



Baldwin's Bulletin

December 2017



Superintendent's Corner

On November 21, 2017, the district hosted Sergeant Tom Rich, a Summit police officer and nationally recognized cyber-safety expert. In addition to his full-time duties in Summit, Sgt. Rich has been a keynote speaker at over 700 events nationally, reaching over one million students. In Warren Township, Sgt. Rich spoke to all fourth and seventh grade students during the day and then met with parents in the evening. This was the second straight year Sgt. Rich came to the district to support our efforts to provide students and parents with actionable information about how to keep students safe online.

You can see a short video overview of Sgt. Rich's presentation on his website at www.alwaysconnected.org.

Many parents are likely considering the purchase of cell phones or other technology devices as holiday gifts. If so, I recommend taking a look at Janell Burley Hofman's website at www.irules.co. The focus is on developing a contract between parent and child about the responsible use of personal technology.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season that includes as much face-to-face time with friends and family as possible!

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

Principal's Corner

When I sat down to pen this month's newsletter, I immediately knew what I wanted to write about. The words came quickly this month, and I wrote what you will see ahead. Shortly after, I learned that Dr. Mingle too had been inspired by our guest speaker and chose to write about the same topic. So, you will see that our notes this month follow a common theme. Enjoy our individual musings.

Recently, Warren township Schools had the pleasure of welcoming Sergeant Tom Rich to speak to fourth and seventh grade students about cyber safety and social media. That same evening, parents were invited to hear Sgt. Rich speak about these topics. He reminded us that our children *will* use social media and that they *will* use the internet. He stressed that it's not about telling children no, it's about ensuring that we are both teaching students how to go about using their devices safely, and staying informed as adults and parents as to how to maintain appropriate settings on our children's accounts so that we are keeping them safe. Sgt. Rich points out that the

children in our schools today really are growing up as a different generation; technology and devices have changed the way that we operate as a society.

I found the following video that Sgt. Rich shared poignant and meaningful. The video is entitled Lost Generation. Make sure you watch through until the end.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42E2fAWM6rA>

One message I took away from Sgt. Rich's presentation is the importance of focusing on how to support a generation of students that faces different challenges and realities than we did growing up. The connectivity and ease of communication presents infinite possibilities, but with these come the responsibilities of teaching proper use, safety, and acceptance. I thank you for joining us in the effort to develop responsible, savvy social citizens. Together, we empower students to be part of a generation that is not lost, but rather collaborative, innovative and socially adept.

I hope that you are able to enjoy precious time with family and loved ones this holiday season.

Grade 2

Fall is such a busy time in second grade. In science, students begin by investigating firsthand the phenomenon of mealworms and observe their structures and behaviors. Each student receives two larval mealworms in a vial to care for and observe. Over 10 weeks, students will be observing the larvae grow, molt, pupate, and turn into beetles. As part of the investigation process, students keep a notebook to help them organize their observations and data, process their data and maintain a record of their learning for future reference. Second graders are eager to observe the life cycle of their mealworms!

In writing, students worked on revising and editing their first personal narrative story to get it ready for publishing. At the beginning of the unit, second grade writers learned how to choose a small and meaningful moment (seed story) and then drafted that idea across many pages. Children studied craft moves as readers and then tried them out as writers. Children learned the ways that authors draw on their senses to describe what they see, feel, and hear and then applied it to their writing. Individual conferences were held throughout the unit, which targeted specific needs of the writer. Celebrations were held and writers were able to share their published works of writing!



A Note from the School Nurse.....

As the holidays approach I would like to remind everyone about the Approved Food for School Wide/Classroom Celebrations and Parties. **ONLY** food items from this this brought in by parents who signed up for particular items through the classroom parents and homeroom teachers will be accepted. Just a reminder **ALL** food **MUST** be in by **10am** WITH all ingredients as well as labeled with the teacher's name.

There have been a number of absences related to fever, cough and bronchitis. If your child has a persistent cough, with or without a fever, please see your MD for evaluation.

Just a few reminders for the New Year:

Please continue to reinforce frequent hand washing

If your child wakes up ill, please keep them home

Outdoor play is good for children. Illnesses are caused by germs, not the cold weather.

If your child has been ill, please use a **NEW toothbrush**...avoid re-infections

Breakfast starts a good day!

Encourage **8-10** hours of sleep each night!

Don't forget....**Hats & Gloves!**

Healthy nutritious snacks (fruits and vegetables are always a good choice)!

Please call daily absences in by **9AM**

Send in water bottles instead of communal use of the water fountain

What can I do to protect myself against the flu?

The flu is a contagious disease which can lead to serious illnesses. The single best way to protect yourself against the flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 6 months and older, especially people at high risk for developing serious complications from flu, get vaccinated each season. To find a flu clinic, go to Somerset Department of Health (www.co.somerset.nj.us/health/) or call your pediatrician.

Please review the attached information on Concussions- A Fact Sheet for Parents.
https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/youthsports/parents_eng.pdf

Sharon Carroll, MSN, CSN, RN

Upcoming dates:

Dec. 1	Spirit Day-Wear your Central Spirit Wear or Blue & White
Dec. 8	Science Day
Dec. 15	Spirit Day – Backwards Day
Dec. 21	K-3 Report Cards emailed home
Dec. 22	1:30 Dismissal
Dec. 25-Jan. 1	Winter Break – School Closed

