



From the Principal, Jeff Heaney

It is hard to believe that we are less than 20 days away from the last day of school. I hope that you have enjoyed reading my “Words from Woodland” newsletter. While I found it enjoyable putting each month’s newsletter together, capturing all of the magic that happens at Woodland School is a difficult task. After each of our special events I could not help but think how lucky I am to be in such a great place.

As we prepare for summer break I want to thank you, the parents, for your constant support of Woodland School. As I said at my first Back to School Night, Michael Jordan and Dan Marino were two people I admired as a child. However, it was my parents and my teachers who had the greatest influence and impact on my life. There is no doubt that the partnership between home and school is so important. With that said, I want to remind you that, although summer is a time for relaxing it is also critical that children continue to learn. Research has shown that students who continue to read and stay cognitively engaged perform better when they return to school in September. I still remember playing games with my parents and sisters to pass the time during our dreaded 20 hour drive to Florida for a family vacation. As a very young boy I remember playing the alphabet game where my mom would test me to see if I could find the letters of the alphabet, in order, on street signs. I remember playing the license plate game to see if I could find all 50 states and, as I spotted a new one, my father would ask me to name the capital of that state. I must admit that it scares me to think that moments like these are now being replaced by pull down DVD’s, iPads and handheld video games. Kids can learn so much by playing simple games that test their reading and knowledge in a fun way. There are many engaging ways to keep students reading, writing and learning. I remember that my own sister would bring a journal and write about the vacation along the way. Recently I came across an article that offers simple ways that parents can keep their children learning over the summer months. When you get a moment, I encourage you to read [25 Activities to Keep Kids Brains Active in the Summer](#) This article offers some great strategies.

In closing, a school is only as good as the students who attend it, the educators who work in it and the community who supports it. There is no doubt that Woodland School is top notch in all three areas!! I wish you a wonderful, relaxing, enjoyable and educational summer surrounded by family and friends and full of everlasting memories.

Board Corner

BOARD CORNER

May 2016

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.

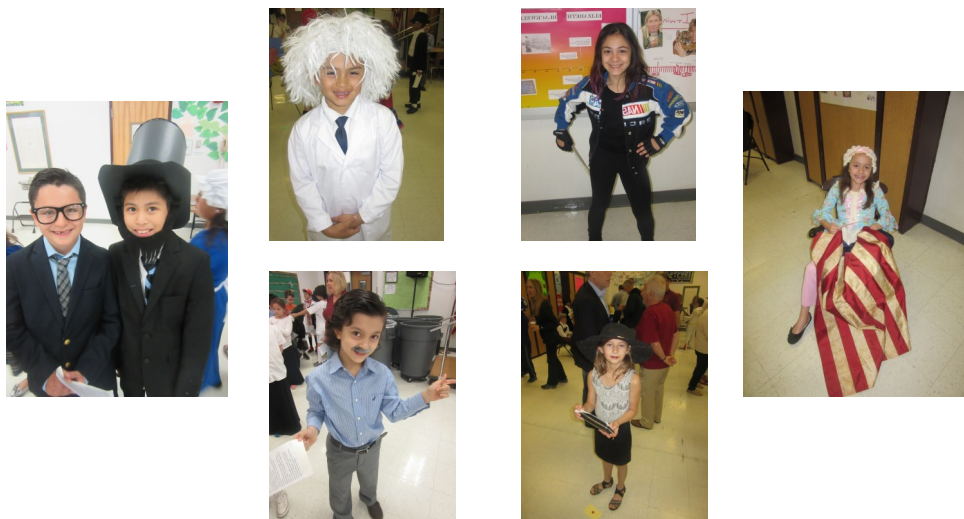
And so, as the school year comes to a close, on behalf of the Warren Township Board of Education and our staff, we wish you a healthy, productive summer. Enjoy this time with your children!

Young Authors Day

Thank you to Mrs. Puglisi, Mrs. Shanahan, the PTO and all of the parent volunteers for an extremely enriching Young Author's Day. The students and staff had a blast meeting real authors and participating in a fun day.



Third graders in Mrs. Meyer's, Mrs. McGrath's, Mrs. Rzasa's and Mrs. Vecchione's class present the annual Wax Museum. Students enjoyed researching a famous person and then dressing up as that person and doing a presentation for Woodland families.



Olympic Day

Thank you to Mrs. Madura, Mrs. Thomasson, the PTO and all of the volunteers for a truly amazing Olympic Day. The students and staff had a wonderful time and learned so much about the Olympics and Special Olympics. The best part of the day was seeing students, staff and parents enjoying each others company and making great memories!!!



1st graders perform "Jammin' in the Jungle"



Teacher Appreciation Week

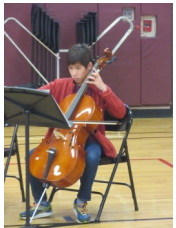
Thank you to the PTO for a wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week. The staff truly appreciated the wonderful door decorations, the great gifts and the delicious food.



Kindergarten "Special Person in My Life" Tea



Gold Strings and Gold Band concert



Congratulations to Mr. Yenish, who received the 2015-2016 "Excellence in Education" award.



Invention Convention and Cooperative Expo

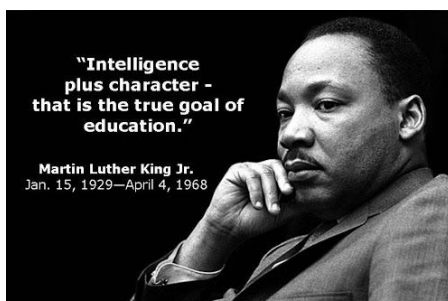
Congratulations to Mrs. Krumm, Ms. Wisher, Mrs. Panos, Mrs. Yenish, Mrs. Serafin, Mrs. Reis, Mrs. Zaleski, Mr. Axt and all of the 5th graders on an amazing event!! The displays were extremely impressive and the students were well prepared. This is another great example of what happens when a group of talented educators work together with hard working students. Kudos on a job well done!



Warren Middle School peer leaders led Woodland 5th graders in a series of Antibullying activities to commemorate "White Out" Day. Students learned the importance of being kind to one another and what it means to be an upstander rather than a bystander.



Students celebrated one of Woodland's Character Education Days by wearing shirts with a character trait written on them. Students were encouraged to think of ways to demonstrate that trait in aspects of their lives.



King and Queen of the Jungle Winners for April

Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade



Counselor's Corner

Please click on the [link](#) for information from the Warren Township Guidance Department

June Calendar

Wednesday June 1	5th grade Event-Camp Harmony
Saturday June 4	PTO Event- Family Day Camp Riverbend 3-6pm
Monday June 6	5th grade Musical-Shrek Jr. 10am Students and staff only
Tuesday June 7	5th grade Musical Shrek Jr. 7:30pm Parents
Wednesday June 8	Rain date 5th grade Event Instrumental Music Information Night at Central School 7pm (parents of grades 3-4)
Thursday June 9	Marking Period Ends Grades K-5
Friday June 10	Kindergarten Donuts for Dad
Monday June 13	District Battle of the Books Sing -A -Long/Recorder Concert (Students and staff only)
Tuesday June 14	Field Day
Wednesday June 15	Hot Air Balloon Assembly Grade 5 Yearbook signing
Thursday June 16	Rain date-Field Day
Friday June 17	Kindergarten Graduation Early Dismissal (1:20pm) Patriots Game (Warren Day)
Monday June 20	5th grade Awards Ceremony Early Dismissal (1:20pm)
Tuesday June 21	Last Day of School Early Dismissal (1:20pm)

