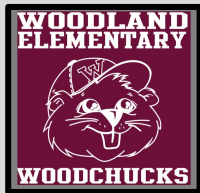


# WORDS FROM WOODLAND



Woodland School Newsletter  
March 2017

## **From the Principal, Jeff Heaney**

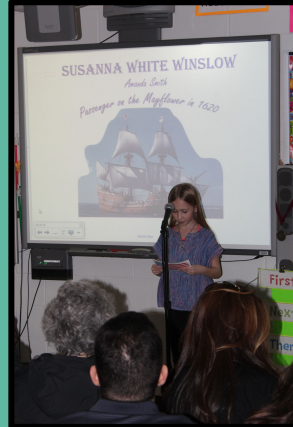
It truly is hard to believe that as I type this newsletter we are on the eve of the 100th day of school. As I have said so often, the best part of my job is that I get to watch children grow as students and as human beings. Wonderful things continue to happen each and every day at Woodland School, and we are excited about all of the fun and learning that will take place during the next 80 days.

On February 22nd, our 4th and 5th grade students attended a special assembly entitled “*Always Connected*” at the Watchung Hills Performing Arts Center. The students learned important strategies to help them make smart decisions when using technology. It was wonderful to see all four elementary schools merged together for the day and great to see many Woodland families at the evening session, which was designed to help parents navigate the constantly evolving world of technology as it pertains to their children’s lives. There is no doubt that students are growing up in a completely different world than the one in which we grew up. I am sure you can remember calling a friend and waiting for a call back, or even worse, the frustration of getting a repeated busy signal. Back then, a friend not calling you back simply meant that they were not home. Today, when a friend doesn’t text back, we quickly think, “What did I do wrong?” and “Why haven’t they texted me back..are they mad at me?” I also remember spending hours in 4th grade at the library looking for a book for my Prince Edward Island social studies project. Now, students can simply type in a word in a search engine like Google and get information in an instant. There is no doubt that technology has made a difference in our lives. In many ways it has made things easier. In other ways it has made things more challenging. Social media apps such as Snapchat and Instagram have made it much easier for students to stay connected...even after the school day ends. With these forms of instantaneous communication, it is important that we continue to help children make smart decisions. They need to understand the importance of thinking before they post. They need to ask themselves, “Would I say this to the person face to face?” It is important that we partner together to help children navigate the world of technology. We must continue to work together to ensure that students are being responsible while in cyberspace, are thinking before they hit send, and are using technology in an appropriate way. I came across a valuable cell phone contract that I shared with my daughter when she received her first phone. I found that it went over some of the rules that would help my daughter avoid making mistakes while online. As always, I wish you all the best and I want to remind you that I value your feedback, your support and the partnership between home and school.

[Cell Phone Contract](#)



# Spotlight on Staff & Students



Students in Ms. Lenci's, Mrs. McGrath's and Mrs. Vecchione's classes presented their Immigration Projects. Each student researched a family member who immigrated to America and learned about the family member's struggles, how they persevered, and the positive impact that person had on the student's life.

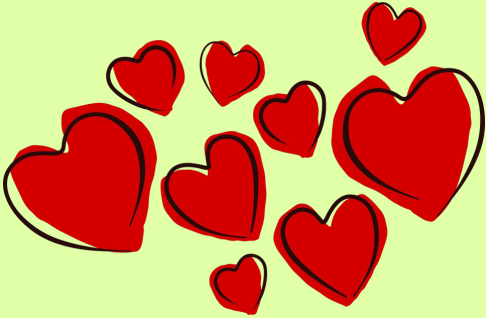


Thank you to Mrs. Brink and the Service Club for organizing the Valentine's Day Photo Booth to raise money for the American Heart Association. Thank you as well to Mrs. Stambaugh for organizing the fundraiser with the staff. Through their efforts they were able to raise \$565!!





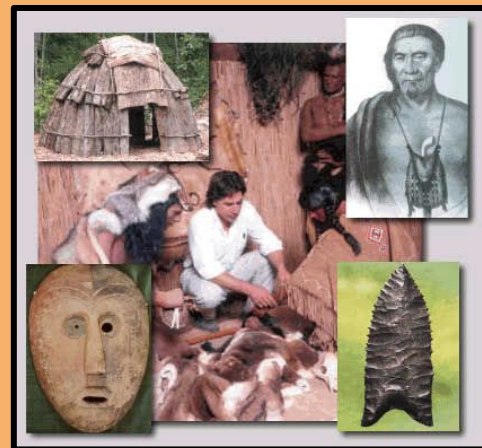
Students in Mrs. Leonard's 2nd grade class made Valentine bookmarks for their video pals in Incheon, South Korea. The students have enjoyed participating in cultural exchanges with their video collaboration pals since September.



Woodland kindergarten students enjoyed using the Cisco video collaboration technology to connect with the Center for Puppetry Arts in Georgia. Students got to make their own gingerbread shadow puppets with help from a professional puppet artist. They were also able to watch a shadow puppet show come to life!! Thank you to Mrs. Krumm for organizing this wonderful experience!



As part of their Gingerbread Man unit, Mrs. Brink's kindergarten class (with help from 5th Gr. Reach, Too!) took part in a STEM lesson. They designed and built traps to capture the illusive Gingerbread Man!



Students in Mr. Jones' 4th grade Social Studies classes created models of homes of the Lenni Lenape.





Woodland staff and students celebrate the 100th day of school with all kinds of fun & educational activities!

Picture on left: Students in Mrs. Panos' Writing Class dress as 100 year olds as part of their persuasive writing assignment. They had a good ol' time!

Picture on right; Jasmine Soriano is the 100th student to enter Woodland School and Charisa Sair is the 200th. Mrs. Brower and Mrs. Stolfi organized this exciting event!

## Woodland School Nominated to Apply for National Blue Ribbon Award

It is with great pride that I announce that Woodland School has been nominated by the New Jersey Department of Education to apply for the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School Award as an Exemplary High Performing School. Although at one time schools self-nominated for the award, this is no longer the case. Chief school administrators from the State Department of Education now have the responsibility of nominating schools. Eligible schools must demonstrate high or strongly improving student scores on state or nationally normed assessments in the last year tested; schools must also make Annual Yearly Progress in accordance with No Child Left Behind. Woodland School is one of only nine schools in the entire state that received this nomination. Since the program began in 1982, only four public elementary schools in Somerset County have been recognized with this award. Few schools have had the privilege of being nominated. This is an amazing accomplishment that we should all be proud of.

Please see the following link for the article featured in the Echoes by Mary Ann McGann. [Blue Ribbon Article](#)



# Special Events!

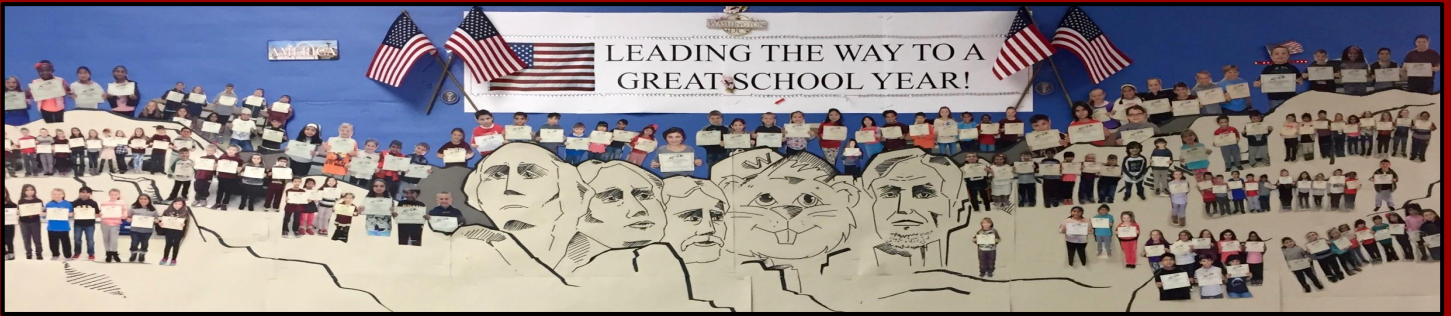


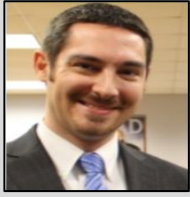
Congratulations to Mrs. Sutherland, the 4th grade team, and to all of the 4th graders for a wonderful production of "It's A Musical World". As always, the dancing and singing were top notch!! The musical was a terrific celebration of cultures and customs from 'round the world and demonstrated that music is undeniably a universal language.



Students in 2nd and 5th grade enjoyed meeting Woodland's new D.A.R.E. officer, Sergeant Joe. He will visit with these students throughout the remainder of the year and will talk to them about the importance of making good choices throughout their lives!!

# This Month's "Top of Mt. Woodland" Recipients!





# 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.





# Save the Date

Woodland's 3rd Annual  
Parent & Staff Basketball Game  
Wednesday, March 15th  
6:30 PM

More information to follow  
including a signup sheet for parents  
interested in playing





<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thurs 3/2	Read Across America Day Spirit Day: Dress as your favorite character from a book
Wed 3/8	Whole Child Presentation 6:00pm at WHRHS
Tue 3/14	PTO Meeting 9:30 AM Room 5
Wed 3/15	Parent/ Teacher Basketball Game
Fri 3/17	Spirit Day: Wear Green and a Crazy Hat
Mon 3/27	2nd Grade Musical (Students and Staff only) 10 AM
Tue 3/28	2nd Grade Musical (Parents) 10 AM
Fri 3/31	International Day Spirit Day: Wear clothing/colors from a country of your choice