



Baldwin's Bulletin March 2017



Superintendent's Corner

The Warren Township Committee passed a resolution declaring March 2017 "Whole Child Month" in Warren Township. This announcement coincides with an important event scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017 - "A Community Conversation on the Whole Child."

That event, held in the Watchung Hills Regional High School Performing Arts Center, kicks off with an optional information session with the Warren Township Education Foundation at 6:00pm and performances from Watchung Hills student music ensembles beginning at 6:15pm. The full event begins at 6:45pm with a presentation from Sean Slade, Director of Global Outreach at the largest international education association in the world. Mr. Slade will talk about trends in education and how schools and communities can adapt to meet the complex needs of the global community.

Following the presentation, attendees will go into smaller breakout rooms to provide feedback about what is great about Warren Township Schools and where more can be done to ensure that each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. These contributions will be brought back to district leadership team meetings to help develop a vision for the future of the Warren Township School District.

This is an event not to be missed if you have a desire to help shape the future of education in Warren Township. Participation is limited so registration is suggested at <http://tinyurl.com/Warren0308>. Together, we will continue to ensure that we are *Shining Brighter Every Day* in Warren Township.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

Principal's Corner

It's that time of year, when the days on the calendar seem to get a little bit more packed. After school and weekend activities pick up, and with the arrival of spring, we also see an upswing in our schoolwide events and celebrations. In March alone, we have several events that celebrate different facets of the Whole Child and speak to the tenets of engaging and challenging our children. This month, the second graders will showcase their dramatic and musical talents during their tribute to Dr. Seuss on Read Across America Day. Towards the end of the month, they will celebrate the culmination of their non-fiction reading and writing units with Biography Day, where they will assume the role of the person they are studying and present what they've learned. Our 5th graders will be hard at work refining their acts for the 5th grade talent show this month, too. This is one of my favorite nights of the year, as we get a glimpse into sometimes hidden talents that our wonderfully rounded students possess. Also this month, the entire school will participate in International Day. The PTO has been hard at work planning this day since August, and students will participate in activities that give them a glimpse into the cultures of countries such as France, Mexico, and Australia. Students are already beginning to buzz about what the day has in store.

You may have noticed that one of our initiatives this year is to come together as a school community where all of our students, teachers and staff “speak the same language” about kindness, respect, and expectations. Continuing on this journey, in March we will be turning our attention to developing a set of school rules that will guide us in all we do, from the classroom and specials, to recess, lunch and special activities. Staff will begin to brainstorm ideas during team meetings, and our March character education lesson will be dedicated to gathering student input as well. Stay tuned for the parent input portion of the process in the coming months. Finally, I hope to see many of you at the Whole Child Event on the evening of March 8th. Together we keep working to make Central School the best it can be.

Grade 5

Our fabulous fifth graders are looking forward to finishing their final year at Central! Spring brings middle school orientation, our JA Biztown field trip, the yearbook signing party, and the fantastic fifth grade event! Until then, we will remain focused on our schoolwork.

Math

In Math, we are preparing for the challenges of sixth grade. Through modeling while problem solving, students develop a deeper understanding that goes beyond the standard algorithms. After we finish our units on multiplying and dividing fractions, we will get ready for our JA Biztown trip. We will revisit our study of decimals and engage in a financial literacy unit. During our simulated community event at JA Biztown, students will be ready to write checks, make deposits, and manage money effectively,

Writing

Fifth grade writers recently completed the *Lens of History Information Unit*. Our expert historians shared their knowledge of Westward Expansion with 3rd and 4th grade students in intimate focus groups, including a Q&A session to answer any lingering questions.

The next unit of study is the Research-Based Argument Essay. Students will investigate and write argument essays that include a claim and are supported by reasons that are backed by evidence. In the first bend, students will explore the issue of whether chocolate milk should be served in school, developing a solid argument for or against. The second bend begins with a response from the principal in which she invites students to further research the topic to craft position papers to be presented to panels of administrators and teachers. In the final bend, writers will draw on all they know to take a stand in the world. They will write another argument essay, this time a topic they choose, to contribute to a public conversation.

Science

“Eww!” exclaims one student as she excitedly examines a vinegar eel squirming around under the lens of her microscope. Others are chattering about what they are able to see.

Our current unit of science focuses on microbiology and is entitled “Microworlds”. Rather than passively studying science using a textbook, students are actively engaged in observing, learning, and understanding more about a world which, up to now, has been invisible to them.

They are learning about how to patiently look and accurately draw what they see through the microscope. Other critters include volvox, a primitive species of algae, as well as blepharisma, a unicellular protist that is cannibalistic. Needless to say, students are enthralled at studying these simple life forms.

Reading

Fifth graders have recently finished the nonfiction reading unit. We have been reading and studying endangered animals, the holocaust, and the winter. Students have gathered information they have learned to make a presentation and teach their classmates. We are so eager to learn from one another about real life topics! We will be segueing into Book Clubs, reading a variety of realistic fiction novels. Students will be applying all the reading strategies they have learned thus far to complete engaging reading. We will also be focusing on holding accountable conversations about our reading to share our thoughts, questions, and reactions. In addition to the Book Clubs, students are becoming more and more accountable for their independent assignments to enhance their reading, spelling, and vocabulary skills.

“Nature Through a Child’s Eyes” Art Exhibit

The 24th Annual Children’s Environmental Art Exhibit, entitled “Nature Through a Child’s Eyes” showcased ten Central School artists! The following Central students had their artwork exhibited:

First Grade: Shiv Bhatt

Second Grade: Erich Dong, Daniella Erikson, Ryan Liu, Emily Zhang

Third Grade: Zoya Balakrishan, Angelina Huang

Fourth Grade: Ethan Liu, Grace Prayias

Fifth Grade: Jaya Dave

This art exhibit showcased over 300 pieces of art relating to nature by children in Somerset County. Artwork was on display from January 6, 2017 through February 5, 2017 at the Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Center in Basking Ridge. The selected students and their families were invited to attend an afternoon reception.

Central School Participates in Somerset County Youth Art Month Display

The Somerset County Youth Art Month Display will be 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, Art teacher at Central School, was allowed to submit a total of fifteen pieces of artwork for the exhibit. Several artworks from each grade will be 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 Mitra, Olivia Nogan, Emily Wang

4th Grade: Olivia Murillo, Alyssa Tam

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

Hopefully, you will get a chance to stop by to see Central School’s work, as well as the artwork from across the county!

Notes from the Nurse - Mrs. Sharon Carroll, RN, MSN, CSN

March 18-24 is Poison Prevention Week

Call the Poison Control Center IMMEDIATELY if a child eats, touches, or drinks something harmful.

1-800-222-1222

Do: Lock up ALL medications (Prescription and Over The Counter).

Do: Teach children to ask before trying something new.

Do: Keep young children in sight at all times.

Do: Remain calm and call Poison Control if you suspect a poisoning

Don't: Call Medicine "candy"

Don't: Leave cosmetics and medicines open

Don't: Keep household supplies under the sink

Don't: Drink milk or water if you think you've consumed a poison (Call poison control instead)

Reminder to 5th grade parents: Please send in documentation of the (2) vaccines *required* for 6th grade.

If you have any gently used girl's pants/sweatpants in sizes 7-10 or boy's sweat pants in sizes 7-12, please consider donating them to the health office.

Although there have not been any new reported cases of lice, please continue to check your children's head **AT LEAST** one a week. Happy Spring!