



Warren Township Schools

Shining Brighter Every Day



From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the coming of December, our students and staff are now well into the second marking period and are firmly acquainted with the expectations of subjects. Students often find course work more challenging compared to the first marking period, as new material is introduced in ways that are more complex. Communication between school and home are the best ways to ensure the best use of time and resources.

This month presents special experiences in preparation for the end of the year holidays. WMS will hold our annual Chorus and Orchestra Concert on December 7, and our Band Concert on December 14. In addition, our PTO will host a Holiday Boutique for students as a fund-raiser, December 5 to 7 in the All Purpose Room during all lunches. December 13 will be our next PTO meeting at 9 AM in the APR.

Finally, as our daylight grows short and the weather turns from brisk to cold, this is a good time to consider plans for inclement weather. WMS will be conducting our Inclement Weather Bus Drills as practice if WMS has to close early. During these drills, students report to assigned, supervised classrooms based on their bus numbers and are dismissed when that bus number arrives. As part of this practice, we ask all families to discuss the family plan for when students arrive home in advance of parents. On early closings, all students are sent home on buses so that the building can be closed. No students are permitted to remain at school. So, we ask that you have a plan for students to either enter their homes or go to a neighbor's house as fits your circumstances.

I wish all a Happy Holiday.

George Villar



Dean's List *Mr. Max Achtau*

On November 22, the entire student body and staff were bused to Watchung Hills Regional High School to see John Halligan's presentation "*Ryan's Story*"

Mr. Halligan emphasized the following themes: bullying, cyberbullying, and suicide prevention - as they relate to the lives of middle school students.

Upon returning to school, we broke into our character education groups to debrief and discuss the presentation. I was able to visit 6th, 7th, and 8th grade debriefing sessions and was impressed at the insightful comments and compassion displayed by our students.

In closing, I wish all of our WMS students and staff a wonderful holiday season with family and a joyous New Year.



Counselors' Corner

Mrs. M. Johnson, Mrs. Lauren Regal, Ms. H. Scully

Congratulations to the October Students of the Month!

6th Grade Team

Abigail Franks
Scott Drews

7th Grade Team

Sophia Mariano
Benjamin Chee

8th Grade Team

Liana Liu
Daniel Brociner

Unified Arts

Alyssa Steinhart
Thiago Teixeira

Please congratulate these students who consistently are kind and respectful to others.



The E2 Connection - Dr. Susan Cooper

Keeping you connected to the exciting events of WMS Enrichment Education Programs

Continental Math

The first Continental Math competition took place on November 3rd. As always, many students excelled in this national contest during this meet. Students may come see Mrs. Cooper or email her to ask for their scores. Congratulations to all participants who are taking the initiative to partake in this self-selection activity this year. It's a challenge! Listen to announcements for December's meet.

Peer Leaders

The 8th grade peer leaders prepared an 8th grade Freedom Feast to help their 8th grade peers recognize the importance of our freedoms in the United States. This event took place on November 22nd during the afternoon. Additionally, a sincere thank you goes out to the Warren Lions Club for again providing the Peer Leaders with their new t-shirts and a special thank you is extended to the United Way of North Jersey who presented a workshop called ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) where our students learned valuable lessons about the growing number of individuals and families who are working, but are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation.

Academic Tournaments

Our Academic Tournament teams participated in several challenging quiz bowls already this year including the Quiz Net and 3-2-1. In January 2018, the ATOMS quiz bowl begins which will be held on Thursdays at the Bridgewater Middle School from January 11th to mid-March. The Thinking Cap computerized, team quiz bowl will take place at the end of January, too. Student participants have to meet eligibility requirements to participate in these rigorous tournaments. Watch for the American Scholastic Open, an individualized computer quiz bowl, which takes place in February.

Private School/Special Program Recommendation Requests

Mrs. Cooper is always happy to help students complete their private school/special program recommendation forms. This is a big honor for the E2 teacher to represent our students. However, please provide stamped envelopes with the forms as well as give adequate time to complete them. Usually they are turned around quickly, but it is best to plan ahead just in case of a delay.

6, 7th and 8th Grade E2 Happenings

The 7th and 8th grade E2 students have been working on many electives in E2. The 7th and 8th grade mock trial classes are preparing their trials to present at the Warren Court House, which is tentatively scheduled for the last week of December prior to winter break. Vehicles, Quiz Bowl, Chess, Photographic Art, speaker presentations and other challenging opportunities are being offered to E2 students regularly. All current electives will continue through the end of December. The 6th grade E2 evaluation process will begin in December. Parents of 6th graders are urged to log onto Mrs. Cooper's website for a more detailed description of the E2 process. Overall, it's a busy and exciting time of the year for enrichment and we have so much to do! Students are urged to check the E2 schedule and the E2 Room door for updates.

Enrichment Opportunities for ALL

The E2 department offers many enrichment opportunities for all WMS students such as poster contests, theater trips, chess tournaments, enrichment trips, and Continental Math. Coming up in December is the school wide Geography Bee and Continental Math. In the New Year, E2 will include the National History Bee and the Junior Solar Sprints Solar Car after school club (8th grade). Watch for updated information on Mrs. Cooper's website. Parents and students are encouraged to reach out to Mrs. Cooper when they are in search of opportunities. Independent projects and weekend trips are often available to interested students – just ask!



Music Department

Mrs. D. McCloskey, Mrs. A. Jensen, Mr. J. Seremula, Mr. J. Van Tine

The Music Department has announced our Winter Concerts for this School Year.

The first of the two December concerts will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7 PM in the All Purpose Room. This concert will feature the 6th, 7th and 8th grade choruses and the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Orchestras.

The second December concert will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7 PM in the All Purpose Room. This concert will feature the 6th grade band, 7th/8th grade Band and the Jazz Band.

Parent help at the concerts is always appreciated. Please see or email Mrs. Liang Wang or Mrs. Leanna Wellerding to find out how you can help this year for the winter concerts.

Congratulations to the following students for their acceptance in the 4 District Honor Band – Liana Liu, Jenny Xu, Inica Kotasthane, Daniel Zeng, Adithi Adusumilli, Arjun Singh, Benjamin Chee, Ariha Mehta, Franklin Zhu, Cynthia Ming, Zachary Cashman, Evelyn Logan, Dennis Lei, Anthony Azevedo, Raahil Gunaratne, Jackson Standridge, and Brianna Ramirez

Honor Band rehearsals begin on January 4, with a performance at the High School Auditorium on February 1 with a tour of the four participating Middle Schools on February 2.

Auditions for the highly anticipated Middle School Musical, *Aladdin*, will start the week of December 4. All auditions will go until 4 PM. Be prepared to have a ride home each day that you need to be at auditions. There will be separate auditions for singers, dancers, and script reading for parts. Students will need to check the schedule for their audition time and for any other call-back audition or dance audition time.

Rehearsals will start right away in the New Year on Tuesday, January 2 after school until late buses @ 3:50.

Instrumental music students auditioning for the District 2 Regional Auditions need to have their application forms submitted to both the CJMEA and their School Music Teacher by December 8. They also need \$15 cash to accompany their form to their music teacher. The regional auditions will be held January 27 in West Windsor, NJ.



Yearbook – Ms. Parolise and Ms. Regal

ORDER YOUR WMS 2016-2017 Yearbook TODAY! All yearbook ordering is done online via <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com> using the code **13393418**. The early bird discount deadline is **December 31st** and the final deadline is **April 13th**. We realize the savings indicated on the flyer is inaccurate. If you have any questions please reach out to Miss Parolise, cparolise@warrentboe.org or Ms. Regal, lregal@warrentboe.org.



Nurse's Corner - Mrs. Lisa Lontai, R.N., M.S.N.

THE FLU AND YOU

The flu is a very contagious virus that tends to attack the body by spreading through the upper and lower respiratory tract. Although a cold may have some of the same symptoms, the flu can also cause headaches, aches and pains, fatigue and weakness; symptoms can begin anywhere from one to four days from the time of infection. The majority of patients recovery easily, but the flu can cause pneumonia, even death. It is essential to seek medical treatment if you seem to be feeling worse, not better, after a few days. There is no cure for the flu (antibiotics are powerless against viruses), but several anti-viral medications can soothe symptoms.

Flu Fighting:

- Wash your hands properly (for 20 seconds) and often
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- If tissues are not available sneeze or cough into your elbow
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth area. Flu viruses can live briefly outside the body, so if, for example, you touch a doorknob and rub your eyes, you are flirting with the flu.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- **Stay Home when you are sick!** That means staying home until you are fever-free without any medication for 24 hours! This isn't just to keep from spreading the flu: When you're sick, your resistance is lower and you're much more likely to catch other illnesses that happen to be going around.
- Get a flu vaccine.

Let's continue to do our best to stay healthy, stay home when sick, wash your hands, and cover your sneezes and coughs! Remember, wash your hands!



December 2017

12/4	PTO Meeting	9:00 AM	12/14	Band Concert	7:00 PM
12/5-7	Holiday Boutique		12/22	Early Dismissal	
12/7	Chorus/Orchestra	7:00 PM	1/25-1/1	Closed-Winter Recess	
		1/2/18	School Resumes		

Superintendent's Corner

On November 20, 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 Hoffman'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 on a wonderful holiday season that includes as much face to face time with friends and family as possible!

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.