

# Pride in Our Schools

April 2014

We are very proud of our students and staff.

Grace Martin, a student in Gina Cocivera-Wright's class, fused her passion for origami and her love for animals into making gifts for people. She decided to send one to President Obama, making him an origami perched owl. To Grace's surprise, she received an envelope from The White House which contained a thank you letter, pictures, and a message encouraging her to stay focused on education, so there will be no limits to her achievements. Grace proudly shared her experience over the ALT morning announcements.



The Woodland School PTO's "Dream It Fund It" program allowed the Kindergarten classes of Mrs. Beekman, Mrs. Jordan-Eitelberg, and Mrs. Leonard to attend a presentation by Jenkinson's Aquarium. The outreach program was about invertebrates. They learned the differences between invertebrates such as sea stars, and vertebrates such as humans. The classes enjoyed touching a sea star, a sea urchin and a horseshoe crab.

Carnaval de Ponce was celebrated with a parade filled with masked "vejigantes" and rhythm instruments at Central School. World Language teacher Hildy Jackson used the book Vejigante Masquerader by Lulu Delacre to introduce students to the celebration of Carnaval. Students compared and contrasted photos of masks from Puerto Rico, paper mache and coconut husks, as well as the different carnivals each is used in. The masks that students made were modeled after the ones from the Ponce Carnival. Mount Horeb School 3<sup>rd</sup> graders learned about how the Dominican Republic celebrates Carnaval and made Diablos Cojuelos (aka Belled Devils). The students looked at Señora Michele Stora de Cruz's pictures and videos, and heard stories of her actual experiences at the celebration. They also saw miniatures of the real masks and costumes that are traditionally worn during the celebration. Children made their own masks and had a parade around the school with bells and merengue music, and afterwards enjoyed a latino treat of dulce de leche and guava juice.



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



6th grade - Kaitlin Chin and Rahul Lal,

7th grade - Catherine Ray and John Kolibachuk

8th grade – Emery Jochnau and Clayton Bush

Unified Arts – Clara Citarella and Stephanie Rodrigues

Gold was the new Green at Woodland on March 17<sup>th</sup>! Gold Strings members organized and performed a St. Patrick's Day themed concert for students. The ensemble, led by Timothy Leonard, played such classics as "Irish Dance Tune" and "Catch that Leprechaun" with a real leprechaun conductor. Congratulations and thank you to Woodland's Gold Strings for making beautiful music.

Angelo L. Tomaso School participated once again in the NJ National Archery in the Schools Program, and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row won the state championship. Melissa Woerner, coordinator of the program and the head state biologist with the Department of Environmental Protection, awarded the school with the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy. PE teacher Doug Clark could not have been more proud. ALT has qualified to compete at the national tournament in Kentucky on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Last year the tournament had 10,000 participants from around the country and the world championships hosted 27 countries. ALT students also hold the top six spots for elementary girls in the state and the top ten spots for elementary boys in the state. We wish them much luck in Kentucky!



**ALT Archery Team and Rankings:** Jon deMontagnac, Josh Claxton (7), Luke Marion (8), Vincent Frejomil, Joey Pascale (2), Ryan Ward (4), Todd Sheitleman (7), Sean Cleary (1), Aakash Rathee (9), Evan Pravato, Justin Drews (10), Brian Hopwood, Genevive Rust (5), Jake Sempervive, Julia Neuwirth (1), Kayla Horvaht (3), Ronit Shahane, Amelia Randolph (6), Chanyoung Chi (8), Faith Carlson (4), Ansh Patel (6), Haris Shareef (2), Max Conforti (5), Luca Cianfano (3), and Barry Crocco.

Thanks to Dr. Crader, Principal Bond, Principal Comba and Nick Bayachek, twelve middle school students were also able to participate. **WMS Archery Team:** Roopa Irakam, Deepa Irakam, Adam Claxton, Jack Valenti, Jack Haiken, Andrew Haiken, Ruitao Chen, Kendal Terchek, Elizabeth Wilcenski, Alyssa Dubas, Calista Fenton, and Rebecca Fenton. With minimal practice time, the middle school team was able to place 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state. The middle school division state rankings are as follows: Calista Fenton ranked Girls 10<sup>th</sup>; Ruitao Chen ranked Boys 2<sup>nd</sup>; Jack Haiken ranked Boys 6<sup>th</sup>; Andrew Haiken ranked Boys 8<sup>th</sup>.



On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Central School participated in White Out Day in partnership with the Watchung Hills Regional High School. White Out Day encouraged students to unite against bullying with the theme of "Stand Up, Speak Up, Stop Hate." Students wore white and received stickers to show their support against bullying and intolerance.

Likewise, Warren Middle School held its first annual White Out Day a week later, where the student body pledged to white out bullying. To show their spirit, they united by wearing white, sported themed bracelets, and participated in numerous activities to promote "stopping hate". The event was run by 8<sup>th</sup> grade peer leaders and funding of the event was made possible by a grant from the Warren Lions Club. White Out Day was part of the WMS character education program.





The 2014 State Youth Art Month reception was held last month at the Statehouse in Trenton. Over 100 pieces of NJ student artwork were on display from every county in the state! Both Becky Davenport (Central School's Art teacher) and Ruthie Gu (award recipient) were able to attend. Additionally, Ruthie won a Gold Award at the 2014 Golden Key Music Festival piano competition enabling her to perform at Carnegie Hall on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations Ruthie! *Check out her artwork on the warrentboe.org Facebook page.*

ATOMS (Academic Tournament of Middle School) is a 7-week quiz bowl event where teams from around the state compete in an academic tournament of challenging rounds. The tournament started with 26 teams and ended with two 7/8 WMS teams both winning their semi-final rounds. This was the first time in Warren Middle School history where Warren teams went head to head in the final round! During the championship round of ATOMS, the two WMS teams competed on the middle school stage in front of an audience of peers and staff. After three intense rounds of 75 questions in total, WMS Team B was named the 2014 ATOMS Champions. The two WMS teams finished both first and second place in the overall tournament and won \$1100.00 in prize money. Students are considering using the prize money to help defer the registration costs of the National Academic Tournament which will be held in Washington, D.C. in late May. There, they can compete against top schools in the nation. A special thank you is extended to the following parents for their time and support: Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Peng, and Mrs. Trivedi. Hats off to the myriad of educators who provide the most outstanding educational experiences for WTS students. Students are shining brighter because of their support, and the quality education they deliver.

#### Warren Team A

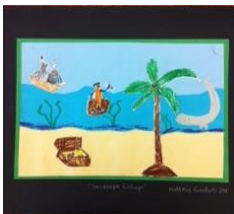
Michael Duncan, Brenda Peng, Chris Yu, Jason Ye, Linda Ye, Brandon Tang

#### Warren Team B

Jarett Schwartz, Carl Peterson, Rachel Lu, Lindsay Shi, Calvin Li, Neelay Trivedi

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Woodland School were recently involved in a service outreach project benefiting the Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children. Students donated a wide variety of personal care items, which were then organized and packaged in a warm pair of new socks and labeled "Packed with love by Woodland School." Sixty of these care packages were donated to help meet the physical and emotional needs of local adolescents and teens in our county. Thank you to Colleen Krumm, Brian Kilroy, Margee Pfeifer and Tiffany Serafin for celebrating kindness, and encouraging the spirit of service within Warren students.

Check out the ALT artwork display at the Warren Library throughout the month of April!





The following members of the Warren Police Department are D.A.R.E. instructors in Warren for the 2013-2014 school year: Officer Rob Dinsmore (ALT School), Officer Patrick Bennett (Mt. Horeb School), Officer Joe Grasso (Woodland School) and picture here, Detective Kevin Gallagher (Central School). *To read more about the D.A.R.E. mission, vision, and curriculum, check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website.*



For the fourth consecutive year, Woodland School students embarked on a journey of exploration utilizing the scientific method. After performing various investigations centered around the Measuring Time unit, students spread their wings by pursuing topics of interest that began with a “purpose” question and “hypothesis” statement. Some favorite topics were diaper absorbency, chocolate melting, density of liquids, and plant growth using colored lights. The students collected and analyzed data to draw conclusions. The Woodland gym was then transformed into a room filled with excitement and inspiration when the parents and younger students visited the exhibits. Three cheers to the future scientists of America!



Mt. Horeb School 5<sup>th</sup> graders have taken writing to a new level with technology, under the guidance of Computer teacher Jola Scassera. Fifth grade students completed a progressive story project utilizing Google Docs and Drive. The project allowed for collaboration amongst six team members. Students took ownership of not only story content and graphics, but also revision, proofreading and conferencing online. By allowing students to comment and work in real time, stories were constantly evolving. Fourth grade students learned how to make interactive stories using Google Forms. By giving readers the option to pick their path in the story, the readers were exposed to digital entertainment that they helped control. The ability to link URLs for graphics further enhanced the experience. The students especially enjoyed adding graphics that included motion. Third graders were busy collaborating and creating simple mechanical toys using linkage systems in Innovation & Design. By understanding these technological systems, students were able to design a moving system of rods and other rigid materials that are connected by joints or pivots. Proud second graders became published online authors, developing stories using Storybird. Starting with a picture, students were able to create stories using beautiful, school appropriate illustrations. The illustrations helped spark their imagination and their writing soared! Congratulations to our kindergartners and first graders. They have all earned certificates and badges from Clicky. Clicky is an animated character that teaches UYN, “Use Your NetSmartz”, to help students be safe online. Be sure to check out [www.netsmartzkids.org](http://www.netsmartzkids.org) for more interactive fun.



The final Continental Math League meet took place last month. Over 100 Warren Middle School students participated in this stimulating mathematics event of five meets that started in November. Congratulations to all participants who took on this mathematical challenge. Special recognition goes out to eighth graders, Rachel Lu and Christopher Yu and seventh graders, Alan Lin and Neelay Trivedi for scoring perfect “6’s” on all five meets. These students were honored with a national medal.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade quiz bowl team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in New Jersey and 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States on the Thinking Cap quiz bowl, a 100-question, computerized challenge. The team, made up of eleven 6<sup>th</sup> graders, scored in the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile and defeated 24 teams from the nation. Impressive!

Kelly Blessing-Maire, Guidance Counselor at Angelo L. Tomaso School, invited The Arc of Middlesex County to return to Warren Township to present the S.E.E.D.S. (Student Education and Experience Disability Sensitivity) program to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, as part of ALT's Character Education program. Students learned important information and had hands-on experiences at five stations representing different disabilities. While the students experienced the disabilities for about 20 minutes in all, the critical message was absorbed quite quickly; be patient, tolerant, and kind to others. *Check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website under SEEDS for Change to read more.*



Mt. Horeb School held its International Day, representing 14 countries. Classrooms were decorated and students had a passport to “travel around the world”. There were many displays showcasing each country's flags, art, sports, music, crafts and currency. Werner Goebel entertained the children during lunchtime with festive German music including cowbells. Students gathered in the afternoon for an assembly presented by the Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre. What an experience for all to learn about various countries, customs and culture!



Principal Cook shared that he is ready to attempt flamenco dance.

Music directors voted Mark Weber as the recipient of this year's service award for his dedication and service to the MUJC Music Festival. Mark Weber is in his ninth year of teaching music, the majority of those in Warren Township. Weber holds degrees in music theory, composition, and jazz studies. He worked as a performer and composer for years, receiving commissions and winning prizes including a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Composition. Weber entered K-12 teaching after years of writing music for student ensembles and teaching music workshops for young people. Weber has conducted the Morris Union Jointure Commission's 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus four times, writing an original work for each performance. What an accomplishment Mr. Weber!

Staff members participate in an array of Pride in Public Education activities throughout the school year. Each of the five Warren schools participated in Read Across America Day events last month to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Librarians and teachers across the district shared a \$1,400 grant to support literacy activities. Each school celebrated this day in unique and exciting ways and utilized



the funds by purchasing books, prizes, and refreshments. *Check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website to read more about Read Across America Day.* The next Pride in Public Education project sponsored by the Warren Township Education Association will be Warren Middle School's annual Walk-a-Thon, scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The ALT "Zip Code to Health" campaign is under way! It encourages 9 hours of sleep, 5 fruits and vegetables, less than 2 hours of screen time, 1 hour of exercise and 0 sugary drinks each day. The ALT PTO even hosted a fruit and vegetable tasting to promote healthy habits. How fortunate the district is to have the care and compassion of Nurse Brennan.



Warren Middle School students transported the audience with their theatrical production of Disney's Peter Pan Jr!, a timeless adventure to Never Land which showcased amazing talent in the performing arts. The show began with Wendy Darling sharing her love of storytelling with her brothers, Michael and John. However, when her father declared that she must move out of the nursery, Peter Pan and his pixie children and whisked them away. Lost Boys, beautiful Mermaids, Captain Hook, with his sidekick



The stage and sound crew was support and guidance, backstage sound and props. Van Tine has been process over the years, with equipment, curtains, flooring, lights, Peter Pan Jr! was Susan Sage. She whimsical sets. Just as eye catching as the sets was the choreography by Jennifer Zimmerman. Director Diane McCloskey, Assistant Director Amy Jensen, and Production Manager Bev MacGorman worked tirelessly despite the weather setbacks to make the show a huge success! It will be hard to wait a whole year for the next WMS musical! *Check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website under Peter Pan Jr!, to read more.*

Dan Ticchio, Science teacher at Warren Middle School, brought the rainforest into the classroom through the Rainforest Connection. Along with his colleague Kelly Brown, arrangements were made for a video conference to take place so that their students could experience learning beyond books and lecture. In line with many of the Core Curriculum Content Standards and in preparation for this event, students studied animal adaptations and how that connects to natural selection. Ticchio provided hands-on lab activities and simulations as well.



Dr. Jacalyn Willis has been researching on Barro Colorado Island which cuts across the isthmus in the middle of Panama. Her goal was to speak about monkeys specific to the region and the importance and implications of adaptation. The four types of monkeys she addressed were the following: Spider monkeys, White-faced monkeys, howlers, and tamarins. As Willis highlighted each species of monkey, students were actively engaged and eager to discuss adaptations, for example the importance of the tail for balance, long fingers to grip, colors to camouflage, and how monkey size and tree variety impact their survival. Students appreciated how they were talking with someone in real time from Panama. Through this opportunity, students learned about adaptations, natural selection, endangered species, flora and fauna, stereoscopic vision, and more!



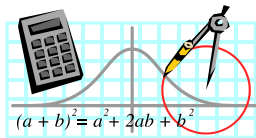
Special thanks to Dot Stradford, who handled the camera and production for the video conference from Panama, and to Patrick MacNamara who is a talented member of the Tech Support Team supporting the district.



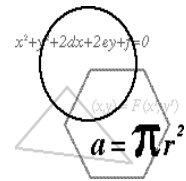
Angelo L. Tomaso School was incredibly fortunate to welcome Dan Gutman for Visiting Author's Day. An author of over 100 children's books, Gutman talked about his life as an author and shared his stories with the children throughout the day. Library Media Specialist Susan Jackson organized the event thanks to sponsorship by the ALT PTO. With titles such as The Kid Who Ran for President and the My Weird School series, it is easy to see how his books fly off the shelves!



On a special night reserved for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, Central School students performed a shining showcase concert of choral music highlighted by individual and group performances. Seventy five students sang chorally and 45 individual students performed solos or small group numbers of singing, dancing, comedy, poetry recitation and instrumental numbers. Thanks to Jenny Kaniuka for organizing the event and leading the six featured choral numbers. The evening was met with thunderous applause from parents and audience members!



The Association of Mathematics Teachers in New Jersey sponsored the Second Annual AMTNJ Middle School Math Contest. This problem-solving contest consisted of 18 challenging questions to be completed in two-25 minute sections. The results of this 20-team event recently revealed that Warren Middle School placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in New Jersey! Top scorers were Rachel Lu, Christopher Yu, Alan Lin, Brandon Tang and Linda Ye, respectively. Rachel Lu placed third overall in the contest of 100 students.



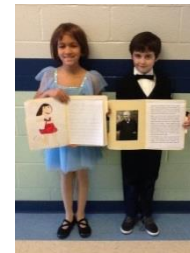
Numerous 5<sup>th</sup> grade math compacting students at Woodland School have been incorporating music into their mathematics lessons. The students have been studying fractions and using that knowledge to write original songs. They began by randomly picking cards with various fractions on them that represented the duration of the notes and other cards with letters on them representing the pitch of the notes. Their mission was to choose a time signature for their song, create notes combining a certain pitch with a certain duration, and write a song ten measures long. In order to correctly complete the measures, the students had to piece together the notes like a puzzle. They are currently working on their final challenge, to practice the song and perform it on an instrument of their choice! The fourth grade math compacting students are learning about mathematicians. They investigated the life and studies of Pythagoras, including his famous theorem to find the hypotenuse of a right triangle. They are now involved in testing the theory of Phidias, preeminent Greek sculptor, who found a “golden proportion” for the human form in sculpture. Did you know that, according to Phidias, the perfect human body was 7 ½ heads tall?



In her 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts class, Gina Banks had her students pilot a Newbery Award mystery called When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead. Mystery, science and time travel were incorporated into this thrilling novel about a protagonist named Miranda who was receiving mysterious

notes and clues. Miranda needed to figure out who was sending the notes, what the information meant, who needed to be saved, and how this note writer knew so much information about her. The major element of time travel presented some confusion in following the lives of the main characters because some characters were living in the present, while others were coming from the future. Cynthia Cassidy, Warren Middle School's Library Media Specialist, helped the class gain clarity through a hands-on approach. Students were placed in different groups, focusing on one of the three characters, Miranda, Marcus or the Laughing Man. Once the groups collaborated on their events, they placed color-coded descriptions on large poster paper. Almost immediately, three simultaneous timelines were arranged making it possible for students to view all events and grasp the scope of time, making comments and asking questions possible. Banks, Cassidy and the students enjoyed dissecting this detailed and challenging text. Old questions were answered while new questions emerged, but the learning experience was one that the children can now apply to other scenarios.

Central School's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, from the classes of Jackie Buckley, Amanda Gordon, and Laura Rodaman, participated in Biography Day. Mini lessons were aligned with CCCS teaching students how to write a report with non-fiction text. The students applied note-taking skills, utilized graphic organizers, published original work and honed their public speaking skills. Can you... guess who?



Woodland School has been spreading kindness via the Peanut Butter and Jam Slam service project. The Service Club collected peanut butter, jelly and jam for homeless shelters through a program run in alliance with [www.DoSomething.org](http://www.DoSomething.org). This is the same organization the district participated with for the Teens for Jeans collection, which resulted in over 265 pairs of jeans being donated to Aeropostale and then given to local homeless shelters. As that program spread across the USA, over one million jeans were donated in all. The PB&J Slam was quite a success as well. Thanks to the Warren community for its donations. Generosity and kindness do a world of good!



"The students and staff of the Warren Township School District continue to amaze and inspire us all." ~ Dr. Tami Crader, Superintendent

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*Warren Township Schools... Shining Brighter Every Day*