



# Baldwin's Bulletin



June 2016

## Board Corner

Each May, the school year seems to have sped by more quickly than anticipated. Suddenly, summer is looming... all the more reason to reflect on the year, celebrate our accomplishments, and plan for the future.

Chromebooks continued to be integrated into daily curriculum. The Makerspace in the middle school encouraged increased opportunities for student creativity and collaboration. PTO-sponsored events enriched each of our schools through the generosity and dedication of conscientious parent volunteers. Student performance on PARCC and other measures of assessment were competitively strong and validated the dedication of staff and students. The district website and Facebook/Twitter pages, as well as notifications via eBlast and School Messenger, kept our school community informed of district happenings. It was a good year.

Over the course of this year, we also established the Warren Township Schools Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG). Through a collaborative effort with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), a core group of interested parents and Child Study Team representatives have benefitted from SPAN's training through START (STARTing and Running an Effective Special Education Parent Advisory Group). As a result of this training, with the help of dedicated parents, we have begun to establish a formal SEPAG structure and have identified parent leaders who will guide the process forward.

Additionally, based on our strategic plan, a primary area of focus was security. Through the help of the security consultant group Trionaid, we assessed each of our buildings for safety and security, identified ways to improve safety and security, and implemented plans for that purpose. The board's support of this initiative is key to its success.

Most importantly for our stakeholders, the Warren Township Board of Education embarked on the Study to Examine Enrollment Project (STEEP). After a year of examination, a decision was made to remain with the district's current school configuration. Administrators will be tasked with maximizing delivery of service within the framework of our five schools during the upcoming school year.

A snapshot of the year would not be complete without recognizing Ms. Kathryn Bond for her dedication and service to the district. This June, the district bids farewell to Ms. Bond, who has served as an educational leader to our Warren students for the past 18 years. Ms. Bond leaves behind a rich legacy for others to follow.

The district also looks forward to welcoming its new superintendent, Dr. Matthew Mingle. Dr. Mingle brings a wealth of ideas to make the district “Shine Brighter Every Day.” The Warren Township School District is fortunate that Dr. Mingle will be joining the Warren Schools community.

And so, as the school year comes to a close, on behalf of the Warren Township Board of Education and our staff, we wish you a healthy, productive summer. Enjoy this time with your children!

### *Principal's Corner*

It's hard to believe that another June is upon us. Soon our students will be out enjoying their summer in the pools, at camps, on vacations, and hopefully reading a bit, too! Before summer arrives though, we are headed into what is often the busiest and one of the most exciting times of the school year. Students and staff will reflect and celebrate the year's successes. We'll welcome our newest Eagles and bid farewell to our 5th graders that are ready to soar in middle school. I hope you can take some time in the coming weeks to reflect on the year, all that your children have accomplished, and how much they've grown.

Last week, Central School celebrated its first ever New Jersey History Day. Kindergarten students showed us what it was like to learn in a one room schoolhouse, 1st graders taught us a song about our great state, 2nd graders decorated the hallways with New Jersey research posters, 3rd graders taught us colonial games, 4th grade students led an art project creating dream catchers, and 5th grade students transformed into wax statues of famous New Jersey natives in a living history museum. On top of all this, Mrs. Sarosy and the PTO brought in George Washington himself, transformed the blacktop to a boardwalk, and had the fire department bring an antique fire truck where students were able to hand crank the alarm! The day concluded with a wonderful musical performance by the acapella group *Ball in the House* who sang through the decades with songs written by famous New Jerseyans. Everyone had a blast and learned a lot about our great state.

As the year comes to a close, I'd like to thank you for welcoming me into Central School and the Warren Township community. I am truly proud to work in this school with such dedicated outstanding professionals and students and supportive families. Enjoy the summer. We'll see you in September.

### *5<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Club - Rebecca Davenport*

Central School's 5<sup>th</sup> grade Art Club, ran by Mrs. Davenport just wrapped up. Students in the club explored a wide variety of art media and styles of art. Students created a paper collage focusing on positive and negative space, a pointillism animal made up entirely of dots, and a tile mosaic. They also helped to create 3-D rubics cubes for a PTO 80's Themed Fundraiser. These budding artists worked very hard and put great effort into their projects.



## Reach Program Notes

### Central School Garden

Students in some classrooms have helped to plant and water the Central School Garden. We have planted lettuces, basil, bok choy, broccoli, leeks, carrots, tomatoes, kale, cabbage, and brussel sprouts! WATCH for an Eblast in the coming weeks to sign up to help over the summer – watering, weeding, and harvesting the delicious and nutritious vegetables from our garden. For those families who have participated over the past two summers, many of you have told me that your family enjoyed the experience and that working in the garden together encouraged your children to try new foods.

## Innovation and Design

The fourth grade Energy Investigations I & D unit has students learning about renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, and about how electricity is generated and used in the US. Students conducted explorations with wind energy by designing, building, and testing blades for mini wind turbines. Groups tested their blades to see how effective they were in lifting weight (such as in hauling water or grinding grain). Students also measured the volts of electricity they could generate with various blade designs. Students tested several variables such as material used, size and shape of the blades, and the number of blades. Groups determined which blades were most or least effective when generating electricity and when lifting weight. Students are now exploring solar energy as a source for generating electricity and investigating how light from the sun can be transferred into movement by turning the wind turbine.

## Reach Enrichment

First grade students have full-class Reach enrichment weekly for 12 weeks now. During a Fun with Logic unit children learned to solve analogies, matrix logic problems, and deductive reasoning logic challenges. With support and encouragement, students worked at their own pace to develop these critical problem solving skills. Now, first graders are learning about fables during the Fantastic Fables unit; determining what lesson each fable we read teaches. They have acted out a fable, written a fable with a partner, and will be solving riddles to find cards with sentences written on them that, when placed in the correct order, will tell one of 4 of Aesop's Fables.

## Reach, Too!

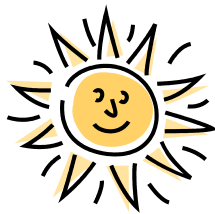
Third grade students are now reading Greek Myths in a Mythology unit. They have learned that many words from the English language were derived from Greek Mythology! They are learning about the Olympic gods and goddesses, and mythological creatures.

Fourth graders are exploring the Elizabethan period during a Shakespeare unit. Students performed skits and dressed up to depict what life was like during the late 1500s in England. They are also reading and acting out scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," comparing different versions. Using William Shakespeare's inventive and expressive language and rhythms, children are exploring timeless themes. Students wrote fun and silly Shakespeare stories, incorporating several of the expressions which are credited to Shakespeare.

Fifth grade students are debating various topics in a mini Debate and Forensics unit. Ask your child about the topic or topics that he or she is debating, and which side they are debating. Students were assigned either the Pro or Con side of a debate, and realized that it can be difficult to support and persuasively argue for a side which may not be the same as the way one feels. However, it is a worthwhile exercise to research both sides of the topic so that you can better debate the topic!

## Math Compacting

Students in grades 1 to 5 continue to take unit pretests to determine those students who demonstrate mastery of the concepts before they are taught. Students who "compact out" for a math unit come to the Reach teacher twice per week for 25 minutes for enrichment math.



A FEW REMINDERS.....from Ms. Sacks



- ❖ A **parent/guardian** is required to pick up medications during the **last week of school**; medications will not be given to students; medications not picked up will be discarded.

- ❖ If you need any information on your child for summer camp, (immunizations or medication orders) please contact me **before** the last week of school.
- ❖ Your physician must complete medication forms for the **2016-2017** school year dated **after July 1, 2015**. This includes **all** medications for use in school.
- ❖ Fifth grade students who are planning to try-out for **any** sport in Middle School are required to have a **Warren District physical exam form by your physician, and a health questionnaire form by a parent/guardian**. Forms are available at the [Warrentboe.org](http://Warrentboe.org) website. Go to Warren Middle School. Click on Activities/Athletics. Sports Forms. **Please submit the completed forms to the Middle School nurse, Mrs. Lontai by Aug.1 for fall sports!**
- ❖ Immunization requirements for grade six include Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines to be administered before entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade or immediately following the 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Please send in the documentation for the completed vaccines. This is A NJ state regulation.
- ❖ If your child will attend a sleep away camp this summer, please inspect your child's hair before the start of school. If you notice your child scratching their head frequently regardless of them attending a camp, please have your physician check for head lice prior to the start of school in September.
- ❖ Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. 908-753-5300 ext. 5203
- ❖ Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

See you in September!

