

InPrint

WAPPINGERS
Central School District

Spring Newsletter

The Wappingers Central School District Newsletter

May 2015 Volume 15.1



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2015-2016 WCSD Budget

Message From The Superintendent & BOE President

Dear WCSD Community,

On April 21, 2015, the Board of Education adopted a budget for the Wappingers Central School District for the 2015-2016 school year. You can view a full power point presentation by linking on to: <http://www.wappingersschools.org/page/18970>.

It is important to highlight particular items that the Board of Education adopted budget includes for our community and students:

- The adopted budget provides for a 1.26% levy to levy increase and 1.02% budget to budget increase from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016. This translates to a budget that is within the tax cap as allowable by New York State.
- This budget includes funding to re-instate enrichment programs for our students in elementary and middle school.
- The adopted budget allows for an allocation of resources to develop instructional programs by increasing professional development in all academic areas, especially in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- The Board of Education adopted budget addresses the fine and performing arts for our students through an increased allocation of funding for the Arts in Education program.
- Equipment purchases have not been an option in past year budget cycles. For 2015-2016, funding has been included to overhaul and update the weight rooms at both of our high schools. These updates include new flooring, paint, cardio-vascular equipment and other weight training apparatus.
- From a technological perspective, this budget proposes to increase funding to support the districts ongoing technology plan. It also provides for the addition of mobile devices that will not only serve to assist with our enrichment programs, but will provide ample opportunities and options for teachers to integrate technology into their curriculum, work with students requiring additional supports, and to differentiate instruction.
- In addition we propose to reinstate professional development and workshops for our administrators, teachers and support staff, as well as for our parents.

It is important to come and vote on Tuesday May 19, 2015. Below are the propositions that will be included on the ballot for your approval on May 19th as well as a brief explanation for each.

Approved Budget by the Board of Education

Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, in the amount of \$214,032,128 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

This ballot item pertains to the 2015-2016 general fund budget. This item relates to the annual budget vote

Bus Referendum

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 \$1,931,839; 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?

This ballot item is a request to replace transportation vehicles used in the transport of our students. The District attempts to include this ballot item annually so as to maintain the safety of our Transportation fleet.

Change in Scope

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, be hereby authorized to acquire the real property and improvements erected thereon for school district offices and classrooms, more fully bounded and described on the Tax Map of the Town of East Fishkill as Grid No.: 132800-6356-03-449033-0000, and located at 25 Corporate Park Drive, Hopewell Junction, New York for the sum of \$2,600,000.00, the cost of which acquisition together with incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, will be financed by the issuance of obligations previously authorized by the qualified voters of the School District on May 21, 2013 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.

In May 2013 the voters of WCSD approved a \$38,715,000 capital project that included many projects such as window replacements, HVAC updates, and a new Transportation garage at Fishkill Plains school, as well as the renovation and reconstruction of space for the District Offices. Much work was done to secure a location for District Office in existing space but this effort was not successful. As such the District, with Board of Education approval, had to look outside of current District space for a location. A location has been identified for purchase to house the District Offices.

This proposition is asking for a change in the scope of the May 2013 original referendum. The scope would be changed to state "purchase of property" instead of "renovate and reconstruction". PLEASE NOTE that this change of scope will not alter the cost of the capital project referendum from May 2013 (\$38,715,000). This change in scope is in language only and will have no impact on the taxpayers of WCSD.

Voter Registration

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District be authorized to permit qualified voters to personally register, for the purpose of voting at annual or special meetings and elections, with the District Clerk during regular business hours at the office of the District Clerk?

Currently all six polling sites can accept voter registrations. The District Clerk would like to have all voter registration be conducted at the Office of the District Clerk. This request for a change is based on cost (ie: security needed at the individual polling sites on the day of registration) as well as the workload of this task. This change in protocol does need approval for the voters.

Lastly, we would like to leave with you with a quote from our 32nd President of the United States, which I believe still holds profoundly true today:

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." Franklin D. Roosevelt

Sincerely,
José Carrión
Superintendent of Schools

Douglass Bitteker
President, Board of Education

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."

VOTE Tuesday, May 19, 2015
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

Wappingers Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted 2014-2015 School Year	Budget Proposed 2015-2016 School Year	Contingency Budget 2015-2016 School Year*
Total Budget Amount	\$211,876,671	\$214,032,128	\$211,926,081
Increase/decrease for the 2014-2015 school year		2,155,457	49,410
Percentage increase (decrease)		1.02%	0.02%
Change in the consumer price index		1.62%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	148,346,390	150,212,437	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	148,346,390	150,212,437	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	4,197,714	2,712,400	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	144,148,676	147,500,037	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	144,148,676	147,500,037	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-	0	
Administrative component	\$20,255,561	\$17,293,784	\$17,096,361
Program component	\$167,023,094	\$168,148,241	\$166,552,206
Capital component	\$24,598,016	\$28,590,103	\$28,277,595

***Statement of assumption made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2015-2016 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law:** Board of Education Dues, Equipment, Professional Development, School Furniture, Teacher Supplies, Debt Service Reduction, Supplies District-wide, Extra-Curricular, Website upgrades, Late Runs, 1.0 District Administrator, Modified Sports, 1.0 Custodian 4th shift, .6 Math Professional Developer, 1.0 Maintenance Mechanic, Technology & BOCES expenses, Contractual expenses related to equipment, Advisorships, Occupational Education BOCES slots, Substitute Teacher pay rate increase, Nurse sub pay reduction, 2.5 Guidance Counselor, 1.0 Clerical District Office, Clerical Reduction (elementary schools), 2.0 Technology Teachers.

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

Description	Amount
Capital Bus Proposition	\$1,931,839
Change in Scope of Capital Project	\$0
Change in Voter Registration	\$0

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

\$753.75

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2015-2016 by the qualified voters of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, will be held at the following schools: Fishkill Elementary, Fishkill Plains Elementary, Vassar Road Elementary, Wappingers junior High, Gayhead Elementary and Myers Corners Elementary on Tuesday May 19, 2015 between the hours of 7:30am and 9:00pm at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Contingency Budget

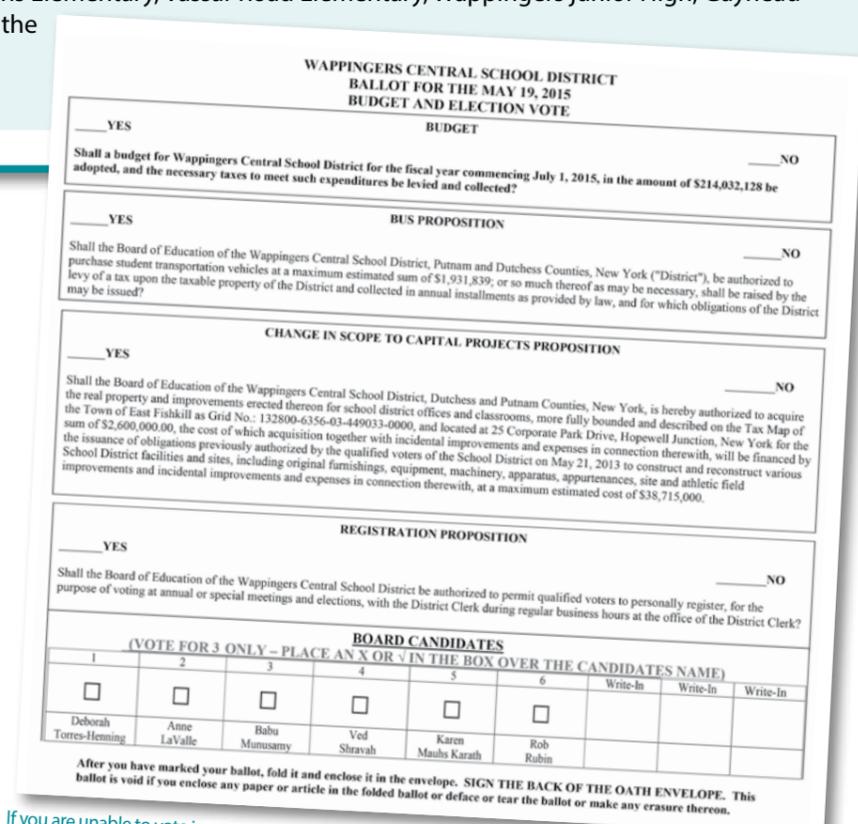
A contingency budget is prepared and adopted by the Board when the voters have rejected the proposed budget. The Board of Education may present a proposed budget to the community only twice.

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 2015-2016 school year would be \$211,926,081. 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:

- Board of Education Dues
- Equipment
- Professional Development
- School Furniture
- Teacher Supplies
- Debt Service Reduction
- Supplies District-wide
- Extra-Curricular
- Website upgrades
- Late Runs
- 1.0 District Administrator
- Modified Sports
- 1.0 Custodian 4th shift
- .6 Math Professional Developer
- 1.0 Maintenance Mechanic
- Technology & BOCES expenses
- Contractual expenses related to equip
- Advisorships
- Occupational Education BOCES slots
- Substitute Teacher pay rate increase
- Nurse sub pay reduction
- 2.5 Guidance Counselor
- 1.0 Clerical District Office
- Clerical Reduction (elem schools)
- 2.0 Technology Teachers



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.

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 19, 2015, the voters will be asked to cast their vote to elect THREE (3) trustees to the WCSD Board of Education. Six 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 19th ballot.

1 Deborah Torres Henning

For those of you who do not know me, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Deborah Torres Henning, I have lived in the Wappingers Central School District for 9 years with my husband Matt and our 4 children – three of which are currently attending WCSD schools. One in Gayhead and two in Van Wyck. I have one special needs child and understand the concerns of many in similar situations.

Since I have several children who are currently in the Wappingers school district, it would behoove the community to have a parent who has an actual vested interest in the welfare of the students attending school serving on the board. I have been very active at the WCSD BOE meetings, attending for the past two years and I feel it is time to make room for a board trustee you can actually TRUST!

What would I like to Accomplish as a WCSD Trustee? (1) Maintain fiscal responsibility and make sure there is true transparency, not just use the buzz words, but DO it (2) Address the hurried decision to redistrict (3) Fight the government and corporate over reach into our education system and maintain local control of our schools, as provided in the 10th Amendment

(4) Remove Common Core, excessive high stakes testing, and APPR and VAM as evaluation tools for our teachers (5) Create term limits for BOE Trustees (6) Help create an environment that brings joy back to the classroom, for the children the teachers and the parents.

It is time to have a voice for the children, a voice for the parents, and a voice for the community. I hope to be that voice. I hope to serve you well. I would be honored to have my campaign supported by the community I adore.

To learn more about me, or ask any questions you may have, you can find me on Facebook: Deborah Torres Henning for WCSD School Board Trustee (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Deborah-Torres-Henning-for-WCS-D-School-Board-Trustee/1646724318884942?fref=ts>)

2 Anne Lavalle

For 16 years, my family has lived in Fishkill, where I have worked both privately and publicly in accounting and finance. I have seven children, and the oldest four are John Jay alumni who participated in the fantastic programs the Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) offers including band, ice hockey, the Interact Club, National Honor Society and rowing with the Wappingers Crew Club.

Before residing in Dutchess County, I worked in New York City in the financial services industry for 12 years, including as a vice president for a major investment firm. As a business woman and as the mother of a large family, I understand the challenges of balancing the unique and individual needs of our children with the important, practical and financial challenges of the community.

There are significant challenges currently facing our education community, which I intend to address. Some of the most immediate concerns include: (1) Refocusing on the true mission of the WCSD: the education of our children, which is getting lost or at least diluted amid recent administrative/business decisions of the District and New York State (2) Restoring local control of our education system and opposing and reducing burdensome unfunded state and federal mandates that are being imposed on taxpayers (3) Recognizing our teachers as the professionals who bring valuable input to our district to promote autonomy, a locally developed curriculum and a thriving, vibrant learning environment (4) Restoring and maintaining access to diverse courses and activities to meet the needs of our student population, including vocational training, honors classes, arts and enrichment programs, sports and other extracurricular activities (5) Realistically managing the financial needs of the District by considering the broad and long term impact of the policies and actions of the District and Board of Ed.

I continue to work part-time in auditing for asset based lending and bookkeeping. While my finance background will facilitate my ability to make the fiscal decisions appropriate for the District and community, I know that my experiences as a parent, my integrity, and my genuine commitment to transparency and accountability are my truest credentials to serve as a WCSD Board of Education Trustee.

Read more about me, my goals as a Board trustee, and send me your questions at www.annelavalle.com. I want to hear from you, and please vote LAVALLE on Tuesday, May 19th. Thank you in advance.

3 Babu Munusamy

Babu Munusamy has been a resident of Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) since 2006. He lives in Fishkill with his wife and a son, a student at WCSD.

Babu graduated with Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from an Indian university and completed postgraduate studies in Bioengineering at University of Manchester, UK and Environmental Engineering at Penn State University. He works in IT leading global teams and has gained significant business and leadership skills over 15 years managing both private and public sector projects. His passion for education and good decision making skills led him to mentor his friends and families to achieve academic excellence. He enjoys spending time with his son playing tennis and table tennis.

Platform

Schools must provide a safe and positive learning environment to invigorate kids' minds. We must encourage parents' involvement in a child's life at early age for rewarding education and bright future. Efficient budgeting and good communication between stakeholders and board members lead to positive understanding and strong relationship. We need to maintain the student-to-teacher ratio low

for academic achievement. We must keep taxes to a minimum without compromising quality and cutting programs. We all must stand united to encourage and support well designed curriculum and tests to measure the quality of education. Fostering the latest technologies in the classroom enhances better learning, creativity of the children, productivity, and paves the way to success.

4 Ved Shrivah

Ved Shrivah has 45 years' experience as an educator and administrator and is 31 year resident of Wappingers school district. Mr. Shrivah has provided distinguished service to the Wappingers' District community for over 19 years.

- Elected 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, and in 2004, 2011, 2014
- Board President and Vice-President several times
- BOCES Board 1997-2003

Goals

- To make Board understand that it is not about us, it is about children
- Our partners are parents, taxpayers, and community.
- To be a spokesperson for parents.
- To support all employees, give them respect and appreciate their hard work.
- Modify Re-districting plan with the help of all stakeholders, without disturbing children, and a plan that is educationally sound
- Reduce school taxes, and cut spending

As Champion of Student Safety, Sports and Quality Education Mr. Shrivah, with the help of taxpayers and Board Members:

- Provided Tax relief to veterans.
- Used \$3 million bond to make all schools safe.
- Achieved 100% transportation for all district's children in 1993.
- Renewed 16 year old transportation fleet of school

district by maximizing state aid.

- Built 20 State of the Art Science Laboratories in two High Schools.
- Introduced Advanced Calculus and Statistics College Credit Courses in both High Schools.
- Achieved Accreditation of all Fifteen Schools by Middle States Association of schools and Colleges.
- Membership in Tristate Consortium.
- Alternative High School for students who did not succeed in regular school environment.
- Strongly supported all Employees.
- Strongly supported special population of students.
- Successful in making Sports as Contingency item in the School Budget.
- New Gym at RCK.

If re-elected, Mr. Shrivah wants to make District work more closely with parents for students' success.

5 Karen Mauhs Karath

As a 1976 graduate of Cobleskill Central School District's only high school, I am married 29+ years to college friend and 5th year cancer survivor Michael J. Karath. We met at Colgate University and attended from 1976 - 1981 receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees. We continue to work on our property in Wappingers, purchased July 1987 after working and renovating a worker's row house in the South End of Albany. Supportive district residents for 27+ years, we have gratefully raised a family of two daughters, four rescued cats, a handful of tree frogs and two rescued dogs. Bebe still catches his red frisbee in the back yard, however last year he got our neighbors' chicken. He was forgiven.

Daughters Sarah and Suzanne happily attended Myers Corners Elementary, Wappingers Junior High and Roy C. Ketcham Senior High between 1993 and 2008. We volunteered as a family of student and parent athletes throughout each school year with the New Hackensack Reformed Church, Wappinger United Soccer, Town of Wappinger Little League, Myers Corners reading and ...continued on page 4

Getting to Know You

The Board of Education appointed José Carrión as Superintendent of the Wappingers Central School District on November 8th. Mr. Carrión joined WCSD in November 2013 as Assistant Superintendent for Administration. He was named Interim Superintendent in July 2014.

During a recent interview, Mr. Carrión shared some of his thoughts about education and leadership.

For Superintendent José Carrión, thinking about what motivates children, supporting others, and remembering where he came from are critical.

“When considering the students, I think, what child does not want to have fun,” he said. “Whatever the lesson may be, teaching relevant to who the student is, understanding how to make learning meaningful to the child, and being aware of their background knowledge and their prior experiences helps us to engage them. When they are engaged, it becomes meaningful and relevant; it becomes fun.”

Providing targeted professional development opportunities to help educators reach their goals is the best path to achieving that success in the classroom, according to Mr. Carrión. Collaboration and teamwork are integral to his leadership style.

“It works. I know what teachers, assistant principals and principals do on a day-to-day basis. We need to empower each other, be each other’s

advocates, and do this work together,” he said. By identifying strengths and weaknesses, educators can move ahead, improving the overall experience for students.

“As an educator, there is nothing greater than seeing your students walk across the stage knowing they are going into the next stage of life, knowing you had a part in helping them be the best that they could be preparing for it.”

WCSD Supt. José Carrión

“At the end of the day, the priority is to have our children academically ready for the next day,” said Mr. Carrión. “I believe in college and career readiness, but I’m also zooming in and saying, ‘What did we do to have this child academically ready yesterday? What are we doing for them today, and tomorrow?’”

The answers to those questions drive the development of rigorous, meaningful, and relevant instruction, he said. It’s critical to differentiate instruction and engage students to enable them to learn and succeed academically.

Mr. Carrión says first and foremost he is a teacher and that will never change. He relies upon his experiences as a student, teacher, assistant principal, and assistant superintendent to help

him understand the needs and points of view of the WCSD community.

“When I go into one of the schools, I’m a part of it with that principal. If I walk into a classroom, I’m a part of it with that teacher. If I’m sitting next to a student, I’m a part of the student body,” he said.

Advice from his father continues to be a guidepost in his career and life.

“The first thing I thought when I was recently appointed as superintendent was that I

wished my father could have been there to share that moment,” said Mr. Carrión. “My father was always proud that I went into teaching. When I became a building principal, he made mention about not getting caught up with my suits and ties. He told me to understand I had to be where the people were if I was going to be respected and move others and myself forward. He told me that is what great leaders do. I live by that.”



fine arts programs, WJH fine arts, field hockey, soccer and softball programs and Ketcham field hockey, soccer and softball programs. The girls went on to receive their bachelor degrees in Tourism/Hospitality Management and Biology and Health Sciences, thanks to the physical and academic education and support they received throughout the district. They currently reside and work in Park City, UT and Lake Grove, NY while we continue to support our three universities and our hopes for warmer frisbee days straight ahead.

From a multigenerational family of volunteers, I was secretary and president to Friends of Parks, Recreation and Conservation of Dutchess from 1992-1995, age group director and treasurer for WUSC 1995-2000, created the Roy C. Ketcham Activities Association and served as booster club treasurer for girls varsity field hockey, soccer and softball. We chose to live on one and a half pay checks through most of those years in order to honor our commitments. I now work as a senior program assistant and specification writer for Dutchess County and am willing to serve as board trustee from a lifetime of dedication to public education - as a student athlete and musician, a parent, a care giver and always a faithful taxpayer. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

6 Robert Rubin

My wife and I are married for forty three years. We have two children who went from kindergarten through twelfth grade in the Wappingers Central School District receiving a quality education.

I am a retired professional healthcare purchasing agent having done so for almost forty years. I am a former candidate for the Town of Poughkeepsie Town Council and was an Election Inspection Coordinator for the Board of Elections in 2012.

Currently I am a Trustee of the Wappingers Central School District. In that capacity I am our Board's representative to the Dutchess County School Boards Association as well as being the chairman of our district's Audit Committee. I am a Trustee Elect to the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). I also serve as a Commissioner of the Town of Poughkeepsie's Historic Preservation Commission.

I currently volunteer at the Castle Point Veterans Administration Hospital. I am a patron member of a local Jewish War Veterans post and serve as its Adjutant. I am a former Assistant Chaplain of that same post.

Although I believe it is important to pay homage to those who have served our country in the past and are serving this country, now I also believe it is important to provide for the future, our children, now. When I was growing up, my parents had this proverb hanging on their kitchen wall: "Man who gives his children a sense of industry provides for them better than giving them a wealth of money." I continue to believe in that and will continue to be guided by that as your elected Trustee to the Wappingers Central School District.

NEW YORK'S TAX CAP LEVY



TAX LEVY LIMIT

Essentially, the tax levy limit tells a school district how much voter support it will need to pass a budget with its proposed tax levy. For school districts, the tax levy limit is the highest allowable tax levy (before exclusions) that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget and need the approval of only a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus 1) to pass the budget. If a district proposes a budget with a tax levy amount (before exclusions) above this limit, it will need the approval of a supermajority of voters (60 percent) to pass the budget. School districts are required to report their calculated tax levy limit to the state comptroller by March 1st.



PROPOSED TAX LEVY

The third tax levy number is arguably the most important. It's the tax levy called for by a school district's proposed budget. By definition, the tax levy is the total amount of money to be raised locally by a municipality (i.e., school district) after factoring in all other available revenues. If a school district's proposed tax levy minus exclusions is less than or equal to the district's calculated tax levy limit, the district will need the approval of a simple majority of voters to pass its budget. If the proposed tax levy minus exclusions is greater than the district's calculated tax levy limit, 60 percent voter approval is needed.



MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE TAX LEVY

The maximum allowable tax levy is the tax levy limit PLUS certain exclusions. Taxes levied to fund the following expenses are excluded from the tax levy limit:

- Voter-approved local capital expenditures
- Increases in the state-mandated employer contribution rates for teacher and employee pension systems that exceed two percentage points.
- Court orders/judgments resulting from tort actions of any amount that exceeds five percent of a district's current levy

A school district adds these exclusions to its tax levy limit without triggering the need for 60 percent voter approval

Bonnie King Proud to Take the Reins as John Jay Principal



One dictionary defines Principal as "the most important, consequential or influential; a chief." John Jay Principal Bonnie King sees things a little bit differently. For Ms. King students are the most important and influential part of a school and that is exactly why she is thrilled to be the new principal at John Jay.

"Every day I come to work and see our students achieve success. We go about 1,000 miles per hour on the average day" she said. "I enjoy the challenges, the fun, the questions, the hard work and the collaboration with our students, faculty, staff and administration. My colleagues are extremely hardworking and talented. This school community is a wonderful one and I look forward to contributing to our mission here for many years to come."

Ms. King was named principal in January after Dr. Dwight Bonk was named Assistant Superintendent of Administration. She is the first woman to serve as John Jay's principal and began her WCSD career as music teacher at Sheafe Road Elementary School in 1999. "I eventually decided to try working with junior high level students and went to Wappingers Junior High School," said Ms. King, who always enjoyed teaching music to young students.

After she completed graduate school with a Masters Degree in Arts Administration, she joined John Jay High School as a music teacher. "I knew I was home the day I set foot into classroom 181," said Ms. King. "I loved the high school level and working with young adults because they are so interesting and keep me on my toes. I learn from them every day."

After realizing her passion was to work with secondary students, she became more involved in the overall school community. "I recognized I loved working on the whole picture, at events, and with large groups so I decided to go the educational administration route and once again returned to school," said Ms. King. While pursuing her administrative certification, she was able to work as an administrative intern at John Jay. "It was during my internship that I really learned about the needs and challenges of the whole building," she said.

Eventually, she was named assistant principal, a position she credits with truly preparing her to be principal. "As assistant principal, I gained valuable skills and experiences including instructional leadership tools, scheduling, working with teachers and students from all walks of life, and working with the community," said Ms. King. "It felt like a natural step to submit myself for consideration to be principal when the opportunity arose. It is an honor to now be the instructional leader in a school I know so well and love so much."

There are several key initiatives and goals underway at the school, designed to improve teaching and learning. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a district-supported initiative. This initiative augments how the staff is teaching by recognizing the positive behaviors and contributions of all of our students in a consistent manner. Often PBIS increases attendance, contributes to a more positive and calm environment, and reduces behavioral disruptions. "We also have a variety of initiatives occurring in our building due to our District's Strategic Plan," said Ms. King. "We as a faculty are looking at our practices to maximize our instruction in order to further improve our delivery content and to guarantee rigor for all of our students."

The goal is to provide the best education possible for John Jay students, preparing them for college, career, and beyond, she added. "This is a wonderful school to learn in and to grow up in," said Ms. King.

Math In Focus - Math in Action -

On January 12th and 13th, teachers and administrators attended the Math-In-Focus Newark Conference.

The conference provided the following opportunities:

- Learn from experts and experienced instructors
- Connect with colleagues from across the region
- Discuss and share best practices and teaching strategies
- Deepen our knowledge and skills to raise the bar for our teaching practice and student performance
- Examine and discuss Singapore math pedagogy and Common Core State Standards at specific grade levels



Math in Focus in our classrooms supports the goals of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics. MIF is research-based and focuses on classroom learning, discussion, and practice, balancing conceptual understanding, visual learning, and problem solving.

During February and March, MIF trainers visited two schools to provide professional development training. Teachers from seven schools, Sheafe, Evans, Fishkill Plains, Myers, Kinry, Brinckerhoff, and Van Wyck attended and observed an expert teach a lesson to WCSD students.

After presenting content, a lesson was modeled in the classroom with the students. Teachers were able to see questioning strategies, pacing, and implementation of the lesson structure delivered by an expert. A debriefing session followed to answer questions and to ensure teachers were prepared to practice independently. Each lesson was aligned to the precise point of the year students are at. The Math in Focus Trainer also worked with Melissa Salvatori and Donna Kart. The focus of their training was on an overview of Math in Focus, coaching strategies, and instructional strategies.

WCSD's Master Teachers



This year, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo welcomed from ten sites across the state, 237 additional educators to the Master Teacher Program. Among those are WCSD Master Teachers: Ms. Katrina Duffy, Ms. MaryJane McFarland, Ms. Margaret Loh, and Mr. Michael Crocco. These outstanding teachers have been recognized for their dedication to providing the most innovative approach to teaching and learning that integrates the content and skills of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to their students.

As program participants, Master Teachers make a commitment to engage in professional development work in addition to their regular school responsibilities. Master Teachers meet regularly (evenings and weekends) to participate in activities that lead to individual and collective professional growth.

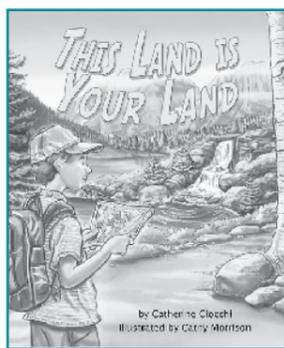
Teachers participate in professional development programming opportunities addressing student research and emerging STEM subjects such as climate change and hydro-fracturing. Master Teachers have formed Professional Learning Teams around topics such as student research projects, expeditionary learning, the flipped classroom, and the Common Core. Master Teachers participate in leadership workshops to better contribute to departmental discussions and mentor early career and pre-service teachers. Master Teachers also participate in the Empire State STEM Learning Network through regional STEM hubs, partnering with local businesses and agencies to better prepare students for STEM careers. We commend them for their commitment to professional growth and their enthusiasm for sharing their successful practices with colleagues in their schools and districts.

"The Master Teacher Program allows for our best classroom leaders to share their expertise with their peers, furthering student success and helping to build the foundation for college readiness and the skilled workforce that will keep New York competitive in the 21st century global economy."

CHANCELLOR ZIMPHER

We Have An Author In The District!

Catherine Ciochi, earth science teacher at John Jay High School, wrote a book entitled, *This Land Is Your Land*. In the book, readers take a trip around the world to discover a wide variety of Earth's landforms and geological features. On the journey, readers encounter plains, plateaus, and rolling hills. Find out how a stream can make a canyon or lava creates an archipelago. Read aloud and discover new terrain with the flip of each page. The book will be available in stores on May 1st. Congratulations to Ms. Ciochi for her great accomplishment.



NAMM Knows Our Name

Founded in 2006, The NAMM Foundation is a supporting organization of the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM), funded through trade association activities and donations. The NAMM Foundation represents the generosity and philanthropy of the music products industry by celebrating and promoting the intrinsic value of music education by advancing active participation in music-making.

The NAMM Foundation recognizes 388 school districts in 46 states as among the Best Communities for Music Education. In its 16th year, the program singles out districts for outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders to make music education accessible to all students.

(excerpts from <http://www.nammfoundation.org>)



Congratulations to the music staff, students and parents in the Wappingers Central School District for being named a **Best Community for Music Education, 2015!**

In addition to the 388 districts receiving Best Communities for Music Education, 120 individual schools across the nation are being awarded the SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA), which recognizes support for school-based music education programs.



Congratulations to Principal Mary Bish, and the staff, students and parents of the Kinry Road Elementary School for being awarded the **SupportMusic Merit Award**. This distinction is awarded to individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

Disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

The committee has focused on three areas to work on during the school year:

- Growing the STEM awareness of students in the elementary grades
- Creating STEM rich projects/curriculum in grades 7-12
- To introduce and make district educators and administrators aware of the technology that is available to teachers and students in pursuit of STEM education and provide training on this technology

The first STEM event was hosted on Saturday, April 11th from 9 am to 12 pm at Roy C. Ketcham High School. At this event, elementary school students rotated among 12 different STEM related activities facilitated by WCSD teachers and students. There is great excitement in offering this unique opportunity to our students and growing the STEM initiative from within.

For more information, read complete article on page 9...

21st Century Business Education



As the department looks to the future and future course offerings, we will be committing to an in-school entrepreneurship program and global business simulation, Virtual Enterprise International (VEI).

This program transforms students into business professionals with an entrepreneurial mindset by bringing the workplace into the classroom.

ELA + Technology = Plickers



ELA teachers have received training in Quality Assessments and how to use technology when creating formative assessments. Mrs. Cameron is using plickers and her students love it! This formative assessment tool only requires the teacher to have a smartphone and with student's code cards, the teacher can see who "got it" or who didn't respond. It is instant feedback. Plickers is an app used for real-time quick checks in understanding; to know whether the students are grasping concepts and acquiring key skills without the need for student devices.



VOTE

**Tuesday, May 19, 2015
7:30 a.m. – 9:00p.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

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
José Carrión

Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Dwight Bonk

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Janet Warden

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

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John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham Top Seniors, Class of 2015

JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL



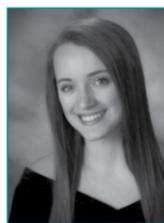
Tim Sudijono - VALEDICTORIAN

Tim Sudijono is a young man who has excelled in his classes and in his extra-curricular activities. He has always challenged himself by taking difficult AP classes in school and self-studying AP tests out of school. As a result of his motivation, he was honored as a National AP Scholar and a National Merit Scholar Winner.

As the captain of the school's math team and co-president of the math honors society, Tim led John Jay's math team to a first place finish at sectionals in the 2014-2015 school year and a victory at the states competition. His motivation and interest led many teammates in practices and trainings to perform very well throughout the year while he himself finished first in the Dutchess Ulster Sullivan Orange math league.

Outside of school, Tim is quite passionate about mathematics; he studies advanced math topics on his own time and has found some success in competitions such as the American Mathematics Competitions, the American Chemical Society Exam, and the M3 Challenge. He attends the Columbia Science Honors Program on the weekends. In addition, he dabbles in some piano, martial arts, ping-pong, cooking and Science Olympiad.

He intends to study something math-related in the future, while at the same time maintaining his interest in meta-physical particle theory and Asian studies. Tim will attend Brown University in the fall. He is extremely grateful for the support of his family, friends, and teachers throughout the past four years.



Kristen Cirincione - SALUTATORIAN

Kristen Cirincione, the salutatorian at John Jay High School for the Class of 2015, is both a scholar and an athlete. She has worked extremely hard both in and out of the classroom and also in the gym.

Kristen is always motivated to do her very best and she is also willing to help those around her. She often assumes a leadership role when working in groups and she has earned the respect of fellow students and teachers. She has been a captain of the Wappingers Varsity gymnastics team and she has not only qualified for sectionals, but was also named to the Section One New York State gymnastics team. In her spare time, Kristen enjoys dancing, reading, hiking, going to comedy shows, and denying that she watched The Bachelor this season.

In the fall, Kristen will attend Lafayette College on a Marquis Scholarship. She plans to study engineering, but also explore film and media. She is looking forward to becoming a member of the Lafayette Dance Company, the Lafayette Dance Team and the Outdoors Club.

ROY C. KETCHAM HIGH SCHOOL



Brian Liang - VALEDICTORIAN

Thoroughly dedicated to excellence, Brian Liang is a humble and hard-working individual who devotes himself tirelessly to his endeavors. He embraces the wise words of Robin Sharma, "Hard work opens doors and shows the world that you are serious about being one of those rare - and special - human beings who use the fullness of their talents to do their very best."

Brian is highly respected by both his classmates and his teachers for his commitment to learning and his attention for detail. He holds himself to the highest standards and isn't afraid to overcome challenges. In addition, Brian's kind-hearted personality and easygoing nature has earned the admiration of many individuals. Deeply appreciative of all the support and friendship he has received from his fellow classmates, Brian is always willing to give a friendly wave or lend a helping hand.

Some of Brian's achievements include being a National Merit Commended Student and an AP Scholar with Distinction. He also dedicates his time to several clubs and is President of Ketcham's Science Olympiad and Math Team. He is particularly proud of leading RCK Science Olympiad to States for the first time in four years and finally accomplishing his high school dream of medaling at the State level. An avid tennis fan and player, Brian is also co-captain and 1st Singles for the Varsity tennis team. He has also played the keyboard in the Pit Orchestra since his freshman year and is grateful to have been a part of all four of the spectacular Masque and Mime musicals. Outside of school, he volunteers his time to the Mid-Hudson Chinese School, teaching SAT and Biology.

Brian plans to major in Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University and hopes to make a difference in the world by bringing clean water to those in need. He would like to thank his friends and classmates for making high school the most rewarding four years of his life and his parents and teachers for instilling the values and ideas that will guide him for the bright future to come.



Ashok Vallamattam - SALUTATORIAN

Ashok Vallamattam is honored to be the Class of 2015 Roy C. Ketcham salutatorian, and is proud of how his hard work and determination has paid off. This year, he was recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and Scholarship Recipient, and as an AP Scholar with Distinction.

Over the course of his high school career, Ashok has brought home eight Science Olympiad regional medals and qualified for the state competition this year. He is also a proud member of the Ketcham math team. For the past three years, Ashok has been a part of Ketcham's select wind ensemble as well as the jazz ensemble, and has provided music for the Masque and Mime musicals as part of the pit orchestra. He has been selected to play in numerous honor bands including the Area All State Concert Band, Area All State Wind Ensemble, and All County Jazz Ensemble.

As captain of the Wappingers varsity swim team this year, Ashok led the team to their first Divisional Championship in several years. He has qualified for the Sectional Championship every year since he was a freshman, and has been distinguished as an All League Athlete and Poughkeepsie Journal All Star Honorable Mention the past two years. He also helped lead his relay team to a new school record, breaking the previous record set eighteen years ago.

Ashok has demonstrated his commitment to the community as a member of NHS, has volunteered his time as a swim instructor, and has been a lector at his church since the seventh grade. He also tutors students afterschool as part of the Learning Center. In the fall, he plans to attend Georgia Tech to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. Ashok is amazed at what he has accomplished during high school, and would like to thank his teachers, family, friends, coaches, and everyone who has helped support and nurture him into the person he is today.



Diplomacy, International Relations, and the Model United Nations

John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham students participated in the Model UN held at Vassar College. Dan Pampalone, Michael Panzer and Susan Pedley took a total of 45-50 students to have a Mock UN meeting on the Rise of Islam Fundamentalists vs. Fundamentalism in Europe. The students did well and really loved the opportunity to be a part of this event. They are looking forward to next year!



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Regional Tournament

"For the past 31 years, SCIENCE OLYMPIAD has led a revolution in science education. What began as a grassroots 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."

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

The Science Olympiad teams at both John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham had a wonderful showing at the NYS competition with John Jay placing 15th out of 52 teams and RCK placing 40th. The WCSD Science Fair was a success with a number of our students moving on to compete at the Regional Science Fair at DCC. At the Regional Science Fair, our students collected three 1st place medals and three 3rd place medals in the six divisions, as well as numerous honorable mentions. Congratulations to all who participated and the teachers that inspire our students on a daily basis.

Vassar Dr. Preps John Jay Students



AP & Honors Biology students attended an in-school field trip with Dr. Peter Zkow, cardio-thoracic surgeon from Vassar Brothers Hospital. He discussed the rigors of pursuing a career in the medical profession with the students and offered advice and guidance. He also talked about what his job entailed and showed actual videos of procedures and surgeries that he has performed. He also extended an invitation to our AP students to shadow him and watch him perform surgery. His presentation was most informative, an enlightening exciting experience for all who attended.

Orchard View Stops in to Visit



Orchard View science students visit Evans Elementary first graders to teach a science lesson. First grade teacher Mrs. Barbara McDermott invited Mr. Perino and his students to visit the class to foster collaboration between WCSD school buildings and differing grade levels. The hour and a half Orchard View students spent teaching about states of matter by making Oobleck-goo in the process, proved to be of benefit to all involved. The high school students discovered their hidden reserves of teaching, management and nurturing talents, and the first graders got an exciting glimpse of the skills and talents to be found beyond the walls of their classroom.

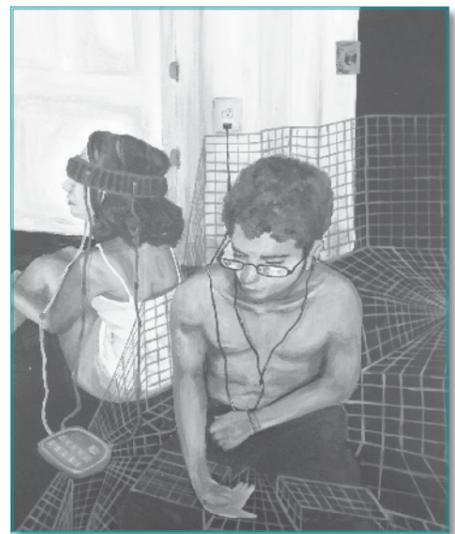
John Jay Senior Exhibits Gold!

We are giddy in announcing that four John Jay students have placed at the National level of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards this year! More than 300,000 pieces of art were submitted from around the world, and earning a National Medal places our students in the top 1% (of the world!)

John Jay's Photomedia students have consistently placed at the National level every year now since 2012, and this year is no different. Below are this year's National Medal winners in Photography:

- Cullen Robbins **GOLD MEDAL**
- Brandon Fiege **SILVER MEDAL**
- Marissa Citarell **SILVER MEDAL**

For only the second time in seven years, one of our Drawing & Painting students has also won a National Medal. Our first National Medal was a Silver Medal awarded in 2012.



This year, our very first GOLD goes to Maria Scudato



Roy C. Ketcham Business Law Students Have Their Day In Court

Fifty of the Ketcham HS Business Law students attended an annual field trip to the Poughkeepsie Courthouse on Thursday April 9, 2015 to view the calendar of Supreme Court Judge Greller. Wayne Witherwax, his assistant, arranges the trip for the student-visitors each year.

Students had the opportunity to speak with Court Officers, Ms. Beach a Parole Officer, Lisa Rivera the Court Stenographer, Judge Greller, Mr. Hazel a Defense Attorney and Aviv Segal the Senior Assistant DA, a former Ketcham graduate. All spoke with the students after they observed Judge Greller's calendar for the day.



Ketcham Café



There are two Intensive Instruction classes at John Jay and an Intensive Instruction level 3 class at Roy C. Ketcham HS. The program is an academic program with an emphasis on life skills and work readiness. One of the main components of building life skills in the class is the Ketcham Café. The Ketcham Café is run by the students for the faculty and staff members of Ketcham HS. Weekly, as a class they are taken out to shop on Mondays, prepare and cook for the café on Tuesdays, which is then held on Wednesdays.

Students learn valuable life and work skills through this program. They work on everything from taking inventory, cleaning, washing dishes, using a cash register, making change, food prep, cooking, baking, shopping, price comparison, hosting, serving, delivery services, social skills, following a recipe. The goal is that students will take skills learned in the classroom/café setting and apply them at home or in jobs that they will have when they begin in the school to work program that most of the Intensive Instruction students are a part of.

VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
7:30 a.m. – 9:00p.m.

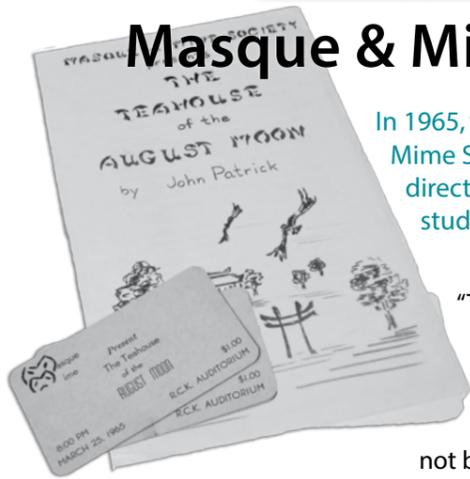
- Fishkill Elementary
- Fishkill Plains Elementary
- Myers Corners Elementary
- Vassar Road Elementary
- Sheafe Road Elementary
- NOW at Wappingers JHS**
- Gayhead Elementary

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

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Masque & Mime Society Celebrates 50 Years of Theater

In 1965, "The Sound of Music" premiered and "My Fair Lady" won the Oscar for best picture. Locally, the Masque and Mime Society made its debut at Roy C. Ketcham High School with its first play "The Teahouse of the August Moon," directed by founder, Dee Bove. The drama club's 50-year run continues today, offering artistic opportunities to students while showcasing their varied talents.



"Theater transforms students' lives," said advisor Rosemary Evaul. "Many who are shy and quiet develop a voice, or they find the right niche for themselves. It may not be acting, but publicity, makeup, or some other crew – they find something using their strengths."

Students first asked Mrs. Evaul to help Masque and Mime in 1981. More than 30 years later, she continues as an advisor even though she retired as an English and theater teacher in 1997.

Over the years, she has collected thousands of costumes which she stores in a barn at her home, has seen students pursue their dreams in professional theater, and even has children of former students acting in current productions.

Senior Julianne Fenton has literally followed in her mother's footsteps. Her mother, Joanne (Cuccia) Fenton, was on Ketcham's stage during 1984-86.

"It's a really well-established program that has touched so many lives," said Mrs. Fenton. "When I was there I loved music and theater and it was a great, safe place to grow up and have fun. It's come a long way over the years, particularly with technology and equipment. We didn't even have microphones, but I did feel I was well prepared for college."

Mrs. Fenton, who owns her own voice studio and theater school, has been working with productions for about five years. She studied opera at SUNY Purchase and after graduating, performed in New York City before returning to the area to raise her family. Now, even her fifth grader, Jonathan has caught the theater bug and played Pugsley in The Addams Family.

According to the New York State Theatre Education Association, theater education helps students of all ages to develop abilities needed for the 21st century including: creativity & innovation; critical thinking & problem solving; communication & collaboration; flexibility & adaptability; initiative & self-direction; and productivity & responsibility.

While most students have increased their confidence and skills by joining the drama club, there have been many cases where careers were born.



"We have a lot of kids who went on and are now techies doing lights, sound, and costumes in professional theater," said Mrs. Evaul. One young woman, Susan Checklick worked on costumes for the Broadway play "The River" starring Hugh Jackman, which recently ended its limited run. Andrew Elman has worked tech on such lavish productions as

"Beauty and the Beast," "The Who's Tommy," "The Amazing Spiderman," and most recently, "On the Town."

Another past member, David Bryan "D. B." Woodside, frequently can be seen on television. His roles include Jeff Malone in recent episodes of "Suits" and Malcolm Franks in the current series "Single Ladies."

While the Ketcham musical "Brigadoon" was his inspiration to do theater, today he is likely best known for his work on "24" where he played both the White House chief of staff and the president.

Whether you remember "Legally Blond," "Hairspray," "Clue!," "The Laramie Project," or "Annie," chances are you remember the thrill of the curtain call, the culmination and celebration of months of work.



"The best part is the collaboration behind the scenes," said Mrs. Evaul. "You see rehearsals, then you add costumes, make-up, hair, props, then lights, sound and then scenery. I don't think there's anything like the feeling of 'I had a part in making that production happen.' Everyone likes the way that feels."

There are many proud moments in the Masque and Mime history including winning awards like the Dutchess County Executive Arts Award in 2012, selling out a show for the first time with "Annie," and being one of the first schools in the area to perform "Les Miserables" to not one, but five sold out shows.

"We really need to give a very big thank you to the administration and to the Wappingers community," said Mrs. Evaul. "If we didn't have the support of parents that gave us their wonderful kids and trusted us with them, it wouldn't happen. Without the full collaboration, success wouldn't have been possible."



It's that family support and theater spirit that will be celebrated this summer when Masque and Mime holds a gala to celebrate its golden anniversary on July 18th at the Ramada Inn in Fishkill. There are sure to be standing ovations as "memory lane" performances will be featured as the drama club looks toward its next 50 years.

"There are days when I feel my years, but when I get to school and feel they need me – it feels good to be needed – I love it," said Mrs. Evaul. "I know I won't be with them for the next 50 years, but I'm not willing to give it up just yet." Brava, Mrs. Evaul, brava.

IF YOU GO:

The Masque & Mime 50th Anniversary Gala will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, July 18th at the Ramada Inn in Fishkill. A full buffet, soft drinks, coffee and dessert are included. The cost is \$50 for tickets purchased before July 3rd or \$60 at the door. "Memory Lane" performances are sure to bring the house down.



Tickets are available by invitation. For more information contact: Mrs. Evaul at 845-505-5390 or Michelle Martinetti at 914-489-6069 or via e-mail at mmartinetti23@gmail.com to get on the mailing list.

RCK Youth Honoree at 24th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast



The Catharine Street Community Center named Joshua Jordan, a senior at Roy C. Ketcham High School, as a youth honoree at its 24th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast in January. The event, held at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center, recognizes those in

the community who work toward Dr. King's goals and ideals. "No matter how impressive the achievement, it does not matter until it is shared with someone else," Jordan said during his speech. "It is necessary that we share our experiences, impart our knowledge and allow others the same opportunities that we have. Martin Luther King championed these ideas and made it his mission to influence others to live with integrity."

He was selected as an honoree in recognition of his academic achievements and his community involvement. He received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Roosevelt Institute, the non-profit partner of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park.

"I am incredibly honored to receive this year's youth honoree scholarship. I would like to thank the Catharine Street Community Center for this award as well as for their unwavering support of youth in our community," said Jordan. "I would also like to thank my educators for their guidance and selflessness, without which I would not have been able to achieve my goals. And, finally, I would like to thank my family for their sacrifice, faith, and for the never-ending love that they have given me."

National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Announcing the following students have been named as commended, semi-finalist, and finalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSC).

These academically talented high school seniors represent a sample of the highest scoring entrants in New York State for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered this spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, students must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. All winners of Merit Scholarship® awards (Merit Scholar® designees) are chosen from the finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments. The above students have been selected among 16,000 others in the 60th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Finalist: | Semi-Finalist: Ashok Vallamattam |
| Nikolas Angyal | Commended: Brian Liang |
| Jiten Bhatt | |
| Peter Groen | |
| Dhiraj Gupta | |
| Caroline Seckler | |
| Timothy Sudijono | |

WCSD Future Business Leaders of America



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a business oriented organization with a goal of preparing members for careers in business related fields. FBLA participates in school and community events, fund raising activities, and FBLA sponsored events.

Nine students from John Jay High School traveled to Rochester, NY on April 14th to participate in the New York State FBLA State Leadership Conference over 600 students from all over New York gathered to participate in competitive events and attend leadership development seminars. The team of Maddie Orlando and Jack Bott competed in the Business Ethics performance event. Out of approximately 15 teams who competed at States, they finished in 3rd place which entitles them to advance to the National Leadership Conference in Chicago at the end of June!

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and Making Connections

The STEM Advisory Council (STEM AC) is comprised of over 25 high school and junior high school teachers who meet monthly and help shape the district's focus on STEM education. They meet as joint departments, i.e. math and science to discuss connections and "how to's". Currently, they're writing specific STEM courses to include in the course offerings, i.e. Biology and the Chi-Square distribution which connects math and science topics for students to be immersed in. By increasing the teaching staff, the district is able to increase the number of offerings in the technology and engineering department. This attention, correlated to a focus on defining STEM for our elementary school students will continue to grow the initiative. Also included are other disciplines such as Business Education and Art in this initiative because of their focus on the design process and real-world connections. Reflecting the council's zeal for this initiative, the District Science Fair will be renamed the STEM/Science Fair.

On Saturday, April 11th, the WCSD STEM program organized an interactive fair for students in grades 3-6. The day was dedicated to promoting interest in the four areas of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and making connections between these disciplines and the outside world. Goals of this program incorporate the ideas of connecting classroom studies to the real world, and advocating for future careers in the included fields. Various grade level teachers and high school students volunteered to teach and supervise the students who participated in the event. Teachers and upper level students ran twelve different stations. Feedback was positive and students left with enthusiastic attitudes and comments.

Speaking with the younger students was a challenge due to their overwhelming eagerness to participate in the activities. During snack-time, however, the children expressed their excitement for the program and further exploration of the STEM subjects. During the activities they were engaged and communicated well with one another. Always doing something new, they experienced many high-level topics at an age-appropriate level where they could understand applied concepts and foster new interests. The students seemed fascinated with all of the stations and had a very exciting day.

Not only did the children have a lot to say about STEM, but their parents did as well. They liked how their children had the opportunity to experience a better understanding of important topics outside of the

classroom, not to mention the positive interaction between high school and elementary school levels. Many thought the activities involved were a great way to keep the children's attention on the lesson being taught. They liked the productivity of promoting STEM through activities at an understandable level, and taking the fear out of these school subjects. They saw it as an opportunity for the students to make connections to the real world, and not think of the STEM fields as useless or scary.

The STEM program presents these subjects to students as meaningful tasks, sometimes challenging, thereby teaching problem solving skills, perseverance, and encouraging the students to take risks in their learning experience. It also showed students that these subjects are everywhere around them, helping them to connect the tasks to real life on multiple levels. She especially appreciated that programs such as STEM show children that what they learn in school has more applications than just what is on their next test. Another

comment made was that this program is great for getting more students interested in careers in the STEM fields.

Superintendent José Carrion agreed with many points made by his colleagues. He added that it was especially fantastic to be getting girls more involved in STEM early on. It was very beneficial, he stated, that the students were being introduced to these subjects outside of the classroom in a hands-on and engaging way, since that is the way they will

often see the subject matter outside of the classroom. He also believed the fair was empowering students to make connections to the real world, even at younger ages. When the District Coordinator for Math and Science, Todd Mensch, was interviewed, he said that he observed well-equipped teachers, students asking advanced questions and enjoying themselves, and students interacting with one another very nicely. Overall, the fair was viewed by all involved as a great experience for the students and very successful in achieving its goal.



All the parents had positive statements and were delighted their children had the opportunity to engage in such a wonderful program.

This event was attended by multiple administrators, some who brought their own children to participate in STEM for the day. Janet Warden, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, brought her daughter to the fair to spark her interest in the STEM subjects. Mrs. Warden stated that it was great to be advocating STEM at younger grade levels to remove the fear associated with subjects like math and science.

What a Turnout! Career Day at WJHS

The Third Annual Wappingers Career Fair, organized by Paul Nostrand, counselor in charge, was held at Wappingers Junior High School with the instrumental help of parents Diane DeDominicus, Kim Galletta, and Mary Nurzia. The radio station K104 did a fantastic job in broadcasting live from the event.

Irwin Goldberg, Digital Editor from the Poughkeepsie Journal, gave a half hour presentation to students in the auditorium on careers in journalism and making the shift from traditional print reporter to digital editor.



Thanks! to all of our Exhibitors:

- Arthur DeDominicus CPA-accountant
- Harrison Physical Therapy-physical therapist
- K104 Radio Station-radio/marketing
- Mid-Hudson Dietetic Association-nutritionist
- Hudson Dermatology-dermatologist, esthetician
- Mount Kisco Medical Group-pediatrician
- New York State Police-trooper, dog handler
- Wappingers Central School District-human resources
- Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson-leadership
- Hampton Inn-hospitality Industry
- Ridley-Lowell Business Institute-business
- Transcare Ambulance-paramedic
- Macy's-buyer
- Dr. B Smiles-orthodontist
- Dutchess Community College-college and careers
- Hopewell Animal Hospital-veterinarian
- IBM ThinkLab-technology careers
- Southern Dutchess News-news reporter
- Nurzia Construction Corp.-developer
- Central Hudson-engineer
- All Sport Fishkill-sports trainer
- Walgreen's Co.-manager, pharmacist
- Southern Dutchess Behavioral Group-social worker
- First Niagara-finance
- On-A-Stick Bakery-cake bakery
- DRA Imaging-digital Imaging
- DC Regional Chamber of Commerce-not for profit
- Paul Pilon-architect
- Acura of Wappingers Falls-auto dealership
- MLC Masonry-masonry
- Quest, Inc.-environmental engineer
- Ambit-energy sales
- Town of Wappingers-government career
- U.S. Air Force-armed forces employment
- Marines-armed forces employment
- U.S. Navy-armed forces employment
- U.S. Army-armed forces employment
- Praxair-industrial gas distribution
- Mass Mutual Financial Group-financial services
- Flair Designs-web and graphic design
- Hannaford Supermarket-supermarket management
- Exit Realty Connections-real estate agent
- In the Cut Barber Shop-barber

"Bashert" and a Reunion at WJHS



"Bashert" is a Yiddish word that means "meant to be," destiny, or fate. It is a very appropriate word that describes the events leading to an emotional meeting between a Holocaust survivor and one of his liberators. Two years ago, Terrence Thompson, principal of Wappingers Junior High, and Jeff Place, a 7th grade social studies teacher, were discussing how to help students understand how wrong and hurtful it is to display the Nazi swastika.

Part of the school's Leadership Academy, a program that seeks to stop bullying and promote tolerance, deals with hate symbols. Therefore Mr. Place arranged for a Holocaust survivor to speak with the student body. Dr. Moshe Avital is a renowned educator, author,

and distinguished speaker about the events of the Holocaust. He had been imprisoned in six Nazi concentration camps including Auschwitz before being liberated from Buchenwald on April 11, 1945.

Several weeks following, Staff Sgt Barry Lewis came to Wappingers to speak with Cara Budd's 8th grade social studies classes about his experiences during World War II. Mr. Lewis was part of the D-Day invasion of Europe and a member of General Patton's Third Army. Ms. Budd and Mr. Place were stunned when they heard that he took part in the liberation of Buchenwald. Shortly thereafter, they approached the men about appearing together. Both eagerly grasped the opportunity to meet each other, which led to WJHS's first incredibly powerful and moving assembly two years ago.

On March 11, 2015, Dr. Moshe Avital visited Wappingers Junior High School again to share his experiences as a Holocaust survivor. World War II Veteran and liberator of Dr. Avital, Barry Lewis, was also present again to share the experience of being a veteran of Patton's Third Army who helped liberate Buchenwald. Thank you to both teachers, Dr. Avital and Barry Lewis for sharing this part of history with our students. This experience will not be forgotten by any staff, students, and parents that attended.

Van Wyck JHS Best Teacher in the World



Congratulations to Mrs. Annemarie Briskey, 6th grade teacher at Van Wyck Junior High School, on winning the Barnes and Noble "My Favorite Teacher" contest. A student of Mrs. Briskey's, Anthony Moray, secretly entered her in the Barnes and Noble contest by writing a wonderful, heartfelt, and moving letter cataloging how instrumental she has been in going above and beyond the regular duties of a teacher, helping him through his first year of junior high school.

In his essay Anthony wrote, "I have never met a teacher that has given up so much of herself and her time for a student, and a teacher who has shown so much devotion to helping a student as Mrs. Briskey. I am so thankful that I have her as my teacher and in my life. She is a true role model and the best teacher in the world." Mrs. Briskey has won the Barnes and Noble regional competition, and is now one of five finalists for their national "Teacher of the Year" award.



Wappingers JHS at Your Service!

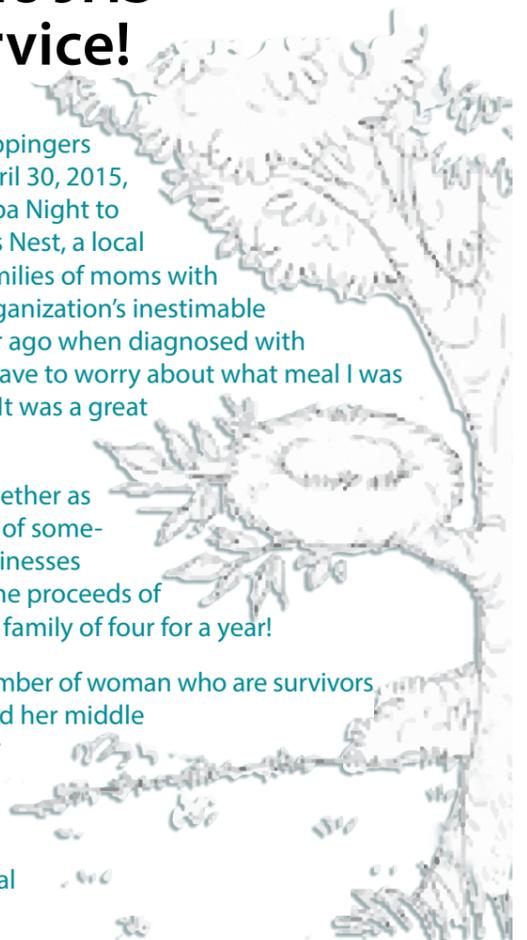
Melissa Zehr, a physical education teacher at Wappingers Junior High School, on April 30, 2015, introduced an Annual Zumba Night to help raise money for Sparrow's Nest, a local organization that helps feed the families of moms with

cancer in the Hudson Valley. Mrs. Zehr attests to this organization's inestimable help first hand as a result of her own journey over a year ago when diagnosed with breast cancer. She recalls, "Once a week I knew I didn't have to worry about what meal I was going to make for my family, or even shop for the food. It was a great relief while going through my treatments."

She feels the community's participation in her event whether as a donor, helper or someone who just wanted to be part of something great, is significant in connecting our schools, businesses and communities in making a difference together. All the proceeds of her fund raising efforts, with everyone's help, will feed a family of four for a year!

In order to create awareness among our youth, of the number of woman who are survivors of breast cancer (over 2.6 MILLION), Mrs. Zehr challenged her middle school student-body to a "PINK OUT" period each Friday during the month of October! With the help of her esteemed colleagues, other activities throughout the month of October were organized to help the cause which included a lemonade stand and "hat day". The total money raised was \$2,375.52!

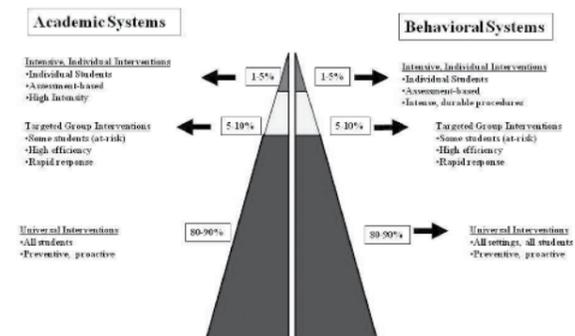
Mrs. Zehr stated, "Organizing these events and involving our young students helps create awareness and hopefully models for them active, productive leadership in our communities and beyond. In addition, showing compassion, kindness, generosity and a willingness to work cooperatively with others will help in future life skills."





In August of the 2014-2015 school year, Wappingers Central School District began an initiative to implement PBIS in all of our schools. PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. The purpose of PBIS is to make schools a more effective learning environment for all students. PBIS is an evidence-based framework which emphasizes the prevention of school discipline problems. PBIS provides ideas to support teaching, modeling and recognizing, appropriate behavior in schools. It also identifies systems for logically responding to classroom and individual student problems. By reducing behavioral problems, PBIS creates and maintains safe learning environments where teachers can teach and students can learn.

Designing School-Wide Systems for Student Success

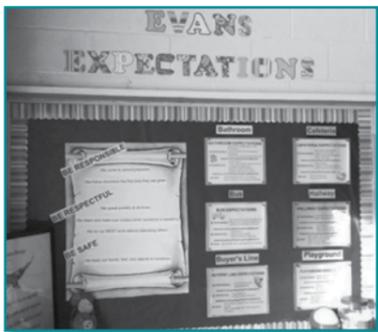


PBIS maximizes the academic engagement and achievement for all students by:

- Reducing disciplinary referrals, suspensions and expulsions while increasing academic performance.
- Increasing the consistent use of positive teaching and reinforcement strategies for behavior.

- Using more engaging, responsive, preventive and productive approaches to problematic behavior.
- Improving supports for students whose behaviors require more specialized assistance including emotional, behavioral and mental health.

Two of our schools, James Evans Elementary and Sheafe Road Elementary, had already successfully piloted PBIS and benefitted from decreased negative behaviors in their schools. The increase in student learning and productivity as a result, decreased negative behaviors at both James Evans and Sheafe Road schools. They were catalysts for PBIS implementation in all our schools. After eight months of implementation, all of our elementary schools and secondary schools have a trained team that has worked PBIS implementation in their schools and each school has already begun to reap the benefits.



The following are examples of the work that has been done: **John Jay High School** has worked on developing their school wide rules and expectations as well as specific lesson plans to teach these expectations. **Roy C. Ketcham High School** has worked on their recognition system for the acknowledgement of positive student behavior as well as the development of classroom and hallways rules and expectations. **Orchard View Alternative High School** has worked on developing school wide expectations as well as their school wide recognition system. **Van Wyck Junior High School** has worked on their efforts to improve positive behavior in their lunch room through PBIS as well as developing a school wide positive behavior recognition system. **Wappingers Junior High School** has worked on training their staff, creating lesson plans to teach positive behaviors, videos that model positive behavior as well as finalizing their school's expectations and a school-wide recognition system.

Van Wyck JHS Student



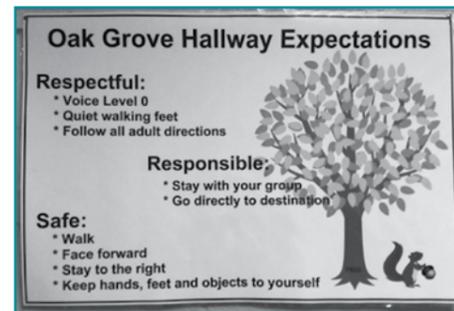
"Why I Appreciate America's Veterans"

Carly Schneider, a Van Wyck 8th grader, has placed 2nd overall in the state of Vermont in the VFW "Patriot's Pen" National essay contest. Carly won 1st place for VFW Post 6689 and also won 1st place in District 2 in the state of Vermont. The theme for this year's essay was "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans". Read excerpt from Carly's essay below.

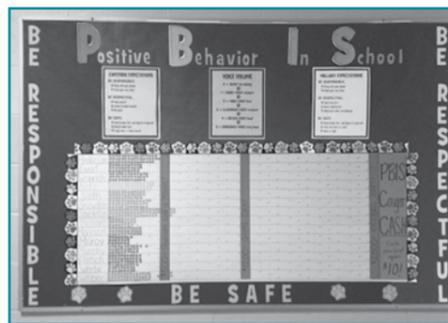
Why I Appreciate America's Veterans
by Carly Schneider

Men and women from all walks of life come together to keep us free. They have willingly volunteered to serve in various branches of the military for many different reasons. The price of freedom is one we constantly pay, each and every one of us. But out of all of us, there is an extraordinary group of military men and women who give everything. They give for those they love, and for those they do not know. We call these men and women our veterans. They come back home from their tour of duty to tell us their stories. We listen with open hearts, and give thanks for all they have done.

Vassar Road Elementary has created and monitored positive student behavior on buses as well as teaching expectations to all students. **Gayhead Elementary** has ensured that all school-wide expectations are highly visible and taught to all students. **Oak Grove Elementary** has focused on the development of their school-wide recognition system for positive behavior. **James Evans Elementary** has worked on aligning classroom expectations to school expectations. **Kinry Road Elementary** has made their expectations highly visible for students as well as ensured that all expectations are taught and good behavior is recognized. **Sheafe Road Elementary** has worked on their positive behavior recognition system for all students and staff members.



Fishkill Elementary has worked on creating positive behavioral expectations in their hallways and bathrooms as well as a positive recognition system for all their students. **Myers Corners Elementary** focused on teaching all students positive behaviors in the cafeteria, and hallways as well as the development of their positive behavior recognition system. **Fishkill Plains Elementary** has developed a positive behavior recognition system for their students as well as defining expectations for behavior in the cafeteria. They have also developed accompanying videos that are featured on their website.



Brinckerhoff Elementary has focused on teaching the school's core values: Respect, Ownership, Courage, and Safety, and implementing their core values in common areas of the school beginning with the cafeteria and hallways.

The accomplishments listed above are only a fraction of the work our schools have done to ensure that all our students are safe, respected, show respect, and are responsible for their actions. Some of the positive results that have been generated from this work have been a reduction of negative behaviors on buses, in the classroom, and in common areas of the school such as the cafeteria and hallways. Students are clear on what the schools' expectations are and how they can meet those expectations. Good behavior is acknowledged and celebrated and negative behaviors have decreased.



VOTE

**Tuesday, May 19, 2015
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

Fishkill ES Frogs Jump! Jump! Jump!



Fishkill Elementary School has been participating in Jump Rope for Heart (JRFH) for the past five years.

Respectfully raising: **2010-2011: \$5,139**
2011-2012: \$6,681
2012-2013: \$5,557
2013-2014: \$13,499
 and this year **2014-2015: \$18,170**

The American Heart Association (AHA) works hard to help teachers incorporate the National Physical Education Standards while students participate in JRFH. The AHA provides teaching materials in which students were introduced to a "5 for Life" campaign.

All classes were introduced to 5 ways to keep themselves and their hearts healthy.

1. Give your heart a workout every day.
2. Cut sugary drinks from your diet.
3. Watch for hidden sodium in foods you eat.
4. There is nothing good about smoking.
5. Know the foods that are good for you.

At FES, during JRFH students were physically active while jumping. They worked both independently or with a partner. Students also worked on interpreting words and phrases, reading and comprehending complex literary and informational text. After the "5 for Life" were read aloud, students summarized the key supporting details and ideas, while also reading closely to determine what a text says to make logical inferences from it. **The students at FES who participated in JRFH did an outstanding job, once again beating their total funds raised from last year and over the past five years contributing a total of nearly \$50,000 to the American Heart Association.**

Sheafe Rd ES ENJOYS MONTHLY HARVEST

ShopRite proudly offers complimentary nutrition services by registered dietitians. Programs include nutrition counseling, cooking classes, grocery store tours, health screenings, kids events, as well as community health education such as the Harvest of the Month program.

Harvest of the Month is Sheafe Rd ES's partnership with Shop Rite where dietitian Tanya Lopez visits monthly to share fruits and vegetables with the students. Principal James Daley notes, "It's really awesome to see some of the food she brings and the opportunity for kids to try something new is great!"

Dietitian Tanya Lopez works with the ShopRite of Poughkeepsie produce department to get produce donated every month to bring on her visits. With each visit, she brings a new fruit or vegetable for students as well as information about the fruit/veggie and a short activity sheet for students to complete. The sheet is filled with fruit and vegetable fun facts to take home, and teaches the students about the benefits of eating a diet high in fruit and vegetables.



Ms. Lopez also brings an associate from Scrunchy's (the in-store daycare), to help serve the children samples of the harvest pick and shares nutritional fun facts. Her aim is to get the students to try something they haven't tried before.

Ms. Lopez commented, "It's been wonderful to see these students try something new and like it. They have tried kiwi, blueberries, cauliflower, sweet mini peppers, pears, pomegranates, and blood oranges."

Myers Corners Student Council on the Move

The Myers Corners Student Council has one mission - to make the Myers community excel through leadership and service. Student members have been busy these past few months, assisting students in safely crossing the parking lot during recess as Crossing Guards, boxing food for the Fall Food Drive and stocking the Myers Caring Closet with food items and toiletries.

Our happy members work with the PTA to support family events like the Family Game Night, Movie Night, Fall Festival and Winter Carnival. This group of sixth grade students looks forward to the next project and is excited for the opportunities that await!



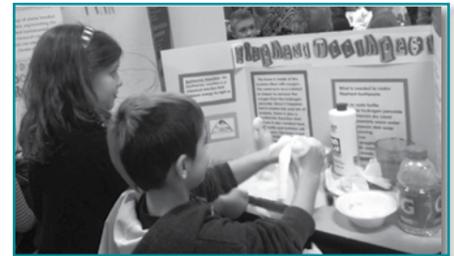
Healthy Steps at Fishkill Plains ES

Healthy Steps is designed as a health initiative to inspire our staff, students and their families to walk every day in school and out of school. It provides the opportunity to not only have a healthy lifestyle program, but also a good natured competition between the classes in each grade level at our school. Every year the class from each grade level that walks the most miles wins a special prize for their efforts. This year's prize is a customized Healthy Steps wrist band.



Vassar and Kinry Students Show Their +Science +Savvy

Close to 60 students participated in the annual Vassar Kinry K-4 Science Fair on Thursday, March 19. The event is held each year at Vassar Road School and draws students from both Vassar and Kinry for an evening of scientific sharing.



Kindergarten and first grade projects included Home-made Hand

Sanitizer, the Life Cycle of Horses, Glowing Rocks and A Lot of Hot Air. Second grade was the most represented grade this year, and included projects such as Instant Snow, Tie-Dyed Milk, States of Matter, Bouncing Eggs and Elephant Toothpaste. Third and fourth grade projects included Types of Cells, Our Solar System, Layered Liquids and How the Wheel Works.

Students did research and conducted experiments for their presentations. Each student earned a certificate, ribbon and gift from the PTA. After the fair, students were invited to share their projects in class the following week. Family and friends, fellow students, staff and faculty from both schools look forward to the annual event. Students from Roy C. Ketcham High school also volunteer. The event is designed as an evening of sharing and helps prepare students for participation in the district science fair once they reach 5th grade.

"Each year, Vassar and Kinry students show their growing interest in various fields of science at this event," said Vassar Kinry PTA President Liz Vilato. "It is very impressive to see how much they have learned while working on their projects."



Kinry Road Principal Mary Bish said, "It was great to see so many students interested in science! It's nice that we can provide this opportunity for students in a supportive atmosphere and I'm glad the PTA continues to sponsor an event like this."

Vassar Road Principal Rick Dominick said, "Each year the projects get more and more elaborate. The students have put forth great time and effort. It really shows when you ask them questions."

VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
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,
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 label for your polling location or
 call 298-5000 ext. 40145

Fishkill Plains ES Has a Reason to Dance!



Students in grades K-3 at Fishkill Plains recently enjoyed a very special treat – a three-day musical residency. Peter and MaryAlice Amidon, teaching artists, began with an assembly where the students listened to folk tales told through music, sang songs, and even learned a flash mob dance! Then, in music classes with Mrs. Hershman, students worked with the artists to learn folk dances and square dances, as well as musical stories and games.

Some of the dances were quite challenging, but the enthusiastic students had a wonderful time and mastered even the most difficult of dances! The students were engaged and smiling from ear to ear as they danced with each other.



While learning these songs, dances and games, students not only learned about music, but also about world culture, and about many different aspects of character education, including respect and cooperation. Students were taught how to politely ask another student “May I have this dance?” and to respond, “Yes, thank you” or “I would be delighted.” The program was part of the district’s vibrant arts-in-education program. The Amidons are widely respected teaching artists who have spent the past 20 years bringing traditional songs, dance and storytelling to schools throughout the country.



Oak Grove ES 4th Grade Science Fair:

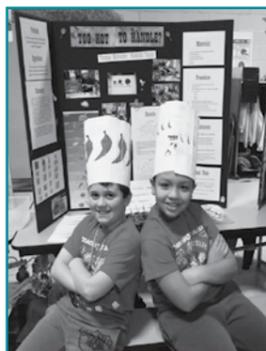
Over twenty projects were submitted to the Annual Fourth Grade Science Fair at Oak Grove Elementary School on February 25, 2015. Each year the fair is sponsored by the Oak Grove PTA in conjunction with the fourth grade science teachers. Very different projects had students utilizing the scientific method in their attempts to solve some interesting hypotheses. Students presented their projects to an audience from the junior and senior high schools who were very excited to visit the elementary school and hear the presentations.

Do Plants Rock or Bach?



Rebecca Berak and Kaitlin Driscoll researched the question: How do plants respond to different types of music? Their hypothesis was, “Playing classical music near a plant everyday will foster better growth than playing hard rock music around it.” What did the two aspiring scientists discover? The plants that “listened” to classical music actually grew taller than their fellow plants that listened to rock music.

Too Hot to Handle?



Thomas Ostrander and Nicholas Taylor researched the question: Can the sweetness of chocolate brownies disguise the spice of cayenne pepper? Their hypothesis was, “The brownie will disguise the taste of cayenne pepper until it gets to the two teaspoon level.” The results: Brownies with ½ teaspoon of cayenne pepper still rated “tastes good” to most people. Brownies with two or more teaspoons of cayenne pepper caused people to rate it as “very spicy and not sweet.” Real time observations showed a delayed reaction to the spice for some people.

Overall, the Oak Grove Science Fair was a wonderful experience and hopefully these curious scientists will be excited to participate again next year.



at James Evans ES



In an effort to support and educate students and their families about healthy eating habits and physical fitness, the James S. Evans Elementary School hosted their first Health and Wellness Night on Friday, April 10th, 2015. All families and students in the Wappingers Central School District were invited to attend.

Hudson Valley Karate, Obercreek Farm, Yoga Way, Gold’s Gym, Wild Tree and Mid-Hudson Chiropractic were just a few of the organizations that came out to support the event by sharing their expertise in the area of health and fitness to the students and their families in the Wappingers’ community. Parents and children had an opportunity to interact with professional trainers and instructors to:

experience first-hand meditation techniques, breathing exercises, and learn step-by-step yoga poses that enhance movement and flexibility.



In addition, a “Wellness Expo” was set up in the Cafetorium, and families walked around and talked to the experts about healthy-eating alternatives, benefits of eating organic local produce, keeping our mind & body healthy, and learning about ways to stay active and fit. The evening was a huge success as our local

vendors and organizations provided helpful information and complimentary services to all that attended.



On behalf of The Health and Wellness Committee, we want to thank all of the families and students that joined us for the evening, and to all of the vendors and organizations that participated in our first Health and Wellness Fair: Obercreek Farm, Common Ground Farm, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Sprout Creek Farm, Hudson Valley Karate, Gold’s Gym, Mid-Hudson Chiropractic (Dr. Joseph Olmo), Dr. B. Smiles (orthodontist), Yoga Way, Wellness through Wisdom, Wild Tree, Hungry Heart, Evans Eagles Running Group (Mr. & Mrs. Perillo), Reiki (Mrs. McMillan), Mental Health of America, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Pigskin Princess Project, Digestive Diseases, and the Wappingers Warriors Lacrosse. Your commitment was very much appreciated! We hope you will join us again next year!

Athletic Accolades

Roy C. Ketcham

Highlights – (2014-15)

League Champions Teams: Softball, Boys Swimming

Section Champions: Baseball, Cheerleading Conference I Large Group Champions

Regional Champions: Baseball

NYS Final Four Baseball: (23 and 4 Overall Record)

Individual All-State Athletes:

Casey Herzog (Softball), Tim Zehnbauer, 1st team, (Baseball)

Olivia Frederick (WCSD Gymnastics)

Individual State Qualifiers:

Olivia Frederick NYS Bronze Medalist (WCSD Gymnastics),

Danny Murphy 6th place 145lbs (Wrestling)

Heidi Simpfenderfer (Girls Swimming)

Individual All-Section Athletes:

Adrianna DeSantola, Ariana Rooks, Courtney Tefft, Tori Cirrincione,

Taylorann Torre, Ryan D'Amicantonio (Cheerleading)

Tim Zehnbauer, Jordan Bishop (Baseball) Jake Keller (Boys Soccer)

Dominic Emory (Football), Casey Herzog, Andrea Bombace,

Karissa Deluca (Softball) Olivia Frederick, Sabrina Sura,

Megan Kohl (WCSD Gymnastics) Leah Wachsmuth (Spring Track)

Heidi Simpfenderfer (Girls Swimming)

Individual All-Section Honorable Mention

Athletes: Jacob Morgenstern (Baseball) McKenna Farrere (WCSD

Gymnastics), Tori Cirrincione, Ryan D'Amicantonio (Cheerleading),

David Siriboe (Boys Soccer), Taylor Travis, Annaika Jendras (Softball)

Individual All-County Athletes:

Matt Fields (Basketball), Tim Zehnbauer, Jordan Bishop,

Greg Blum, Kevin Duke, Tyler Cinelli, Jacob Morgenstern (Baseball)

Leah Wachsmuth, Alexis DiMarzo, Riva Scheck, Emily Joerg,

Oreoluwa Odeniyi, Rachel Cacace (Spring Track)

Riva Scheck, Oreoluwa Odeniyi (Indoor Track)

Individual All-League Athletes:

Olivia Frederick, Sabrina Sura, Megan Kohl, McLenna Farrere,

Jessica Healey (WCSD Gymnastics), Matt Fields, (Basketball)

Emma Savas, Casey Herzog, Karissa Deluca, Taylor Travis, Annaika

Jendras, Andrea Bombace, (Softball) Riva Scheck, Emily Joerg,

Hunter Longenberger, Alexis Dimarzo, Leah Wachsmuth, (Track)

Gerg Blum, Jacob Morgenstern, Tyler Cinelli, Kevin Duke, Mark Joao,

Jordon Bishop, Tim Zehnbauer, Dylan D'Anna (Baseball) Dominic

Emory, Brendon Hayes (Football) Elieen Liang (Girls Tennis) Jake

Keller, David Siriboe, Dan Veliz, (Boys Soccer) Gina Feeney, Rachel

Tierney (Volleyball) Melissa Wexler, Kelsey Mulligan (Field Hockey)

Liam Wilson, Danny Murphy, Aiden Folster, Jesse Pascale, Murphy

Wilson (Wrestling) Riva Scheck, Emily Joerg, Leah Wachsmuth,

Hunter Longenberger, Alexis DiMarzo (Spring Track) Oreoluwa

Odeniyi (Indoor Track) Jon Andersen (Indoor Track)

Thomas McCaffrey, Justin Lee, Ashok Vallamattam, Jarrod Rizzi,

Brandon Vasquez, Joseph Zarella, Dylan Jorge, Dominic Rizzi,

Ian Koenig, Adrian Smith (WCSD Boys Swimming) Heidi

Simpfenderfer, Katie Ruf, Kimberly Simpfenderfer (Girls Swimming)

Individual All-Conference Athletes:

Poughkeepsie Journal All-Stars: Danny Murphy

(Wrestling) Olivia Frederick (WCSD Gymnastics) Jarod Rizzi,

Justin Lee, Christopher Allen, Dominic Rizzi, Thomas McCaffrey,

Dylan Jorge, Ashok Vallamattam, Brandon Vasquez, Alexander

Hagan (WCSD Boys Swimming) Matt Fields (Boys Basketball)

Dana Dockery, Katie Wall (Girls Basketball) Aiden Folster,

Jesse Pascale, Elias Vera, Murphy Wilson, Riley Wilson (Wrestling)

Drew Azzone, Brandon Hayes, Dominic Emory (Football)

Jake Keller, Dan Ios, David Siriboe, Dan Veliz (Boys Soccer)

Kelsey Mulligan, Carly Tebolt, Melissa Wexler, Anna Zoodsma (Field

Hockey) Gina Feeney (Volleyball) Heidi Simpfenderfer, Katie Ruf,

Kimberly Simpfenderfer (Girls Swimming) Oreoluwa Odeniyi,

Riva Scheck (Winter Track) John Andersen (Winter Track)

Eric Bentsen, Andrew Maslosky, Kyle Tierney (Bowling)

Raylene Williams (Bowling)

Coach of the Year: Nicole Oliva (Softball) Patrick Mealy

(Baseball), Stephanie Kelly-Sambuco (WCSD Gymnastics)

Individual Highlights:

Section 1 Tournament MVP Dan Alonzo (Baseball)

Casey Herzog Poughkeepsie Journal Pitcher of the Year,

Danny Murphy RCK Wrestling Leader with 200 Career Wins,

Murphy Wilson 100 career wins (Wrestling)

New Record in Wappingers 200 Freestyle Relay -Dominic Rizzi,

Dylan Jorge, Ashok Vallamattam Jarrod Rizzi(1:36.48 set at Section

1 Championship 2/11/15) (Wappingers Boys Swimming)

Brandon Hayes, Dominic Emory, Austin Lyle, Drew Azzone (Senior

Game Football)

Gayhead 5th Grade Attend the Opera



The fifth graders at Gayhead Elementary visited the State University of New York in Purchase, Westchester County, to see the opera, "Hansel & Gretel."

As part of the fifth grade music curriculum, the children have been studying opera. They listened to a recording of the opera in class while reading along with the libretto to "Hansel and Gretel." "This was a great experience! In class with Mrs. Banda, the children learned the story line, the music and about the

composer and aspects of the musical production.

As part of the audience, they learned proper audience etiquette and how to be attentive and still, to dress appropriately and show appreciation.

As part of the post-field trip activities, the students compared and contrasted the different parts and performers.



KINRY ROAD'S LEGO LITERACY



Lego Literacy was a reading incentive program featured at Kinry Road Elementary School from October through December implemented by the building's Literacy Committee. Ninety-four students participated and won prizes such as Lego Building Time, which consists of each student making their own Mixel to keep, playing Lego Games, and watching the Lego Movie. Each prize was won depending on how many hours the students logged on to reading logs.



*Starry, Starry Night at Brinckerhoff ES *

Second grade students at Brinckerhoff Elementary School have created starry night drawings and paintings inspired by artist Vincent van Gogh that will be exhibited at the Festival of the Arts.

Students started by sketching their own town or village with a starry night background. They attached a detailed drawing of their home to the front of the picture, making their work more three dimensional. They used colored pencils and painted with acrylic paints using a variety of blending techniques to add color to their expressive works.

* Their works will be displayed, along with artwork from all students in the Wappingers Central School District, at the upcoming 65th Annual Festival of the Arts. Many of our music students will also perform a variety of genres. **The Festival will be held on Saturday, May 16, in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, May 17th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The Festival is presented by the Wappingers Central School District's Fine & Performing Arts Department and is free to the public. *



Oak Grove's Colonial Day

In 1678, a group of Huguenot families established a community in the Hudson Valley of New York in the hope of creating a home where they could worship as they chose. In 1894, their descendants formed what is now Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, NY to protect their legacy in the buildings, objects, and stories they left behind.

Oak Grove ES' fourth grade students settled in nicely during their field trip on March 13th and 19th, 2015. Enjoying the 10-acre National Historic Landmark that hosts seven historic stone houses, a reconstructed 1717 Huguenot church, the students explored exhibits, archaeological sites, and a burial ground that dates to the very first settlers.



New York Red Bulls II Sign Tyler Adams

excerpt and photo from www.newyorkredbulls.com/



The team New York Red Bulls II is the New York Red Bulls' reserve team that plays in the United Soccer League, the third tier of the American soccer pyramid. It is an opportunity for younger players to compete in and develop into legitimate first team players in a professional environment.

Adams, a Ketcham HS sophomore, participated in the Red Bulls Regional Development School program at the age of 10. Two years later, he joined the Red Bulls Academy Under-13 team and kept right on going!

"This is a great day for the club, Tyler and his family," said Red Bulls Sporting Director Ali Curtis. "This signing is a testament to Tyler's hard work and to Bob Montgomery and our academy coaching staff."

"This is the perfect example of how we expect the player development model to work," continued Curtis. "Giving a talented local player every opportunity to excel in our youth system, having him earn a spot with the U.S. U-17 National Team, and then transitioning him to a professional environment where he can continue to develop and improve. Tyler has a bright future and we look forward to him representing the club at all levels."

After joining the academy Adams was called into his first U.S. Youth National Team camp. He quickly progressed through the Red Bulls U-14 and U-16 sides, as he worked his way into the U.S. U-15 team. Last August, he was invited to join the U.S. U-17 residency program in Bradenton, Fla. He has participated in all major tournaments with the team since, and appeared in every game of last week's CONCACAF U-17 Championships in Honduras. The U.S. defeated Jamaica on Sunday to secure a spot in the upcoming U-17 World Cup.

"Tyler is a player that the organization has been excited about for a long time," said New York Red Bulls II head coach John Wolyniec. "He is a very talented player, and

our academy staff has done an excellent job helping him develop all facets of his game. We look forward to the opportunity to continue his growth in the highly competitive USL environment."

The defender has a five-star rating from Top Drawer Soccer. He is ranked third overall, and second by position, in the IMG Academy Top 150 for his age group. He is the first player to graduate the Red Bulls RDS program and progress all the way through the academy system to a professional contract.

"I'd like to thank the Red Bulls for believing in me and giving me this opportunity," said Adams. "I can't thank Bob Montgomery and the academy staff enough for helping me grow as a player and reach this milestone. It's a dream come true and is very special to share this day with my family who have always supported me both on and off the field. I look forward to putting in the hard work and can't wait to get started."

Adams will join Wolyniec's side in training camp ahead of the inaugural New York Red Bulls II game at Red Bull Arena on Saturday, March 28.



Athletic Scholars 2014-2015

At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYS PHSA) honors those teams that excel in the classroom. John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham high schools had several teams meet the requirements for receiving the honor of the Scholar/Athlete Team Award for the 2014-2015 Winter Sports season.



Kurt Jesman, District Coordinator of Physical Education & Athletics said, "I would like to take this moment to congratulate and recognize our coaches and student-athletes for receiving the honor of the Scholar/Athlete Team Award for the 2014-2015 Winter Sports Season. As we are all aware, a student-athlete must balance the roles of being a full-time student and a full-time athlete. They put a great deal of time into their studies and in their respective sports which is evident in their grades and their success on the field."

Congratulations to the following John Jay teams:

Fall 2014

- JJ Boys Soccer
- JJ Boys Cross Country
- JJ Cheerleading
- JJ Football
- JJ Field Hockey
- JJ Girls Cross Country
- JJ Girls Swimming
- JJ Girls Soccer
- JJ Girls Tennis
- JJ Girls Volleyball

Winter 2014

- JJ Boys Basketball
- JJ Girls Basketball
- JJ Boys Bowling
- JJ Girls Bowling
- JJ Cheerleading
- JJ Boys Indoor Track
- JJ Girls Indoor Track
- WCSD Boys Swimming
- JJ Wrestling

Spring 2015

- JJ Baseball
- JJ Boys Golf
- WCSD Girls Golf
- WCSD Girls Lacrosse
- JJ Softball
- JJ Boys Tennis
- JJ Boys Track
- JJ Girls Track

Congratulations to the following Roy C. Ketcham teams:

Fall 2014

- RCK Boys Soccer
- RCK Boys Cross Country
- RCK Cheerleading
- RCK Football
- RCK Field Hockey
- RCK Girls Cross Country
- RCK Girls Swimming
- RCK Girls Soccer
- RCK Girls Tennis
- RCK Girls Volleyball

Winter 2014

- RCK Boys Basketball
- RCK Cheerleading
- RCK Boys Indoor Track
- RCK Girls Indoor Track
- RCK Wrestling

Spring 2015

- RCK Baseball
- WCSD Boys Lacrosse
- RCK Softball
- RCK Boys Tennis
- RCK Boys Track
- RCK Girls Track



Athletic Accolades

John Jay

Highlights 2013-2014

League Champions Teams:

Football, Volleyball, Girls Tennis, Boys Bowling, Girls Bowling, WCSD Girls Golf, Boys Golf, WCSD Boys Swimming

Section Champions:

Softball Spring 2014, Football, Boys Soccer

Individual All-State Athletes: Mike Luzzi, Matt Lisella (Baseball); Vicky Lattanzio, Megan Theiller (Softball); Andrew Moesch, Jared Sanchez (Football); Megan Theiller, Courtney Barbara, Chelsea Barberan (Volleyball); Jay Albis, Brett Perry (Wrestling)

Individual State Qualifiers:

Jay Albis, Randy Earl, Grant Frederick (Wrestling); Aaron Hamilton, Nate Diedrick, Matt Goldsmith (Boys Indoor Track); Khiara Young (Girls Indoor Track); Joseph Jurina (Boys Bowling); Victoria Pacacha (Girls Bowling)

Individual All-Section Athletes: Ally Muller (Softball); Andrew Moesch (Baseball); Ryan Schumacher, Robbie Schumacher, Brad Belotti, Shawn Casey, Frank DiFusco, Joe Lisowski (Football); Morgan Dennett (Field Hockey); Nick Liccardi (Boys Soccer); Corrine Burns (Girls Soccer); Megan Theiller, Courtney Barbara, Chelsea Barberan (Volleyball); Matt Goldsmith, Nate Diedrick (Boys Indoor Track); Khiara Young (Girls Indoor Track); Joseph Jurina (Boys Bowling); Victoria Pacacha (Girls Bowling); Jay Albis, Grant Frederick, Randy Earl, Tom Docherty, Brandon White (Wrestling)

Individual All-Section Honorable Mention Athletes:

Samantha Fitzgerald, Shanna Schaeffer, Jamie Harney (Softball); Mike Laffin (Baseball); Erin Theiller (Girls Soccer); Dan Fiarella (Boys Soccer); Ellie Reck (Field Hockey); Randy Earl, Tom Docherty (Wrestling); Andrew Anthony, Dashawn Greene, Josh Barr, Tyler Levene, Josh Edwards, Dylan Krycerick (Football); Madylen Barberan (Volleyball)

Individual All-County Athletes:

Andrew Moesch, Blake Keenan, Zach Zottola (Baseball); Aaron Hamilton, Nate Diedrick, Matt Goldsmith, Troy Dean, Sean Powell, Shawn Flynn, Nik Angyal, Matt McDonald, Kevin O'Connor (Boys Track); Samantha Mosca, Marion Dietz (Girl Cross Country); Aaron Hamilton, Nate Diedrick, Matt Goldsmith, Lance Adams, Elliott Lawrence (Boys Indoor Track); Khiara Young, Allie Gusmano, Mercedes Junior, Megan Sadowitz, Danielle Angyal, Epiphanie Reddick, Megan Flynn, DeAnna Newman (Girls Indoor Track)

Individual All-League Athletes: 13 Athletes for Spring 2014, 25 Athletes for Fall 2014, 34 Athletes for Winter 2014-15

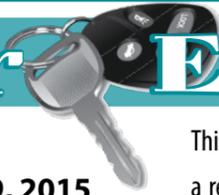
Poughkeepsie Journal All-Stars: Kyle Hover, Tyler McCloskey (Boys Golf) Allie Fischer (Girls Golf) Blake Keenan, Andrew Moesch, Zach Zottola (Baseball) Sai Chaluvadi, Rajat Chandra, Shiva Laksmanan, Westin Miller, Jarrett Monte, Dimitri Petrakis, Kenny Steinberg, David Taylor, Justin Yu (Boys Tennis) Samantha Fitzgerald, Jaimie Harney, Jessica Harney, Ally Muller, Bridgette Rooney, Shanna Schaeffer, Stephanie Stumm (Softball); Pia Krishnamurti (Girls Tennis); Andrew Moesch-Kicker, Jared Sanchez-Defense, Joe Lisowski-Specialist (Football); Nick Liccardi, Dan Figarella (Boys Soccer); Corrine Burns (Girls Soccer); Aaron Hamilton, Nate Diedrick, Lance Adams, Matt Goldsmith, Elliott Lawrence (Boys Indoor Track); Khiara Young, Danielle Angyal, Megan Flynn, Allie Gusmano, Mercedes Junior, DeAnna Newman, Epiphanie Reddick, Meggan Sadowitz (Girls Indoor Track); Tyler Albis, Randy Earl, Tom Docherty, Jay Albis, Brandon White, Andrew Anthony, Paul Bernasconi, Grant Frederick, Marcus Andre, Billy Ciccarelli, Ron McCabe (Wrestling); Joe Jurina, Ryan Loggia, George Pacacha, John Bald, Mike DeRobertis, Joseph Ginese, Tyler Krell, Nick Pagan (Boys Bowling); Victoria Pacacha, Jillian Burns, Julia Dahl, Ruth Martin, Alyssa Rubeo (Girls Bowling); Marion Dietz, Samantha Fitzgerald, Jamie Harvey, Alana Kroner, Claire Thoma (Girls Basketball); Justin Cunha, Ryan Metz, Ryan Schumacher (Boys Basketball); Chris Allen, Alexander Hagan, Dylan Jorge, Justin Lee, Thomas McCaffrey, Dominic Rizzi, Jarrod Rizzi, Ashok Vallamattam, Brandon Vasquez (WCSD Boys Swimming)

Coach of the Year: Thomas O'Hare (Football), Jamie Weaver (Wrestling), Tim Kermani & Donde McClwee (Boys and Girls Bowling)

Individual Highlights:

Ryan Schumacher- Poughkeepsie Journal Offensive Football Player of the Year, Robbie Schumacher- Poughkeepsie Journal Defensive Football Player of the Year, Corinne Burns- Poughkeepsie Journal Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Aaron Hamilton (Boys Indoor Track) - National Qualifier for 200 Meter, Khiara Young (Girls Indoor Track) - National Qualifier for 200 Meter, Jay Albis- Poughkeepsie Journal Wrestler of the Year, Joe Jurina- Poughkeepsie Journal Boys Bowler of the Year, Victoria Pacacha- Poughkeepsie Journal Girls Bowler of the Year, 2014 Boys Tennis - Scholar Athlete Team Award (NYS Champions)

Driver Education



Two Summer Sessions

First Session Starts – June 29, 2015

Second Session Starts – July 27, 2015

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 Driver Ed link or for more information call 298-5000, ext. 40130 or ext. 40137.

The Wappingers Central School District
Fine & Performing Arts Department
presents

The 65th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Saturday, May 16th 10:00am-4:00pm
Mesier Park, Wappingers Falls



"Defying Gravity," Oil Pastel by Tessa Filon, RCK

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 17th, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Summer Camps

Offered through
Wappingers Continuing Education

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES K - 12

For complete details of each camp view our online Continuing Ed brochure.
Any questions call 298-5000, ext. 40130 or 40137

Camps offered this summer include:

Crew	String Orchestra
Flag Football	Fun with Food
Chess	Books to Crafts
Potter's Wheel	Interactive Math Games
Arts & Crafts	Pop Art
Junior Journalists	Pirates Life for Me
Big Messy Art Camp	Disney Adventures

NEW! STEM Camps (Science /Technology/Engineering/Math)

Lego Robotics	Our Wappinger Creek
Electricity and Magnetism	Hands On Fun with Science

www.wcsdny.org click on Continuing Ed link- summer camp listings

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 Available
Entertainment for all
Family Event

Join the Dutchess County American Cancer Society's 14th Annual
Relay for Life - Friday, May 29th at 6 pm - Midnight
DUTCHESS STADIUM (on Rte. 9D)

Saving Lives is just a Few Steps Away! Walk-ins welcome
For information contact Gail Buckle at 896-5087

www.relayforlife.org/fishkillny

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)

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Central School District
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Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

GRADUATION DATES

John Jay High School

Friday, June 26 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 6:30 p.m.

Roy C. Ketcham High School

Saturday, June 27 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 11:00 a.m.

VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
7:30 am – 9:00 pm

Fishkill Elementary • Fishkill Plains Elementary
Gayhead Elementary • Myers Corners Elementary • Vassar Road Elementary
Wappingers JHS

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