

Baldwin's Bulletin



April 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We need your feedback! The Warren Township School District is conducting a comprehensive audit of district and building communications with key audiences, identifying areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. As one of the initial components of the audit, we invite you to take the "SCoPE School Communication Survey for Parents." Participation takes less than 15 minutes and is completely anonymous. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the survey.

Additionally, as parents who are also members of the Warren Township community, we invite you to take the "SCoPE School Communication Survey for Community Members," found [HERE](#). Since the value of our results increases when more people participate, please feel free to share the survey(s) with your neighbors in the Warren Township community. All three surveys (Parents, Community, Staff) also can be found on our website at www.warrentboe.org.

Please take the time to let us know how we're doing! Thank you

Superintendent's Corner

The Warren Township Board of Education will hold a public hearing of the 2017-18 budget on April 24, 2017 at 7:00pm in the all-purpose room of Mt. Horeb School.

Next year's budget supports the continuation of all current programs and services including a comprehensive curriculum, support and enrichment services, and full-time guidance counselors in each building. The budget also maintains small class sizes in all grades, courtesy busing for all students, and late buses at Warren Middle School for students participating in clubs and activities. In addition, new scheduling models at all five schools will allow for even greater involvement in the arts, an expansion of physical education opportunities, and a more robust experience studying world languages while adjusting staffing levels to reflect the continued decline in student enrollment.

Thanks to the efforts of members of the Board and the school business administrator, I am proud to support a budget that provides for the wonderful education of Warren's children while being responsible to the taxpayer. The 17-18 budget increases the local tax levy by 0.71%. Detailed information about the budget can be found on the district's website.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

Principal's Corner

I want to begin this month's newsletter by simply saying thank you. All the time, but this past month in particular, you seem to have gone above and beyond to support our students and provide them

with transformative, innovative experiences. In March, the PTO donated desk cycles and stand up desks, sponsored a fruit and veggie tasting during nutrition week, planned and facilitated an extraordinary International Day, and to top it off, hosted an adult social to raise funds in order to further support our schools and children. We truly couldn't do it without you and appreciate all of the support.

International Day was one example of experiences meant to challenge students in our Whole Child approach to Education. From writing in Braille to exploring Mexico, France and Australia, and learning the basics of playing a didgeridoo, students were engaged and encouraged to try something new, perhaps outside their comfort zone.

Students are being challenged every day in the classroom as well. All it takes is a stroll around the school to see students that are working together to try to solve a question or problem that has been posed. Last week, 3rd graders worked to classify minerals based on observations of their characteristics, kindergartners hatched and raised chicks, and 5th graders conducted research to prepare for a debate in front of a panel of school officials. Teachers are providing these experiences, and our students are rising to the challenge.

At this point in the year, most students have participated in their Innovation and Design or Reach units. These are two additional programs designed to challenge students in forward thinking ways. Second graders learn about the legal system and 4th graders are exploring ways in which to use renewable sources of energy.

If you were fortunate enough to attend the district conversation on the Whole Child this past month, you'll remember that challenging students comes only when the foundation is in place. First students need to be healthy and feel safe. Next, they need to be engaged in their education and supported through their learning journey. When all of this is in place, then students can truly be challenged. I feel fortunate to be a part of a school where we have the opportunity to get to the top of the pyramid and challenge our students.

Looking forward to a great rest of the school year.

Mrs. Tugya

Art Department - Mrs. Davenport

4th Grade Art Club

Central School's 4th 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 fall pumpkin landscape made of glue and paint, a hanging clay slab using the additive process and various textures, an optical illusion artwork using colored pencil and marker, a zentangle animal using the book Calabash Cat as an inspiration, a chalk pastel monster using shading and blending techniques, and finally an original and self-inspired W.O.W. (Wonderful Original Work of art) artwork using any of the techniques and materials previously learned in class or in club. These budding artists worked very hard and put great effort into their projects.



5th Grade Art Club

Students in the 5th grade art 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, a tile mosaic, and a functional clay piece: a ceramic mug. They also helped to create parts to the centerpieces for the PTO's Kentucky Derby Themed Fundraiser. These budding artists worked very hard and put great effort into their projects.



Somerset County Youth Art Month Exhibit

The Somerset County Youth Art Month Display was held at the Center for Contemporary Art, located in Bedminster. This art display gives every teacher in Somerset County, which is an AENJ member, an opportunity to display a selection of their student work. Mrs. Davenport was allowed to submit a total of fifteen pieces of artwork for the exhibit. Several artworks from each grade were on display for the week of March 6-12, with an Artist's Reception on Sunday, March 12th from 2:00p.m. - 3:30 p.m. This exhibit gives a great representation of the artwork being created throughout the county. The following students were selected to have their artwork on display at the exhibit:

Kindergarten: Hayden Montgomery, Isabella Lofling

1st Grade: Isha Bhushan, Mia Khalil

2nd Grade: Daniella Eriksson, Emily Medina

3rd Grade: Ryan Mittra, Olivia Nogan, Emily Wang

4th Grade: Olivia Murillo, Alyssa Tam

5th Grade: Annie Dong, Alex Huang, Allison Lofling, Jennifer Su

INNOVATION AND DESIGN, REACH, TOO!, and MATH COMPACTING - Mrs. Zimmer

The Reach and Innovation and Design programs have been busy providing valuable learning experiences for the children at Central School.

Innovation and Design (I & D)

Third graders are now completing a Magnetic Forces unit during Innovation and Design. This is the third graders' first introduction to the Engineering Design Process, which they will be using throughout the I & D program. Students are thinking like engineers to solve a problem. During this unit students completed labs to discover properties of magnetism, and they applied these lessons about magnetic forces to design, build and test train cars that will work on a maglev (magnetic levitation) track. Collaboration and cooperation group skills as well as creative problem solving are stressed as students work together on the unit project.

During the fourth grade Power and Energy unit students are learning about sources of energy and how electricity is generated. Groups will be using the Engineering Design Process to plan, design and test blades for a wind turbine. They will measure how each set of blades performs when lifting weight and, also, when generating electricity. Students will also collaborate to use solar panels for the same tasks. Students will research the pros and cons of an energy source of their choice, and present these to the class. During this unit students will gain a deeper understanding of how electricity is generated and used through the U. S. Please take a look at this link below to see, by state, the source of energy used to generate electricity. Your fourth grader has seen this and would love to show you how the interactive display works!

[Washington Post Article - Electricity Generation by Energy Source](#)

Reach, Too!

Third grade students are exploring how they learn during a Metacognition unit. Learning about how one learns is a great way to become familiar with your unique learning style! Students learned about Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligence right vs. left brain characteristics, and various learning styles as they explore the topic of Metacognition. They will also learn the importance of grit as a learning characteristic to nurture for success.

Fourth grade students completed the Depth and Complexity Icons unit as they explored a topic of their choice. They presented creative and informative project about their topics. Fifth graders completed their Law and Order unit and submitted their mock trials to the NJ State Bar Association competition. Good luck students!

Now, both fourth and fifth graders are involved in a Mission: Mars! unit. Following a unit plan and exploring various resources and topics independently, students are investigating the red planet and the intricacies of U. S. plans for establishing a Mars Colony in the 2030's. Each student will identify an area of interest to him/her, such as growing food on Mars, or building a Mars habitat, and will complete a project on their topic.

Math Compacting

Students in grades 1 to 5 have taken 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. Compacted students are also given enrichment materials to use independently in the classroom.

Computers-Ms. Porchetta

The fifth grade is currently in computers and are learning to code using Tynker.com. This website enables them to learn the fundamentals of coding with visual code blocks. Each week I assign them a lesson which they complete during class. Students are encouraged to assist each other so that every student can keep with the classwork. Coding requires both logical and creative thinking that will improve their ability solve problems. The fifth graders will also be doing Bitsbox. This program uses a special set of commands that are written in JavaScript, one of the most popular programming languages in the world. In addition to coding, students will use edotyping.com to improve their keyboarding skills as well as learning about Tech Readiness.

The fourth graders were in computers during the first half of the year. They also did programming using Tynker.com as well. They completed several lessons that included creating a scene, animation and drawing. They completed cyber citizenship lessons on email rules and manners, cyber- safety and surfing the internet safely. The students used edotyping.com to improve their keyboarding skills. The third grade this year used google drive to complete several projects during computer class. They used google documents, google sheets and google slides. One of their main projects was to create a slideshow about weather related Spanish vocabulary. They inserted clipart, animations and transitions. Right now they are in Innovation & Design learning about Magnetism and will return to Computers soon.

The second grade is currently using google drive which included the applications google documents, google sheets and google slides. They are completed a google slide project about animals. The students learned how to insert slides, add transitions, backgrounds, animations and images. Students have been practicing keyboarding skills using edotyping.com. First Grade has been busy learning how to use google drive this year. They have learned how to sign into a computer lab account and create a new document. They are familiar with google docs and google slides. They are learning age appropriate word processing skills. Students have been practicing keyboarding skills using edotyping.com. They are practicing proper finger placement on the keyboard.

Kindergarten uses Type to Learn Jr. to practice their keyboarding skills. They are learning correct hand placement and posture to improve their typing skills. They have also been introduced to google docs and google slides. The students will be using the website code.org to learn about computer programming.

News from the Library - Mrs. La Neve

STEM in the Library

It is no secret that STEM has been a hot topic in education for years. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, and it is an interdisciplinary approach to teaching these four fields together rather than separately. STEM provides an amazing opportunity for students in the library because it exposes them to the four disciplines while still introducing them to quality literature. Integrating STEM projects that relate to literature and the library curriculum still encourages the love of reading while inspiring students to become problem solvers. Also, combining STEM and literature provides an opportunity for students to engage in inquiry based and real world problem based learning.

In March and April the kindergarten and first grade students are learning about Folktales. Folktales provide an amazing entry point to introduce STEM at an early age. Students will be given a problem in the story and they must brainstorm ways to solve the problem. For example, in "The Three Little Pigs" the houses are blown down by the wolf. Students will be challenged to build a house using

various materials that can withstand the wolf's huffing and puffing. Using the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", students will have to construct a trap to keep other people from eating the bears' porridge.

The 2nd grade will be exploring various fiction and nonfiction books that are meant to encourage students to contemplate how famous inventions were created like the Ferris Wheel. Students will be challenged to build structures or objects that can adhere to certain criteria, function and survive tests of strength.

I'm looking forward to incorporating more projects that inspire students to create.

