

Pride in Our Schools

Winter 2015

We are very proud of our students and staff.



Every year, the Watchung Hills Elks offers an essay contest in grades 5-8 that is based upon a patriotic theme. This year's prompt asked students to write on the following topic, "What the Pledge of Allegiance Means to Me". Over a hundred essays were submitted. Winners from the elementary and middle school level, from the classes of Jennifer SanAntonio, Myranda Shimko and Vivien Plesmid are as follows: Thomas Krause 1st, Sarah Young 2nd, Kyle Schlingloff 3rd, Laibah Siddiqui 1st, Luke Anderson 2nd, and George Tsimis 3rd. Congratulations to all for sharing their patriotic spirit.



Sheila Connelly and Susan Kline have been piloting coding programs at ALT School, using new K-5th grade code.org curriculum. Through the remainder of the school year, they will work with all students in both 1st and 2nd grade. The teachers submitted their proposal to the International Society for Technology in Education; it was accepted and they were invited to present at an upcoming ISTE Conference in Philadelphia. Great job!



Last month, approximately 100 WMS students participated in the National History Bee. The bee was a 50-question multiple choice test which presented challenging material. Congratulations to Kurt Gmunder, Michael Harrison, Aneesh Karuppur, Brandon Tang, and Neelay Trivedi, who qualified to advance to the New York Regional Finals of the National History Bee this April!

Mark your calendars! Warren Township Schools is hosting its 2nd annual *21st Century Expo and Technology Showcase* on May 19th at 6:30pm at Warren Middle School. The event will showcase some of the 21st century learning scenarios that have been completed by Warren Township students and their teachers. We want to share with parents and community members how this approach to content is transforming teaching and learning in our district.



Directed by Karen Sutherland, Woodland School's third grade presented the musical "Destination America" by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson. This upbeat performance focused on musical styles that are unique to America including, jazz, Motown, country, Broadway, and rock & roll. What an educational and entertaining production!

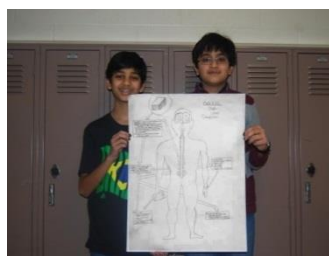
Twenty 8th grade students in Christine Cirrotti's Language Arts classes have won awards for their writing in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, a long-running initiative for creative teens where the vision, ingenuity, and talent of our nation's youth is recognized. Many Warren Middle School students entered essays, poems, and short stories. Congratulations to the following students: Spencer Acciarito, Jake Berlin, Anjali Blow, Susan Choy, Megan Gerges, Natalie Helewa, Stelio Kanaras, Raina Kansagra, Dana LaCapra, Juliet Leary, Annabel Liao, Cathleen Luo, Aayushma Patel, Daniel Snyder, Alex Strasser, Neelay Trivedi, and Brenna Van Skiver. Additionally, regional gold medal winners Nya Venson, Megan Vetter, and Sofia Kwon, have been entered into the national competition.



Congratulations to Zoe Wang, a 5th grader at ALT School. She came in 1st place in the 12th Annual Spelling Bee sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Somerset Hills. Thirty-four 4th and 5th grade students competed from Bedminster, Basking Ridge, Bernardsville and Warren Township. Zoe will go on to compete in the Highlands District Bee in Sparta, NJ. We applaud her knowledge, poise, and spirit during the competition.

Woodland School Service Club members made Valentine's Day cards for children in homeless shelters in Morris County and collected shampoo, band aids, toothpaste and toothbrushes for a campaign run by DoSomething.org. Central School staff members are also uniting for service via "Warriors for W.I.C." to support NJ Women, Infants and Children Services. They are collecting items for mothers in need such as blankets, diapers, baby wipes and more.

Do you hear the flutter of pages turning? The Warren Township *Battle of the Books* is highly anticipated every year. Between 40-60 5th graders, at each school, are involved in this reading event which includes a new list of 15 captivating titles. Teams have been created and students have selected their top book choices. The battles will be held in May or June, depending on the school schedules. ALT and Woodland will also host teacher battles. Special thanks to our dedicated Library Media Specialists who are organizing the events and who continue to nurture a love of reading: Susan Jackson, Lindsay Chell, Christine Burkhardt, and Kate Zaleski.



ExploraVision is a science competition that goes beyond the typical, and into what it takes to bring ideas to reality. Two 8th graders, Prateek Humane and Neelay Trivedi, worked for months in school and at home, to submit a special project to the ExploraVision contest. They devised a research idea called Graphene-Based Revitalization of the Motor-Cortex for Cerebral Palsy (GSRM). Special thanks to Sue Cooper for sponsoring the duo!

Two Woodland staff members, Harriet Stambaugh and Nick Bayachek, were awarded a \$300 grant from Overlook Community Health as part of the Atlantic Healthy Schools program. The monies were offered to enhance healthy eating and/or active living. Working together, our Nurse and PE teacher decided to purchase student pedometers. Students have begun to track their movement and clearly understand how exercise has a direct and positive impact on the body and overall health. Fifth graders at Woodland School are certainly taking a step in the right direction!



Students of the Month for January 2015



Warren Middle School recognizes students who demonstrate positive character traits on a consistent basis. In addition to the six pillars of character, recipients of this honor are supportive, resilient, encouraging and have shown growth as individuals.

Front row L to R: Kaitlyn Linton, Arian Alam, and Brian Arnold. Back row L to R: Kristen Hamilton, Emily Imiolek, Zachary Martini, Juliet Leary, and Jake Dario.

Central School was involved with a reading initiative through Heifer International called *Read to Feed*. It ran from October through December. The students exceeded their fundraising efforts and collected over \$4,250. The organization's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty by linking communities with sustainable agriculture. Across the grade levels, the following were donated: 2 heifers, 1 goat, 2 water buffalos, 10 trios of rabbits, 3 pigs, 7 flocks of ducks, 7 flocks of chicks, and 7 llamas, as well as fish and honeybees. The students were especially proud of collectively raising funds to send a child to school, which is one of the categories within the *Read to Feed* program.



February 6th was National Wear Red Day and Warren Township Schools supported the American Heart Association's *Go Red for Women* campaign. Many staff members showed their support wholeHEARTedly! Thanks to our hard-working school nurses, Jan Brennan, Alexis Sacks, Doris Zanchelli, Harriet Stambaugh, and Lisa Lontai, our staff was provided with educational information on healthy hearts. At some

schools, pins and wristband fundraising opportunities were organized for staff, and a generous sum was collected and donated to the American Heart Association. At other schools, nurses shared chocolates, offered blood pressure screenings, and encouraged staff to "know their numbers" and view their heart health as a top priority.



The ALT PTO recently organized their second of three fruit and vegetable tastings for the year. As part of a campaign that Nurse Jan Brennan began two years ago, these events reinforce the importance of eating five fruits and vegetables daily. In fact, many students love it more than ice cream day! Everyone is able to sample fresh produce, such as yellow and red peppers, cherry tomatoes, blackberries, melons, and kiwi. This special lunch treat is enjoyed by all.

Mt. Horeb School Science Fair
March 27th at 6:00pm



ALT School Science Fair
April 30th at 6:30pm



Warren Middle School Peer Leaders visited ALT and Woodland. Promoting the concept of teamwork, the middle school students worked with kindergartners in the classes of Karen Marino, Barbara Pellicano, Amy Jordan-Eitelberg and Susan Leonard. Together they created snowmen, discussed various character traits, and acted out a story where four friends learn to work as a team. From PreK to 8th grade, Warren Township students shine!

Seventeen 7th and 8th grade E2 students collaborated this winter to write a mock trial for the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's Law Adventure Contest. Their mock trial submission is called "The Case of the Candy Con Non-Convict". It addresses 4th Amendment rights, reasonable force, mistaken identity, Amber Alerts and thermal imaging as a means of search and seizure. We wish them luck and expect the results in April.



ALT 5th graders were involved in a Space unit, developed by Mary Lynch. They explored the International Space Station and the Moon, learning about the various Apollo programs. The unit culminated with a creative planet project, including poems, books, and Google presentations. The PTO also sponsored a visit from The Franklin Institute.

Ceramics Club is just one of twenty clubs offered at Warren Middle School. Students are exploring and creating many different types of sculptures and pottery. Students choose what they wish to make based upon a variety of demonstrations. They are learning about hand modeling techniques and are creating works that incorporate slabs, coils and spheres. At the end, their pieces will be fired and glazed.



Rebecca Davenport's 4th grade Art Club was a great opportunity at Central School. Students explored a wide variety of art media and styles of art. Students created a fall pumpkin landscape, an abstract positive and negative space artwork, a hanging clay slab using the additive process and various textures, a cherry blossom painting, a still life of cacti, glass fusing and slumping to create bowls, and a chalk pastel monster using shading and blending techniques. These budding artists worked very hard and put great effort into their projects.



Woodland students love science, especially their unit on rocks and minerals. As a culmination activity, the PTO funded a presentation from the Dinosaur Rock group. The children expanded upon their knowledge, and enjoyed the hands-on excavation/mining activity; they were even able to crack open their own geode! Grade 3 students in the classes of Amanda McGrath and Lisa Meyer are currently learning about mixtures and chemical reactions as part of their Chemical Testing unit.

Guidance Counselor Trish Morris and Principal Milita conducted a classroom lesson on promoting kindness from the book Each Kindness. The story focused on paying it forward... with kindness. The story inspired Felicity Hentschel to create original artwork. This is one of many encouraging examples at Central School, where students shine brighter in their words and in their actions.



Principal Bond asked ALT students to submit designs for the Friendship Bench in their recess area. Many participated and both students and staff were able to vote. Congratulations to Janice Zhang, from Anabela Ordner's 4th grade class, whose design was selected. We look forward to seeing her creation painted on the bench, by volunteer parent artist, Heather Silver.

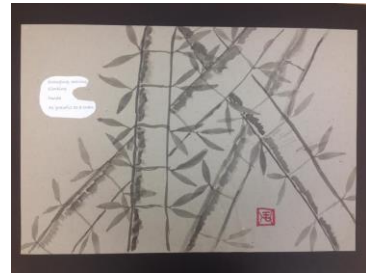
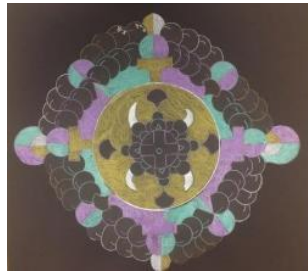
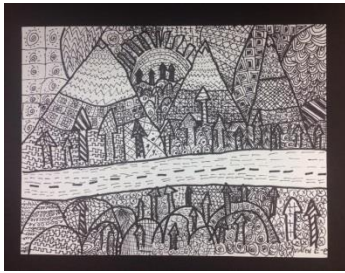
Central School's 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders will be working together to create a large bottle cap mosaic to be displayed outside of the school. This collaborative art project is still in the beginning stages; students have sorted the caps by color and will next paint the background of the board to then attach the caps. This is an exciting project that will enhance the school, and the students are ecstatic to be a part of a group endeavor. Central School's PTO "Live it, Learn it" initiative is generously funding this artistic project.



Mt. Horeb Preschool has set up a post office center. Students practice greetings, taking turns, and making eye contact with their friends. Throughout the month they have enjoyed getting and receiving mail, especially Valentines.

The 23rd Annual Children's Environmental Art Exhibit, "Nature Through a Child's Eyes Art Exhibit" showcased over 300 pieces of artwork from throughout Somerset County. Some of those talented artists hailed from Warren Township Schools. We congratulate the following: Megan D'Amato, Evan May, Katarina Schroeder, Kailyn Edmonds, Brayden Kelly, Olivia Murillo, Nikhil Reddy, Kyle Son, Megan Carmody, Alex Huang, Arti Ulaj, Zoe Arakelian, Lauren Kim, and Brandon Lombardo. Additionally, the Somerset County Youth Art Month display will be held at the Center for Contemporary Art from March 2nd-8th. The following students were selected to have their artwork on display: Sara Doucette, Lucia Spadoto, Sari Berman, Shaan Dave, Catherine Ryder, Alyssa Tam, Maddie Archbold, Andrew Conway, Ishanth Srinivas, Lily Colman, Alice Liu, Nick Miller, Erin Son, and Johannes Wellerding.





Special thanks to ALT's Guidance Counselor, Kelly Blessing-Maire. Check out what she shared, about how to "Be Your B.E.S.T", by visiting our website at www.warrentboe.org.



"The work of our students and staff is exemplary. It is a pleasure to work and learn with the members of our school community as they strive to "shine brighter every day."

~ Dr. Tami Crader, Superintendent

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Check out our Warren Township Schools' Blog at <http://www.warrentboe.org/news/>

Staff Spotlights...

Meet staff who, in addition to educators, play an important role in students' education.

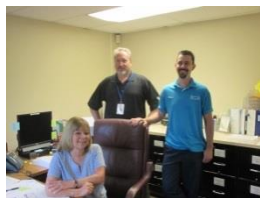
The Warren Township IT Team consists of four hard-working individuals. Lance Riegler has worked for the district for 18 years and is the IT Director. He likes keeping staff and students on the cutting edge of technology. Riegler said, "Our work is for the staff and students. We strive to provide great service and new technologies for educational minds." Ken Creedon has been our Network Specialist for many of his 16 years. "What I like most are the great people I work with, and being part of bringing technology into the classrooms for the students. It is exciting to see all that is going on, from the teachers using Smartboards for instruction, to the students using their Chromebooks, and everything in between," said Creedon.



Our Computer Technicians are Patrick MacNamara, hired in 2005, and Tim Ely, hired in 2013. They both continuously express how much they enjoy helping the staff and administration as well. "Each day poses new and different challenges to keep me on my toes, learning and growing," said MacNamara. "There is a great satisfaction in making sure everything is working properly," said Ely. "When I do my job, others can do theirs with more ease."

The Tech Team resolves the majority of technical issues throughout the district, handling networking, servers, printers, and desktop problems. They were instrumental with the 1:1 Chromebook initiative, which began in 2013 and will result in all 5th through 8th graders having their own Chromebooks in 2016. The team had to configure, label, inventory and distribute the Chromebooks to all five buildings. They also manage the WiFi network for both students and staff, and have made it efficient by installing Meru access points.

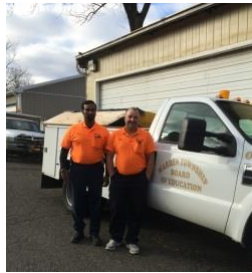
Tyler Tribelhorn is our Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds and a Certified Educational Facilities Manager. He has worked for Warren Township Schools since 1992. He manages maintenance



and custodial staff, under the direction of the Business Administrator. Mr. Tribelhorn concentrates on the health and comfort of our students and the safety of the educational environment. He also focuses on energy and cost savings. Mr. Tribelhorn oversees the management of construction projects and jobs performed by outside vendors. Kevin Potter has worked for the Buildings & Grounds Department for 18 years. He schedules maintenance tasks and orders supplies. He and his colleagues have a variety of roles which include painting, electrical, plumbing, construction and snowplowing. Mr. Potter also operates and repairs the district's HVAC system. Working to support both Buildings & Grounds and Transportation, for 21 years, is Diane Bonanno. She prepares purchase orders, as well as bid packages. She organizes work orders submitted by district staff. Ms. Bonanno coordinates coverage for custodians and is instrumental in setting up training for staff. Each spring she processes paperwork for summer employees, who work diligently to prepare all of the buildings for the next school year.

Mrs. Ginny Lakatos is a Secretary in the main office of Warren Middle School. She was hired in 1991 and knows the requirements and responsibilities of the job inside and out! She maintains the facility usage calendar for the middle school, handles the ordering and tracking of all school supplies, and is involved with much of the preparation and detail work for graduation every year. She not only serves administrators, but she assists the staff as well. Mrs. Lakatos also has a

critical summer role, helping to welcome and enroll new students. Mrs. Suzanne Lathrop joined the main office as a 10-month Secretary at Warren Middle School in September 2014, though she has worked for the district in other capacities since 2007. Mrs. Lathrop is in charge of all attendance for the staff and deals with the substitutes at the middle school on a daily basis as well. Mrs. Lathrop interacts with students, parents, and teachers, fielding their questions, solving problems, and assisting with specific needs as they arise. Mrs. Lathrop also helps with the athletics programs and events, acting as a liaison for referees and parents.



Chris Bacia, Calvin James, and Fred Quinlan are part of our Skilled Maintenance Team, who work for the Buildings & Grounds Department. Chris was hired in 2003 and is responsible for Angelo L. Tomaso School and Mt. Horeb School. Fred joined the team in 2001 and he is primary maintenance for Central School and Woodland School. Calvin was hired in 2008 and he focuses on Warren Middle School, Buildings & Grounds, and the Board of Education Administrative Offices. These men are equipped to handle calls related to electrical, plumbing, and heating issues; they work hard to maintain the best educational environment for our staff and our students. If the need arises, they cover for custodial team members as well. In the winter months, they are the heroes of snow removal, working carefully to clear parking lots, and sidewalks.

Hired in 1988, Genny Trenson is the Main Office Secretary at Mt. Horeb School. She does so much for everyone in the building! Mrs. Trenson greets students, staff and parents with her warm, welcoming smile. She updates PowerSchool, emails report cards, and registers new Kindergartners as well as all new families. She also helps to secure substitutes and maintains confidential files. "I say with confidence, that Mrs. Trenson can answer every question asked, and I am impressed with how she knows every student's name," said Principal Cook. Keeping order, not only in the organized Main Office, but throughout the building, is important to her.



Michael Perona is a valued employee who has worked for the Maintenance and Transportation Departments since 1993. He began as a night custodian and then transitioned to groundskeeper and then to the warehouse within the Maintenance Department. He is responsible for all inventory, shipped and received, as well as deliveries made to the schools and Board Office. He fills in as a substitute bus driver when needed. Jan Donlay and Tyler Tribelhorn, both of his bosses, report that he is always ready to help, in any capacity the job takes him. Also working for Tyler Tribelhorn is Michael Gonnella, who has been the groundskeeper since 2006. A professional landscaper by trade, he does more than the average person in this position. He is a big asset who saves the district money. When not riding a mower, he is often on the backhoe working on grading and drainage to improve and maintain our grounds. He is a proud member of the Mt. Bethel Fire Dept. too.



Warren Middle School has a hard-working custodial staff. Martin Fonseca is the head day custodian who works with the dynamic duo of Estelle Raucci and Ralph Circelli during the school day. Chris Grundman is the head night custodian who works with the strong group of Lou Marciscano, Paul Muldowney, and Noy Manteria during the evening shift. The entire custodial team takes pride in doing whatever it takes to make the middle school

clean and safe. Their responsibilities include securing doors and windows, cleaning classrooms and common areas, fixing and moving furniture, and maintaining the sidewalks and driveways. With the recent snow and ice, they were busy shoveling and spreading salt to make sure students and staff could enter the building without any concerns. Although their work is often behind the scenes, their contributions to Warren Middle School are significant. The custodial staff at WMS truly makes the middle school shine!



Warren Township Schools is fortunate to have an array of talented individuals working as Paraprofessionals throughout the five schools in our district. Multi-duty Paraprofessionals are involved with classroom needs such as copying resource materials, organizing learning centers, and assisting with book rooms and classroom libraries. They often work in the main offices to support the building Principal and secretarial staff. Multi-duty Paraprofessionals escort students to the nurse, monitor lunch and recess, and help during safety drills. Classroom and 1:1 Paraprofessionals support students in both general education and special education classrooms. These men and women collaborate with the teachers, often helping to prepare materials. They reinforce specific learning objectives and skills, and encourage students through redirection and prompting. Paraprofessionals are beneficial in implementing structured behavioral plans and help with social interactions, organizational tasks, and communication, depending on individual student needs. Classroom and 1:1 Paraprofessionals are also present during lunch and recess; they are always a friendly face and a champion for children. Students in Warren Township are individuals and their needs are met through specific programmatic strategies. Our Paraprofessionals are in place to help students access their education. Although some of their work is behind the scenes, the importance of all Paraprofessionals is obvious. They are a critical addition to creating a positive classroom atmosphere and school climate. Dedicated, enthusiastic, and problem solvers, our Paraprofessionals are instrumental to the successful learning environments created in each and every school.

