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HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NEW YORK 12533 (845) 298-5000 x40145 FAX (845) 896-1693 JOSÉ CARRIÓN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 2016

November marks the beginning of an extremely busy end of the calendar year. Next week, we have a major Presidential Election on November 8, 2016, in addition to celebrating Veterans Day and enjoying an extended Thanksgiving weekend.

This is the time of the year where the weather starts getting colder, and there is a possibility of snow which may result in school delays or closings. For all students who drive to school, we encourage parents to have their children ride the school bus during inclement weather. All families are reminded weather-related closings and delays are posted on our website, and/or you can listen to your local radio and television stations.

On October 15, 2016, the District held our first Parent/Community Workshop for this school year. The WCSD administrative and teaching staff provided parents with extremely worthwhile and productive sessions with great information. If you were unable to attend, please do not hesitate to view the presentations by clicking on the following link: Parent Workshop October 2016.

As of September 2016, New York State, in alignment with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), mandates that all schools and other public facilities and municipalities test their water for lead. Some of the schools have already been informed that designated areas in their schools tested positive. WCSD has been extremely proactive in notifying parents immediately and beginning all necessary work to replace or repair the problem. Visit our website to see the outcomes of designated schools that have tested positive (Water Testing Results).

Although students will not be in attendance on Election Day, all of our WCSD staff will be partaking in professional development on Superintendent's Conference Day. Our committed administrative, instructional, and support staff will be collaborating, learning, and facilitating workshops around our State and local initiatives. We have a full day of professional growth planned for all adults in our District. Throughout this day, Fishkill Plains, Brinckerhoff, Vassar Road, Oak Grove, and Myers Corners Elementary School, as well as Roy C. Ketcham

High School will be poll sites. Please note that we do not provide police security on voting days when students are not in session.

Building principals have begun to send home your child's i-Ready assessment scores in grades K-8. The administrators and teachers have reviewed this information and are extremely pleased to have the results. If you have not already received your report, please note it will be arriving home soon. Please make sure to review this information and notify your child's teacher if you need further clarification or questions answered. As I have visited schools and spoken to staff members, the results have proven to provide accurate information that will help to support and/or enrich our students' learning in alignment to our locally created curriculum maps.

November also marks our first major performances at John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham High Schools. John Jay Proscenium presents "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]" on Friday, November 4, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday November 6, at 2:00 p.m. Roy C. Ketcham Masque & Mime presents "You Can't Take It With You" on Friday, November 4, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday November 6, at 2:00 p.m. We are extremely grateful and honored to have such gifted adults who work diligently with our talented young high school students to put on some of the best high school performances in the Hudson Valley.

On November 11, 2016, we remember and honor all past and present veterans who have served in persevering our country's freedom. I also want to extend a Happy Thanksgiving to all of our families who cherish this time of year filled with gratitude and appreciation.

Sincerely,

José L. Carrión