

## **Superintendent's Message** **August 2011**

The start of a new school year brings new challenges and a sense of excitement to every member of the educational family in WCSD. The new school year is always a time for renewal, optimism, high energy and a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of each child we have the responsibility to nurture, educate and support.

We are pleased to announce some of the changes to our administrative staff for the 2011-12 school year. With the retirement of Mrs. Sylvia Epstein, the Board of Education appointed Mr. Vince DiGrandi, former Principal of Wappingers Junior High School, as Principal of Fishkill Plains Elementary School. Mr. Terrence Thompson, former Assistant Principal at Van Wyck Middle School, has been appointed Principal of Wappingers Junior High School. Mrs. Norrie DiCioccio has returned to John Jay High School as Assistant Principal and Mr. Rodger DeHay has been appointed to the position of Principal of Orchard View Alternative High School. Mrs. Bonnie King has been reassigned as Assistant Principal of Van Wyck Middle School. Mrs. Mary Bish, former Coordinator of Fine Arts and Foreign Languages, has been appointed Principal of Kinry Road Elementary School, replacing Mr. John Farrell. Ms. Gina White, Mr. Scott Dorn and Mr. Anthony White have been appointed as Assistant Coordinators for Special Education replacing Mrs. Nicoletti, Mr. Sherrer and Mrs. Ryan.

During the summer, several of our staff members attended a workshop in Albany hosted by the New York State Education Department to learn more about the implementation of the Common Core Standards and the Annual Professional Performance Review. We also hosted a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher institute, a new teacher orientation and an administrative retreat to discuss many important educational topics. 337 students successfully completed their courses in our summer school program. We also provided our 12th grade students with an opportunity to take advantage of our online credit recovery courses and 16 students earned enough credits to graduate this August. Our Driver Education Program enabled 100 students to successfully complete all requirements.

As always, our custodians, maintenance and clerical staff have been busy getting ready for the new school year. They have worked diligently to ensure that our students have safe, clean schools to return to in September.

The most important quality of Wappingers Central School District is the continued effort to ensure the success of every student. We are very proud of our academic program, as well as the extracurricular opportunities offered to our students. As always, we will continue to ensure open communication with all constituents. As we prepare to meet the challenges ahead it is important that we all work together for the betterment of our schools and community.

We look forward to the 2011-12 school year being a very successful one for the students of WCSD.

Dr. James Parla