2013. This is quite a remarkable achievement for a young man.

Jimmy is an independent thinker, curious in nature, courteous, and follows through no matter what task is at hand. He enjoys learning and excels in all areas but he feels best suited in the area of Mathematics. Although he has not decided on a career, Jimmy plans to major in Mathematics to prepare him for endless career opportunities in the future. Jimmy is a dynamic young man who sets goals and follows through with them with 100% commitment. He is talented, intelligent, caring, academically motivated and has a strong work ethic, which are traits that will take him far in life. Jimmy will be attending Harvard University.



Beining Niu, Salutatorian

Beining Niu is a humble, intelligent, motivated, responsible young woman. Her integrity and character have never been questioned. She is articulate in discussion and has a mature, analytical ability that is rare in high school students. She has compiled an outstanding academic record, pursuing the most strenuous course load available to her. Such determination and dedication has paid off as she is John Jay's Salutatorian for the Class of 2013.

Beining is active in her school and community. She is an active member of both the National and Spanish Honor Societies, Mu Alpha Theta (president), and participant in the Science Olympiad for the last three years. In her junior year, she was chosen by administrators as a peer leader to assist our school in anti-bullying efforts. Within the community, Beining plays piano and violin in a youth orchestra and in her church. She is directing a children's choir, and volunteering at a local hospital and library. This is a young woman who is able to balance a strenuous academic course load, give back to her community, and maintain her standards of excellence.

Beining's nurturing and caring personality will undoubtedly be an asset to her as she pursues a Ph.D. Her plan is to teach at the collegiate level in the fields of psychology and statistics. This career plan seems to be a perfect fit for her. She loves to learn, absorbs new information quickly, and truly enjoys working with people. She listens, encourages and helps others to reach their potential. In the sometimes-cutthroat world of AP, it is refreshing to witness someone who is simply kind and sees the best in people. Beining will be attending Cornell University.

ROY C. KETCHAM HIGH SCHOOL



Raymond T. Bartolucci, Valedictorian

A scholar, musician and athlete, Ray Bartolucci brings a broad range of talents and skills to the table. It seems there is nothing he can't accomplish once he sets his mind to it. Yet, he is a sincere, humble and down-to-earth young man that is always willing to assist others - whether tutoring, running a school blood drive or helping a substitute teacher with the class lesson plan. Ray is a natural leader that has earned the respect of his teachers and fellow classmates. He delves deeply into all that he does, living by his personal creed: "savor the journey, it is just as important as reaching the destination".

An Eagle Scout with bronze and silver palms, Ray has worked on numerous community service projects as well as projects within his school community. His Eagle Scout flood control project was awarded the 2011 Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award for the Northeast Region and was recognized by the NYS Department of Conservation. This past year, identifying needs within the RCK community, Ray initiated a refurbishment of the RCK butterfly garden, worked with the guidance department to improve the school profile, and completed a detailed research project supporting a proposal to update the District's policy on the weighting of AP and Honors courses.

Ray is a National Merit Finalist. He is a founding officer of the newly formed RCK Forensics and Debate Society, and an accomplished bassist who plays with several ensembles. An avid runner, Ray has attained All-County and All-League Athlete status. He is a proud member of the RCK Cross Country team and has served as co-captain of the team for two seasons.

Ray will attend Princeton University in the fall where he plans to major in biomedical engineering as a pre-med student. He is grateful for the many opportunities and experiences he has had while at Ketcham and for all the teachers, coaches and advisors throughout his school years that have contributed to his growth and success.



Josiah Zoodsma, Salutatorian

Josiah Zoodsma, the salutatorian at Roy C. Ketcham High School, has had a diverse and distinguished educational career. Apart from academic distinction, he has also excelled athletically. As a prominent leader on the Roy C. Ketcham Cross Country and Track and Field teams, he has achieved both All-League and All-County honors while leading the team to some of their most successful seasons in school history. As a multi-faceted scholar, he also participates in the school chamber choir and is a member of the National Honor Society. In the upcoming fall semester, he will be attending Stony Brook University, and plans to delve into the field of neuroscience. He also will be participating in Stony Brook's running program and is thoroughly stoked about the possibilities that lie in front of him.

WCSD SCORES

6 National Merit Finalists!

Representing almost 50% of the whole region, WCSD would like to congratulate our finalists and scholarship award winners:

2013 National Merit Scholarship Finalists John Jay HS
 Zhengjia Jiang, Beining Niu and Xiaoying Zhao;

2013 National Merit Scholarship Finalists Roy C Ketcham HS
 Raymond Bartolucci, Graham Bass and Austin Kim

2013 National Merit Scholarship Award Winner
 Raymond Bartolucci



RCK Odyssey Magazine Earns Gold Medal

"The CSPA offered annual prizes for the best student newspapers and magazines in 1925 as part of its first activities. Yearbooks were added in 1935 and online media in 2005. By 1930, these early top prizes had given way to broad placings: first, second, third and fourth place. Each publication that entered the annual competition was sorted into one of these placings by the judges, based on its achievement according to the Critique standards. Thus every publication received one of the placings with written suggestions for improvement. Beginning in 1932, the very best of First Places were chosen in a second round of judging as Medalists and limited to the top ten percent of annual entries." - excerpt from www.columbia.edu/cu/cspa

Once again, Odyssey, our literary magazine has received The Columbia Scholastic Press Gold Medal, which is the highest CSP award. This has become an annual event for Odyssey. Great appreciation goes out to our advisor, Teresa Sutton, and all of our Odyssey student writers.

John Jay Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

"The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have an impressive legacy dating back to 1923 and a noteworthy roster of past winners including Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford and Joyce Carol Oates."



"The Awards are an important opportunity for students to be recognized for their creative talents. Each year, the Alliance partners with more than 100 visual and literary-arts focused organizations across the country to bring The Awards to local communities. Teens in grades 7 through 12 can apply in 28 categories of art and writing for the chance to earn scholarships and have their works exhibited or published." - excerpt from www.artandwriting.org

The following photography students earned national recognition in the 2013 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and they will be recognized at Carnegie Hall on May 31st to receive their respective medals.

Jamie Fandl, Gold, Jason Dinelli, Silver, Jillian Bruschi, Silver, Justin Pietropaoli, 1 Gold and 2 Silver

WCS Future Business Leaders of America



Students from John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham high schools attended the New York State Future Business Leaders of America Leadership Conference, where they competed in a range of activities aimed at demonstrating their mastery of business concepts and skills. With a focus on leadership skills, the conference gives students an arena in which to demonstrate their career competencies and business knowledge while fostering a positive, competitive spirit.



On the state level, events are broken down into individual or team events. Topics include Accounting, Banking, Business Communication, Business Ethics, Business Law, Computer Applications, Desktop Publishing, and more, offering a wide focus for students with a range of talents. Competitors are required to create a report, which is prejudged, as well as a performance component. The projects should promote an awareness of a facet of the American economy within the team or student's school district or community. Competitors are judged on the content and format of their reports and the explanation and delivery of their performances. Judges consider creativity, collaboration, and organization, as well as relation to theme, universal appeal, and good use of business techniques, among other criteria.

John Jay students Jon Alperstein, Shivi Mehta, and Liam Todd earned third place in the Business Ethics team event. John Jay students also did very well in the individual competitions. Rishita Jani earned fifth place in the Impromptu Speaking competition, Shivi Mehta earned fifth place in the Business Math competition, Helen Yu earned 6th place in the Job Interview competition, and Liam Todd earned seventh place in the Business Math competition. Helen Yu also served as a New York State Leadership Conference Intern.

Roy C. Ketcham students Carlos Galarza earned fourth place Future Business Leader. Carlos Galarza, Frank Giancaspro and Alex Lam took fourth place Global Business. Breanna Lechase earned fifth place Business Law and Shannon Maloney earned tenth place Business Calculations. Gayathri Jaikumare earned fourth place Business Law and has qualified for and will be attending the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA in June!



JAY CUPCAKES WIN IT FOR C.A.P.E.

Cupcakes for Council On Addiction Prevention & Education (CAPE) is a Cupcake Bake Off to Raise Awareness of Substance Abuse. It was held in April at Shadows on the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, NY. All high school and middle school students in Dutchess County were invited to participate in a Bake Off competition for Best Cupcake in the County! The purpose was to raise awareness of substance abuse in the county while showcasing the talents of our budding bakers. Student teams or individuals were invited to compete for fun and prizes.

Each contestant/team had to prepare and bake 48 regular sized cupcakes. One for display purposes and the other 47 are for sale as part of a fundraiser for the Marathon Project by CAPE. In addition, each contestant had to provide a second batch of 48 mini cupcakes or a batch of 24 regular sized cupcakes for the tasting competition.

"Among 25-30 other contestants/teams competing from all different schools in Dutchess County, six of my students (left to right: Nadine Segarra, Summer Cary, Toni-Marie O'Connell, Rahani Green, Tabitha Barnett & Emma Pogge (not pictured) participated in the Cupcakes for CAPE Bake Off and won!!!" Tricia Leonard, the student's teacher further remarks, "If you see any of these students, please take a moment to congratulate them as they worked really hard and deserve it!" The students won Best Cupcake in the Taster's Choice category which reflects the most popular with the the supporters.



Roy C. Ketcham High School on WorldQuest WIN



The WorldQuest competition is an annual event sponsored by the Mid-Hudson World Affairs council designed to encourage students to become citizens of the world by testing their knowledge in matters of international importance. This year's categories focused on the six top national security issues facing the President in 2013: US Education; Competing Globally; US Energy Policy; US Economic Competitiveness; the Middle East; Afghanistan/Pakistan and China.

Earlier this year, there were two teams representing Ketcham High School that competed against 14 other regional high schools including: Arlington, Washingtonville, Cornwall, Spackenkill, Roosevelt, and several others. The teams came in first and second place!

For the fourth year in a row, the Roy C. Ketcham High School WorldQuest team has won the Mid-Hudson Valley regional WorldQuest competition, beating out 14 other local teams and qualified to compete in the National WorldQuest Competition in Washington D.C. held in April.



WorldQuest is a quiz-bowl style competition sponsored by the World Affairs Council of America in which students are asked challenging questions in 10 topic areas concerning current U.S. and World relations, events, and crises. Each year, the Roy C. Ketcham team is formed by a small group of highly motivated students who possess a genuine interest in gaining a broader perspective of world issues. This year's team consists of five extremely dedicated young individuals. Not only did they form their WorldQuest team, but they are the first group to found a Forensics and Debate Society at Ketcham. These students, Akiko Endo, Breanna Lechase, Raymond Bartolucci, Graham Bass, (pictured left to right) and Patrick Alderson (not pictured) traveled to D.C. and stayed on the Georgetown campus for the National competition.

"This is my second trip to the National competition," said Ray Bartolucci. "I know Ketcham has won the regionals six times in the last nine years, but I would love to finally bring home the national trophy for us." The Principal, Tom Stella, wishes to congratulate and thank Roy C. Ketcham teachers Mr. Shekitka and Mr. Foxhall for their excellent work with these fine young scholars.

The Results:

"Our team competed in Washington D.C. in the nationals and finished ranked #11 in the nation, which is quite impressive. I'm very proud our students and of RCK!" - Tom Stella

Van Wyck 6th Grader Wins United Way's Touch-A-Truck Logo Design



Henry Litsky, a sixth grader at Van Wyck Junior High School, has won the top prize in United Way's annual Touch-A-Truck logo design contest. A third-time contestant, Henry won third place in the 2012 contest, and received an honorable mention in 2011. His first place-winning 2013 design features a bright blue tractor.

The contest, open to students ages 3-17, encourages entrants to draw trucks in crayon, colored pencil, or magic marker. The winning logo is used in promotional materials for the Touch-A-Truck event, a fun-filled day in early June that

allows children of all ages to touch, climb on, and photograph several types of trucks and equipment that they do not usually have access to. This year's vehicles will include tow trucks, backhoes, fire trucks, concrete mixers, diggers, dumpers, excavators, cherry pickers, and racecars.

To be held on Sunday, June 9, at the Orange County Fairgrounds, the event will also feature inflatable rides, face painting, and character appearances. More than 3,000 people are expected to attend. Since its inception, Touch-A-Truck has raised over \$70,000 for local nonprofit organizations working to build stronger community for Dutchess and Orange County families.

7th Annual Senior Citizens Tea

On April 3rd, Van Wyck JHS held its 7th annual Senior Citizens Tea. The



senior citizens from Wappingers Falls Senior

Center joined the Van Wyck staff for an afternoon of good food, and music. Our students served the guests, and the music department



provided the wonderful entertainment.



Fishkill ES Students GO GREEN for Earth Day

The **Green Girls** are the girls of Mrs. Seablom's 4th grade class at Fishkill ES. They came together last year (Mrs. Seablom looped from 3rd to 4th so these girls have been together for 2 years). After being inspired by what they learned about Earth Day, specifically about problems with using plastic, the girls pledged to stop using plastic and began thinking about how they could inspire others to do the same. They decided to put together an assembly to present to the whole school so that they could get other students to also stop using plastic products.

They began writing a skit that focused on not using plastic water bottles, bags or utensils and encouraged reusing, reducing and recycling. The skit grew into a 30 minute performance written entirely by the girls with the support and guidance of their teacher. After a year of writing and practicing, including giving up recess and coming in early to rehearse with their teacher, they were ready to perform. They put on 2 assemblies for the school, and performed at a PTA family night event celebrating Earth Day. The students and the adults loved it! The lessons these girls learned about not only the environment, but also teamwork, perseverance and hard work will be with them for a long time!



James Evans ES No Lack for Acts of Kindness

The students and staff at James Evans Elementary collected coats for Dutchess Outreach for the winter. The students went trick or treating for UNICEF and collected \$87. They collected non-perishable foods for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, and collected personal care supplies for Hurricane Sandy victims. They didn't stop there, they collected \$130 worth of dimes for March of Dimes and wrote valentine cards for people staying at Hudson River Housing. The students collected \$100 for Red Cross, collected over 50 cereal boxes for local food pantry and collected children's books for the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie winning the Battle of Books for the second year in the row. Wow, great thanks to this busy bunch!

Gayhead Elementary Jump Rope for Heart



During February, Gayhead Elementary School conducts their annual Jump Rope For Heart (JRFH) event. These events are held nationwide and help students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health while they raise funds to support vital research and educational programs. All Gayhead Elementary students will be jumping in their Physical Education class, whether they participate in fundraising or not, to improve their heart health.



Gayhead Elementary School has been participating in JRFH since 1991, when Norm Schofield, the Physical Education teacher decided it was a worthy cause for the students to raise funds for research and education. The event was a success and continued to grow each year. Sadly, in the summer of 1994, Norm Schofield died of a heart attack; Gayhead was devastated. The Gayhead community rallied together to continue on with JRFH in Norm's honor, dedicating the gymnasium to him and commissioning a mural to be painted of Norm with a few students and a Jump Rope for Heart banner.

Although the current students (and many teachers) never knew Norm Schofield, the passion and love that Norm had for Jump Rope for Heart and the research and education that it provides those suffering from heart disease lives on. Each "National Go Red Day" when we kick off the Jump Rope for Heart fundraising effort and mention "the man in the mural" the students at Gayhead rise to the occasion and continue to amaze us with their immense level of fundraising. Over the past 21 years the Gayhead students have raised over \$403,000 for the American Heart Association. This year the students raised \$31,797.46 for research and education. We, the Physical Education teachers, continue to encourage the students to become "heart heroes". Each year they raise funds for the American Heart Association and become more aware of the importance of maintaining a healthy heart.

WJHS Career Day



A special event happened for the first time ever at WJHS in October 2012. More than 40 exhibitors ranging from paramedics, nurses, firefighters, and fitness trainers to bankers, lawyers, computer engineers, orthodontists and police officers filled the gymnasium for students to meet and talk with. Our very own WCSD Human Resources Department participated as well. Cablevision was there as an exhibitor and also filmed the event for a piece that aired on the local cable channel. As a special treat K104 FM broadcasted live from the school for the entire two hour event. DJs Bill Beale and Woodman were a big hit with the students.

All eight-hundred and seventy-five 7th and 8th grade students participated and were prepped for the event. Students spent one hour in classrooms with teacher guided activities. Some teachers had students fill out job applications and conducted mock interviews, others incorporated the NYSED career planning materials, while some brought in outside speakers. Students also attended a thirty minute motivational presentation in the auditorium.

The event was obviously a HUGE success. Many teachers expressed how seriously the students were engaged in the activities and how well suited it was for the age group. Students were not only exposed to paid career information but to volunteer opportunities to foster a sense of community.

Initiated by Assistant Principal Lizzette Cintron, the School Counseling Department, along with parent volunteer Diane DiDominicis and school administrators organized the event. Many thanks go to Ms. DiDominicis as her expertise was invaluable. Given the successful outcome we hope to make this an annual event at WJHS.

Oak Grove Elementary First Annual Academic Bowl

The students at Oak Grove Elementary participated in the first annual Academic Bowl on Friday, February 3, 2013. Students from each of the grades kindergarten through fifth grade comprised the teams, broken down into two assemblies during the course of the day.

The first assembly was comprised of kindergarten, second and fourth graders, while the second assembly had first, third and fifth graders. Each team would take turns going to the microphone by grade level where they were asked a question in the subjects of ELA,



Math, Social Studies and Science. The contestant who buzzed in first was given an opportunity to answer. If the answer was incorrect, then the other contestant was provided with a chance to respond. If both contestants could not correctly answer the question, the question was presented to the audience. Every student had an opportunity to participate in the Academic Bowl. The Oak Grove community had a wonderful day highlighting the importance of academics in a fun and constructive manner.

Fishkill Plains ES

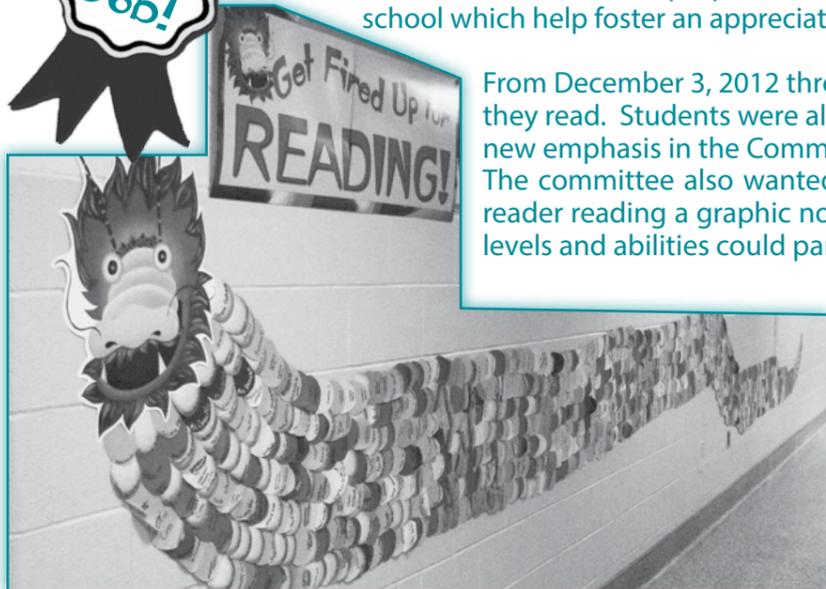
Congratulations to Ratna Sharma (Grade 4, Mrs. Mierisch and Mrs. Sanborn's class) for being awarded the First Prize for her essay submitted to the Dutchess County Heritage Days Committee at the Samuel Morse Levels or Wappingers Central School District.

Ratna along with her parents or guardians were invited to an award ceremony at the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum where she received a \$50 Visa Gift card from the sponsor, the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union. Congratulations Ratna!!!

Kinry Road Gets Fired Up for Reading!



Get Fired Up for Reading is a reading incentive program orchestrated by the Kinry Road Literacy Committee; consisting of the principal, the librarian, a fourth grade teacher, a fifth grade teacher, two sixth grade teachers, a special education teacher, and the ELA AIS teacher. The main purpose of this group is to promote literacy based programs and activities throughout the school which help foster an appreciation and love of reading.



From December 3, 2012 through February 8, 2013, students were asked to keep a reading log of the books they read. Students were allowed the freedom to read any type of book as long as it was read entirely; the new emphasis in the Common Core for nonfiction and informational texts made this extremely important. The committee also wanted every student to be able to participate regardless of reading ability. A low reader reading a graphic novel counted the same as a high reader reading a Harry Potter book. All grade levels and abilities could participate.

A dragon head was placed in the hallway and for each completed book, students were able to place a dragon scale to make up the body. Each book they finished earned them a different colored scale which was added to the wall to create the dragon. Our goal was to complete a six foot dragon in time for Chinese New Year and the end of the Year of the Dragon.

The students were motivated by the visual aspect of seeing the dragon grow. By the end, 106 students (approximately 30% of the student body) had participated in creating a twenty-seven foot dragon. As the reward for having reached our goal, the participating students attended a Chinese New Year

party. At the party students enjoyed snacks including fortune cookies and made their own red good luck envelopes which were filled with a money pencil and a money book mark.

Special thanks go to the Vassar Kinry PTA. Without their support through PARP funds this activity would not have been possible.

Annual Wappingers Central School District Spelling Bee



The winners of our Annual District Spelling Bee which was held at Myers Corners Elementary School in January 2013 were:

Grade 6-8 Winner - **Taskin Forkan**, Wappingers Jr. High School
 Runner Up - **Nikitha Menon**, Van Wyck Jr. High School

Grade 4-5 Winner - **Kevin Kwon**, Myers Corners Road Elementary School
 Runner Up - **Austin Anderson**, Gayhead Elementary School

Also, promoted to the Regional Spelling Bee in March at the Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, NY, along with our winners and runners up, were:

Kennedi Graboski - Grade 5 - Fishkill Plains Elementary School
Ellen Min - Grade 5 - Fishill Elementary School



Athletic Accolades

The Poughkeepsie Journal Players of the Year:

Girls Volleyball - **Megan Theiller**
 Girls Tennis - **Dorothy Tai**
 Girls Basketball - **Calli Balfour**
 Co-Pitcher of the year - **Amanda Gisonni**
 Co-Pitcher of the year - **Victoria Lattanzio**

Boys Wrestling - **Brett Perry**
 Boys Hockey - **Mike Laffin**
 Golfer of the year (2011 & 2012) - **Nick Dilio**

The Poughkeepsie Journal Coaches of the Year:

Kalah Lipinski - Girls Volleyball
Bonnie Schilling - Girls Softball
Will Davis & Tom Drnek
 - co-coaches for Girls Tennis

Chip Chiacchia - Club Hockey
Mark Piggott - Boys Swimming

Dutchess County Coaches Association Coach of the Year
Tom O'Hare

RCK Highlights – 2012

Individual All-Section Athletes:

Abby Canning, Emily Padilla (Softball);
 Casey Herzog (Field Hockey); Jake Keller
 (Boys Soccer); Kevin Duke, Elon Walters,
 Jacob Morganstern, JJ Muvley (Football)

Individual All-County Athletes:

Rachel Cacace, Tom Primrose, Steve Rizzo,
 Josiah Zoodsma, Ray Bartolucci (Cross
 Country)

Poughkeepsie Journal All-Stars:

Ameera Bhanji (Girls Swimming)

Individual Highlights:

Emily Padilla received the "Sportsmanship"
 award given by the Melissa D. Bisaccia
 Foundation;

Kevin Duke was a MSG Tri State QB
 Showdown Finalist (Football)

Gayhead's very own Mr. Mark Piggott Coach of the Year!

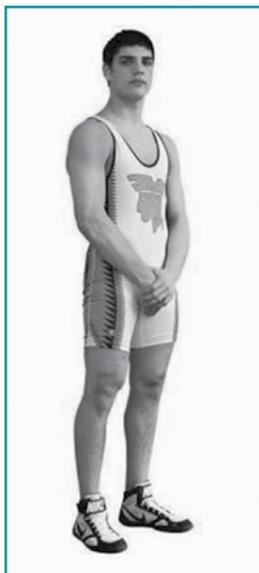


Gayhead's very own Mr. Mark Piggott was selected as the Section One/Conference 1 Boys Swimming "Coach of the Year". He was voted for by his coaching peers in Section One athletics which includes Arlington, Beacon, Brewster, John Jay, Lakeland/Panas/Putnam Valley, Our Lady of Lourdes, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, and Yorktown.

Mr. Piggott started teaching at Gayhead Elementary School in 1987. He is loved by the

students and staff alike. It is no wonder that his fellow coaches from the surrounding area voted him "Coach of the Year!"

John Jay's Brett Perry Wrestler of the Year!



Brett Perry
 John Jay HS
 Class of 2014
 170 lbs weight class
 All League 2011,12,13
 Division Champ 2013
 All Section 2012,13
 Section Champion 2013
 All State 2013
 -5th place finish
 Pok Journal 2013 Wrestler
 of the year

John Jay's Calli Balfour Player of the Year!



Calli Balfour #30
 John Jay HS
 Class of 2013
 1012 Career Points
 League MVP,
 All Section '12, '13
 All State '12, '13
 PK Journal Player of the
 Year '12, '13
 Lead us to the County center
 in 2012 and to our first
 league championship in 20
 years in 2013

John Jay Varsity Cheerleading

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) held their East Regional Cheerleading Invitational at Arlington High School in January. The competition, which included only Varsity teams, was divided into four divisions – Small, Medium, Large, and Co-ed. John Jay High School's team took first place in the Large Division event, and were awarded a plaque by the NYSPHSAA.



Roy C. Ketcham Swimmer New Record Time

RCK Swimmer Patrick Alderson placed 27th in the 100 freestyle at the New York State Boys' Swimming Championships held in Rochester. His time of 48.29 seconds established a new Roy C. Ketcham and Wappingers School District record. Patrick was also a member of the 200 freestyle relay that finished 13th in a time of 1 minute and 29.25 seconds.

Roy C. Ketcham's Wachsmuth on her Way!

Leah Wachsmuth makes NYS winter track and field championships at Cornell University in the pole vault! Leah tied her personal best in the pole vault clearing 10 feet and finished tied for 15th in New York State.

Myers Corners ES Recieves \$10,000 for Education!



Janine McQueen entered a Go Gurt, Go Get 'Em contest for Coordinators of the Box Tops for Education program. The contest entry was titled "Falling For Box Tops". Mrs. McQueen's submission was chosen as 1 of 10 finalists across the country. For the "Falling for Box Tops" theme, Mrs. McQueen created a collection tree display where every time 10 Box Tops were handed in by the students, a leaf was added to the branches. Classes and grades were so inspired by the friendly competition, that in one month, they collected over 4,500 Box Tops! "The teachers loved it because it also incorporated math using pictographs to show how much each grade had earned."

Coordinators voted for the best contest idea and hers was chosen as the winner. Myers Corners ES won 100,000 Box Tops which is equivalent to \$10,000! In addition, she won a trip to the National Box Tops University being held in St. Paul, MN in June 2013. Mrs. McQueen was very excited when she heard the news.

Box Tops for Education is a great program that provides families a chance to give back to their schools without spending any extra money out of their pockets. Box Tops can be found on hundreds of products. (For a complete list, visit www.btfe.com)

Mrs. McQueen comments, "My goal is to educate our school and community about this great program so that all of our schools can benefit. There are thousands of dollars being thrown away when people don't turn in their Box Tops. Take the time and clip. I'm helping to change our school, one dime at a time."



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Regional Tournament

"For the past 29 years, SCIENCE OLYMPIAD has led a revolution in science education. What began as a grass-roots assembly of science teachers is now one of the premiere science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous, standards-based challenges to 6,800 teams in 50 states. Science Olympiad's ever-changing line-up of events in all STEM disciplines exposes students to practicing scientists and career choices, and energizes classroom teachers with a dynamic content experience."

- excerpt from <http://www.soinc.org>

In January, students from John Jay High School competed in the Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Science Olympiad competition. The competition, which has been challenging students in all 50 states for the past 29 years, presents teams with standard-based competitive tasks with a focus on the ever-changing nature of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The goal of the non-profit organization is to improve the quality of K-12 science education by exposing students to hands-on learning methods with an emphasis on teamwork and dynamic experiences.

Competition events include Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, Circuits, Diseases, Geology, Thermodynamics, and Robotics, among others. John Jay High School sent three teams to the regional competition, where the students earned a total of 18 medals, including first place finishes in 6 of the 22 events. One team finished in third place, which qualified them to compete in the New York State competition, which was held in March. 51 teams participated in the Division C State Competition, of which John Jay High School placed 20th.

RCK Contends Internationally

A group of 25 social studies students from Roy C. Ketcham High School



attended several model United Nations competitions this year, including those hosted by the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference (ILMUNC), Brown University, Yale University, and Harvard University. Funded almost entirely through grants and student-initiated fundraisers, Model United Nations conferences aim to promote stimulating debate on the world's most pressing issues. Students converse and negotiate while participating in competitions and serving on various committees. The ILMUNC's schedule of both academic and recreational events offers a well-rounded experience for the students, who benefit from the events and the conversation at the premier Model United Nations conference for high school students.

Roy C. Ketcham High School sent 25 students to one or more of the events. Ray Bartolucci earned an Honorable Mention at the Model United Nations held at Brown University. Gayathri Jaikumar was a finalist for the Erin Phelan Award. At Yale University's event, the team received the Breaking Boundaries Award, which awarded them \$2000 towards their conference attendance.

Wappingers JHS Learns to "Dream, Dare, Do!"

Camfel Productions, a non-profit specializing in character-building school resources, delivered a character-building assembly to students at Wappingers Junior High School. Held in September, the theme of the assembly was "Personal Responsibility." Utilizing three screens, the company presented the message "Dream, Dare, Do!" which encouraged students to clarify dreams, analyze obstacles, and turn their dreams into reality through hard work and determination. The students learned methods for dealing with pressure, stress, and fear. There was an emphasis on overcoming the trap of shifting blame and growing through personal responsibility.

VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2013 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fishkill Elementary
Fishkill Plains Elementary
Myers Corners Elementary
Vassar Road Elementary

Sheafe Road Elementary is NOW at Wappingers JHS

Gayhead Elementary

If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the address label for your polling location or call 298-5000 ext. 40145

NYS Music Association All-State Performing Group & Gold with Distinction

The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) aims to support music education across the State by producing and supporting various musical conferences and competitions on the high school level. The very selective NYSSMA Winter Conference attracts over 3,000 participants. John Jay High School students Zhengjia Jiang, Heal In Oh, Corey Crysler, Christian Fronckowiak, Joseph Geraci, Kylie McDonald, and Lindsay Towers were chosen to represent the school.

The Roy C. Ketcham String Orchestra also participated on the NYSSMA level, attending the Majors Ensemble Adjudication at difficulty Level 5 of 6. The orchestra received the highest possible rating, Gold with Distinction!

Athletic Accolades

John Jay Highlights – 2012

League Champions Teams:

Boys Soccer, Volleyball, Girls Tennis, Softball

Section Champions: Softball

Individual All-Section Athletes:

Adam Calabro, Mike Laffin (Baseball); Brian Vigorita, Blake Kozloski (Boys Soccer); Megan Theiller, Rachel Sabatini, Courtney Barbara (Volleyball); Sawyer Goerg, Victoria Stollmer (Field Hockey); Olivia Oppenheim, Haley Thoma, Alyssa Zeoli (Girls Soccer); Tateum Valentine, Vicky Lattanzio, Andrea Varvara (Softball); Dale White, Rob Haughton, Kyle Contreras (Football); Jay Albis, Luke Minasi, Brett Perry, Dale White (Wrestling); Patrick Alderson, Keith Carlino (Boys Swimming)

Individual All-County Athletes:

Adam Calabro, Mike Laffin, Ryan DiMarzo (Baseball); Megan Theiller, Rachel Sabatini, Courtney Barbara, Chelsea Barberan (Volleyball); Claire Gomba, Abigail Paglia, Erin Dillman, Samantha Mosca, Troy Dean, Connor Dougherty (Cross Country); Brandon Schneider (Boys Basketball)

Poughkeepsie Journal All-Stars:

Allie Fischer, Carly Kyte (Girls Golf); AJ Nandi, Shiva Laskshmanan (Boys Tennis); Dorothy Tai, Josephine Tai, Rishita Jani, Meghan Okeefe (Girls Tennis); Danielle Luciano, Olivia Oppenheim, Haley Thoma, Alyssa Zeoli (Girls Soccer); Amanda Gisonni, Vicky Lattanzio, Tateum Valentine, Andrea Varvara, Nadia Kemp, Megan Theiller, Gabby Bracchi (Softball); Rob Haughton, Dale White (Football)

Individual All-State Athletes:

Alyssa Zeoli, 5th team (Girls Soccer); Tateum Valentine, 1st team, Vicky Lattanzio, 2nd team, Andrea Varvara & Amanda Gisonni, 5th team (Softball); Rob Haughton (Football); Brett Perry, Dale White (Wrestling)

Individual State Qualifiers:

Carly Kyte (Girls Golf); Brett Perry, Dale White (Wrestling); Patrick Alderson, Keith Carlino, Tyler Heitmann, Kyle Mabry (Boys Swimming)

Coach of the Year:

Kalah Lipinski (Volleyball); Bonnie Schilling (Softball)

Individual Highlights:

Carly Kyte- Poughkeepsie Journal Player of the Year
Dorothy Tai- Poughkeepsie Journal Player of the Year
Bonnie Schilling- Poughkeepsie Journal Coach of the Year
Amanda Gisonni & Vicky Lattanzio- Poughkeepsie Journal Co-Pitchers of the Year

Driver Education



Two Summer Sessions

First Session Starts – June 24, 2013

Second Session Starts – July 22, 2013

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 are now available on the Wappingers website.** The cost is \$400 and is open to WCSD students. Students must be 16 years of age by the start of the first class and have a valid learner's permit. Applications are processed on a first registered, first served basis. **You must pre-register for these sessions.** Deadlines for acceptance of applications are listed on the website.

Look for Driver Education Summer Class Schedule on the Wappingers website!

Go to www.wappingersschools.org and click on the Continuing Ed link or for more information call Jeffrey Behnke, Coordinator at 298-5000, ext. 40130 or ext. 40137.

Summer Camps

Offered through
Wappingers Continuing Education

Ping Pong Camp

June 24 - June 28
July 1 - July 5

Glee Club Camp

June 24 - June 28

Hands-On Science

June 24 - June 28

Lego Robotics

June 24 - June 28
July 22 - July 26

Basketball Camp

July 29 - August 1

Tae Kwon Do

Mondays
July 1 - July 29

JPAC Musical Theatre

June 24 - June 28

July 8 - July 12

July 15 - July 26

July 29 - August 2

August 5 - August 9

Dive Into Reading

June 24 - June 28

Band Camp

June 24-28

Spanish Camp 1st-3rd

June 24-28

(grades 1-3)

July 8-12

(grades 4-6)

Art Camps:

Masks Around the World

– June 24-28

Animal "Pet" Sculptures

– June 24-28

Tie Dye Fashion

– June 24-28

Silly Sock Creatures

– July 8-12

Walking Sticks

– July 15-19

Pop Art Portraits

– July 22-29

For additional camps, specific times, locations, costs and grade levels, go to www.wappingersschools.org and click on Continuing Education



RELAY FOR LIFE

Food and Refreshments
Entertainment for all
Family Event

Join the Dutchess County American Cancer Society's 12th Annual **Relay for Life** - Saturday, June 15th at 10am - Midnight
Fishkill All Sport Health & Fitness (Fishkill, NY)
Saving Lives is just a Few Steps Away! Walk-ins welcome
For information contact Gail Buckle at 896-5087

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 in-

dividual 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)

Roy C. Ketcham High School 2013 Summer Sports Camps

Baseball:

June 24 - June 27

July 1 - July 3

July 8 - July 11

August 5 - August 7

- **combo session**

Basketball:

July 22 - July 25

July 29 - August 1

August 5 - August 7

- **combo session**

Field Hockey:

June 24 - June 27

Cost \$100

8:00am-12:00pm

For more information on Baseball and Basketball camps, contact patrick.mealy@wappingersschools.org
For more information on Field Hockey camps, contact erin.mulligan@wappingersschools.org

Tuesday, May 21, 2013
7:30 am – 9:00 pm

Fishkill Elementary • Fishkill Plains Elementary • Gayhead ES
Myers Corners Elementary • Vassar Road Elementary
Sheafe Rd ES NOW at Wappingers JHS

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Central School District

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GRADUATION DATES

John Jay High School

Friday, June 21 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 6:30 p.m.

Roy C. Ketcham High School

Saturday, June 22 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 11:00 a.m.

ETOTE