

# First Friday

*A Monthly Newsletter of the Warren Township Schools*



## Strategic Planning Update

Strategic Planning facilitators, Mr. Ben Shuldiner and Dr. Rebecca Stilwell analyzed over 4000 data points that were collected during each of the Strategic Planning sessions.

The facilitators worked with Dr. Matthew Mingle, Superintendent of Schools, as well as other district administrators to evaluate the data to create three to five big "buckets" of information to aid in the process of goal development.

Shuldiner and Stilwell then summarized the highlights from each stakeholder into four recommended areas of focus:

- 1) Health, Safety & Wellness; 2) Voice/Empowerment;
- 3) Equity/Consistency; 4) Competencies.

An opportunity to sign up to participate on an action team will become available to anyone who might be interested over the next few days.

Everyone who participated during a Strategic Planning session will be e-mailed directly with the details. Otherwise the information will be posted to the district website and social media pages.

Additional details can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#) to view the Strategic Planning presentation on the district website under Board Meeting Videos.

**SHINING BRIGHTER EVERY DAY!**



# News from the Schools Warren Middle School

For WMS Upcoming Events please visit:  
<https://www.warrentboe.org/schools/middle/>



WMS students from the Science and Technology Studies (STS) afterschool club, supervised by Mr. Scott Vaglio, Spanish teacher, attended a presentation given by Yee Jao and Jennifer Arrogante from the New Jersey Society for Information Management (NJSIM).



Members from the WMS Student Government Association, became wrapping experts under the leadership of Mrs. Beverly MacGorman, Home Arts Teacher. The association teamed up with Visions and Pathways in Somerville, NJ to help those less fortunate this holiday season.

Visions and Pathways is an organization that helps abused, neglected, homeless, missing and at-risk youth with housing, a stable environment, and supportive services that guide them in becoming self-sufficient.

Because of the generosity of the Warren Middle School staff members, over fifty presents were donated and wrapped with care by WMS students. The gifts will be distributed to families within Somerset County.



# Angelo L. Tomaso School

## UPCOMING EVENT

Visiting Author

## DATE

1/31/20

To bring in the sounds of the season, the Gold String group from Angelo L. Tomaso School worked very hard with Instrumental Music Teacher, Mrs. Kelly Backus. The Gold Strings are comprised of violins, violas and cellos. The group meets once a week before school from 7:15 AM - 8:00 AM on Mondays. Each member also attends weekly, small group lessons.

To qualify for the group each student must pass a series of checkmarks which include playing a scale, playing pizzicato, bowing open strings, playing a folk song and passing a note identification quiz.

The group tends to perform a range of music from folk to classical. This year Mrs. Backus will be working some pop music into the rotation.



# Central School

## UPCOMING EVENT

## DATE

Spirit Day

1/10/20

PTO Bingo Night

1/10/20

On December 10, Central School students enjoyed a fantastic Science Day, coordinated by the Central School PTO.

Mobile Ed, a nationwide leader of live, educational entertainment, transformed the gymnasium into a multi-purpose state-of-the-art, hands-on children's museum focused on STEAM education (science, technology, engineering, art and math). Students were encouraged to explore the many different stations which included a 3D printer, Programmable Robots, Buzz Wire, Music Maker, Build-an-Arch and STEAM Pinball. Parent volunteers were present at each station to help enhance the learning.

In addition to Mobile Ed, each child also attended two of the three possible assemblies depending on their grade level, Life in Space by Franklin Institute, Eyes of the Wild by Wallaby Tales or Magic of Science by Mobile Ed.

Lastly, the PTO prepared Science Escape Room game packages and worksheets for each class. Students were engaged throughout the day and most importantly excited about science!





# Mt. Horeb School

## UPCOMING EVENT

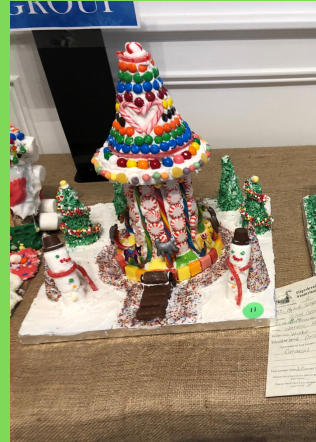
Drama Club Play  
Family Reading Night

## DATE

1/13/20  
1/17/20



The Kindergarten teachers from Mt. Horeb School and Mrs. Christine Burkhardt, Library Media Specialist, joined together to teach the students a unit on the Gingerbread Man! For the 2nd year in a row, each Kindergarten class was tasked with creating their own Gingerbread House. The final products were entered into the 2019 Gingerbread Wonderland contest at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Congratulations to Mrs. Fishelman's Kindergarten class for winning first place in the School category!



Mt. Horeb students welcomed two, very special visitors for Author's Day, Mr. Dan Gutman and Mrs. Corey Rosen Schwartz. Gutman is well known by the Mt. Horeb students for his 'My Weird School' series and Rosen Schwartz for her fractured fairy tales.





# Woodland School

## UPCOMING EVENT

## DATE

Parents vs. Teachers Volleyball  
Game

1/9/20

Bingo Night

1/23/20

Spirit Day - Super Bowl Team  
Colors

1/31/20

During the month of December, the students from Woodland School had a blast during Physical Education class as they played a life-size game of Mario Kart. The course included tunnels, obstacles and sharp turns which the students loved racing through. The activity encouraged teamwork and cooperation between classmates. The students worked in pairs to complete as many laps around the obstacle course as possible. Just like in the video game, after each lap, the students collected a coin which could be used to purchase helpful items like a speed kart or bowser shell!

Physical Education teacher, Mr. John Tsihlas was thrilled that the students were enjoying the exercise. "The activity included critical thinking, math skills, collaboration and physical exercise. Every student was completely engaged as they raced around the track. It was a huge hit throughout the entire school."





# Upcoming Events



## EVENT

## DISTRICT WIDE

## DATE

Board of Education Meeting  
Schools Closed – MLK Jr. Day  
Board of Education Meeting

1/6/20  
1/20/20  
1/27/20

## SEPAG WORKSHOP

The Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) will be hosting a workshop from The ARC of New Jersey on Wednesday, January 15 from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM



Warren Middle School  
100 Old Stirling Road  
Warren, NJ 07059

The Workshop is titled "All Students Can Benefit from Inclusive Education"

Attendees will learn information about inclusive special education programming and the useful services it provides for general education and special education students.



## Board Vacancy Appointment Information

Warren Township Board of Education has a vacancy. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for additional details.



"COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT"  
**CLICK HERE** TO REGISTER TO ATTEND  
THE SEMI-MONTHLY INFORMAL  
MEETINGS WITH DR. MINGLE.  
NEXT MEETING:  
JANUARY 13 AT 9:30 AM



Shining Brighter Every Day!!