

Pride in Our Schools

February 2014

We are very proud of our students and staff.

Over the span of two weeks in January, a group of turnkey trainers held presentations focusing on 21st century learning at each of the five school buildings. Under the direction of Sondra Markman, and with the organizational assistance of Stacey Hann-Modugno, the following teachers explained the components of 21st century learning scenarios to numerous Warren parents. Thank you to Lynn Degen, Katie DiDia, Shannon O'Shea, Michele Stora de Cruz and Myranda Shimko for their time and effort. Check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website under *21st Century Learning Scenarios* to read more!

Mark your calendars! The Fifth Annual Mount Horeb Science Fair will take place on April 4th from 6:00-7:30PM. This enrichment opportunity is available for students in grades three through five. Students will choose a specific scientific topic to study, create an experiment with measurable results, and maintain a scientific journal. Teachers Wendy Piller, Andrew Ahimovic, Michelle Cebula, Michele Gaglioti, Kara Miletic and Jill Ziobro are adding their skills and knowledge to enhance this event. Over the years, participation continues to grow. Approximately seventy young scientists will take part this year!



The Warren Middle School Math Team took home the first place award at the 8th annual St. Joseph's High School math contest by defeating 24 teams. Twenty WMS students participated and the top three scorers are considered a "team". Brandon Tang placed 10th, Christopher Yu placed 2nd, and Rachel Lu placed first overall, which meant the WMS team of these three students won the top honor in a contest of about 200 students. The St. Joe's math contest consisted of 16 challenging problems to be completed in 30 minutes. The head of St. Joe's math department said, "Warren continually raises the bar." WMS students' success is an indicator that our math program is working! Kudos to Warren Township Schools' math teachers who continue to demonstrate the best instructional practices and who consistently produce such fine math students in New Jersey!



Congratulations to 5th grader James Keirstead for his success in placing first in Woodland School's National Geographic Geography Bee for the second consecutive year. Teachers MaryPat Brown and Brian Kilroy facilitated the event which is sponsored by National Geographic magazine.

ALT student Zoe Wang participated in the Eleventh Annual GFWC Junior Women's Club Spelling Bee! She won 1st place and will now advance to participate at the Regional Spelling Bee in February. Best of luck to Zoe!

Over the past few years the Elks Lodge has offered an essay contest. This year the topic was "What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me?". Lynn Spurrier from the Watchung Hills Elks Lodge congratulated the students mentioned below who won at the local level. Their essays have been forwarded to the central district level for further judging.

First Place: Christopher Gagliano (Central 5th)
Second Place: Emma Selvin (Central 5th)
Third Place: Camille Brady (Central 5th)

First Place: John Kolibachuk (Warren Middle 7th)
Second Place: Aayushma Patel (Warren Middle 7th)
Third Place: Brian Puccio (Warren Middle 8th)

Central School's 5th grade PALS conducted a food drive this winter and made holiday gift baskets for needy families in Warren. They collected gift cards, canned goods, and on the day of packing baskets, fresh fruit donations. Guidance Counselor Trish Morris and Principal Janet Milita assisted the PALS and delivered the baskets to the families directly.



Mount Horeb School hosted a parent information night last month to welcome new families, and share strategies that multilingual (both ELL and non-ELL) families can use in understanding the school's approach to their children. The presenters were three Mount Horeb educators, Paula Williams, Denise Kennedy and Michele Stora de Cruz, joined by two PTO members, Celeste Campos and Maryanne Dubois. Check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website and read more about this *Partners in Learning* event!

Kailar Ahn, 2nd grade ALT School student, won second place in the Crescendo Piano Competition and performed at Carnegie Hall the last weekend in January. Kailar worked very hard to accomplish this. Congratulations!



In the days leading up to the winter vacation, the elementary instrumental students brought the holidays to the schools through their yearly holiday performances. To rave reviews, the strings and band students performed in the hallways of each elementary school under the direction of Bruce Gant and Tim Leonard. What festive cheer it provided the students and faculty!

In addition to the NASP National Championship last year, the largest archery tournament in history, PE Teacher Doug Clark registered ALT students with the WSSA (World Sport Stacking Association) to participate in yet another exciting event! The stack up record was 483,000 and the WSSA wanted to break the 500,000 mark, with the most number of people cupstacking around the world in one day. ALT had 125 students throughout the day stacking during their PE class. The event was a success worldwide with well over 500,000 stackers verified with the Guinness Book of World Records!

Several Warren staff members have been invited to be presenters on March 13th and 14th at the New York/New Jersey Google in Education Summit being held at Kean University under the auspices of the School for Global Education and Innovation. Robert Comba and Scott Cook, Principals of Warren Middle School and Mt. Horeb School respectively along with Mary Ellen Roberts, District Technology Supervisor and Michelle Zgombic, WMS Tech Coach/ SS Teacher will present information and share lessons learned about the Chromebook rollout. In addition, Michelle Zgombic will present her experiences with using Google sites to create a “virtual classroom”.

Students at Central School were shining like stars in January when they presented their original Winter Wonderland! Alison Hales orchestrated a 21st century learning project with the help of Laurie Donovan, Allison Reu, Rebecca Davenport, Patsy Iannacone and Melissa Stoeckel. Using recycled products such as cardboard boxes, shredded paper and plastic bottles, students learned about sustainability while integrating math concepts, science concepts, and vocabulary. It was an amazing sight to see!



At ALT School, Susan Kline’s 4th grade REACH, TOO! students are learning about project management by researching and implementing a school service project. Students identified an issue important to them, how to improve indoor recess. After investigating different options, the students agreed upon a strategy and are now in the process of creating a budget and an implementation plan. Fifth grade REACH, TOO! students are conducting individual research where they are generating their own data and combining it with other primary and secondary sources of data. Students began with a question that piqued their curiosity... Can fish see colors? Do 5th graders get enough sleep? Who has faster reaction times, boys or girls? Students are designing experiments to discover the answers to these questions and will prepare their findings to share in the spring.

At Woodland School, PJ Jones’ 4th grade REACH, TOO! students began reinvigorating the recycling program by teaching students and teachers at every grade level how to properly recycle paper and plastic products. They created a plan, collected necessary resources (such as new bins for recycling), made signs to increase awareness, and designed tech-savvy presentations that were delivered to each grade level. Fifth grade REACH, TOO! students are investigating newspapers and history by creating historical newspapers. They are writing articles about events that occurred during the 1950's and 1970's. They are learning about everything from the responsibilities that newspapers have for relaying news to proper news article writing to creating political cartoons. Perhaps this project will develop into the creation of a school newspaper!

REACH teacher Jill Zimmer took 5th grade students to visit Warren Municipal Court. They watched official proceedings followed by Officer Roselli showing the students the dispatch room where emergency calls are handled, the holding cells, the fingerprinting process, and more. This excursion was part of her law unit.

We proudly welcome this month, Scott Cook (right) to Mount Horeb School as the new Principal and Max Achtau (left) to Warren Middle School as the new Dean of Students.



Second grade teacher Christine Rzasa, and her 1st and 2nd grade colleagues, contacted Jim Brown from Bricks 4Kidz of Hunterdon-Somerset. He met with all Woodland first and second grade students to build Lego structures related to the Science curriculum which also introduces engineering and architecture principles. The first grade made windmills in connection with their unit on weather. Second graders built butterflies to go along with their unit on the life cycle of the butterfly. Working in cooperative pairs, they had to follow a set of plans that detailed how to create each structure. Most exciting was that the plans included batteries so that if the structure was built correctly, it would move. Many thanks to the Woodland PTO for funding this experience!

The 5th grade students have been studying space and the planets in Science. The Franklin Institute came to do a hands-on program about Space funded by the ALT PTO through Dream It/We Fund It. Presenter Mr. Paul did different experiments with the children, including shooting off a rocket, gravity experiments, and having the students pretend to be astronauts. What a great learning opportunity!



The 3rd grade students at Woodland School learned about their family connections to the United States during their Social Studies unit on immigration. This event culminated in an Immigration Day where children delivered speeches. They shared what they learned and created, such as clothespin people, and books highlighting many details about their countries of origin.

Can yoga improve brain power? That is one of the goals of the Yo-girls program being held at Warren Middle School under the direction of Lisa Lontai R.N. In addition to traditional yoga poses and stretches, this group of girls explore the philosophy and way of life of yoga. Becoming more centered, grounded, and energetic are just a few of the benefits the girls have described since beginning the classes in September. Yoga helps your circulatory and lymphatic system as well as reducing blood pressure. It can even lower blood sugar and boost HDL (good) cholesterol. Take a few tips from the girls at WMS, and roll out a yoga mat!

The Watchung-Warren Rotary delivered dictionaries that were gifts for all third grade students in the district. When they delivered the dictionaries, representatives Linda Pregoner and Mark Spinelli discussed how the Rotary supports the community. All schools were visited by members of the Rotary and the students were impressed with their contributions, not only to the schools, but to the community at large.



Through the generosity of its PTO, Woodland School had the opportunity to experience the marvelous performer David Zucker. In his one-man show called Poetry in Motion, the power of poetry was shared through vocal and facial expression, gestures, humorous anecdotes, and student participation. Shel Silverstein, William Butler Yeats, Edgar All Poe, Jon Scieszka... Take a moment to read a poem with your child this winter!

Andrew Shi, 4th grade Central School student, participated in the Crescendo International Music Competition 2013. He won first place for his piano playing, and has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in early 2014!



ALT 5th grade Social Studies students have been learning about the first colonies that were developed in the United States. Students focused on formulating their own opinions about what might have happened to the Roanoke Colony. Multiple theories were concocted, and the students enjoyed creating their own scenarios while incorporating 21st century learning components. The "Lost Colony" was brought back to life!

Have you visited the Board of Education Office or the Warren Library recently? Thanks to Art teachers Donna Pellagrino and Jennifer Ronkiewicz there is more art to view throughout the town. ALT artwork is featured in the BOE conference room this month. Woodland artwork is showcased in the Children's section of the Warren Library. Be sure to visit soon!



The 22nd Annual Children's Environmental Art Exhibit, entitled "Nature Through a Child's Eyes" showcased eighteen Central School artists! One student was chosen from each class to have their artwork exhibited in the nature themed art exhibit. This art show will be showcasing over 300 pieces of art in total, all relating to nature, and done by children in Somerset County. The artwork was displayed at the Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Center in Basking Ridge.

Kindergarten: Morgan Martignetti, Sari Berman, and Yash Sachan First Grade: Grace Prayias and Benjamin Esposito Second Grade: Jaya Dave, Annie Dong, and Daniella Aguiar Third Grade: Kaylee Johnson, Julia Clemente, and Savannah Baldwin Fourth Grade: Rebecca Schell, Savannah Bellovin, and Julian Sanchez Fifth Grade: Alan Wang, Camille Brady, Thomas Johnson, and Gabrielle Ku

At Warren Middle School, aligned with Character Education, 6th graders experienced a powerful activity called Cross the Line. While standing in a line in the gym, students were presented with a series of statements including, "Step forward if you are a middle child.", "Step forward if you have ever been bullied." and "Step forward if you have ever been too afraid to stick up for someone being bullied." Voluntarily, students stepped forward if they felt comfortable responding. The end result with each was a powerful visual representation of just how similar people really are.

The third graders at Woodland School presented the musical "Music and Me" under the direction of Karen Sutherland. This musical by John Jacobson, Kirby Shaw and Alan Billingsley celebrates the "FUN"amentals of music. These adorable tunes explain the elements of melody, rhythm, harmony, form, tone and expression. This show enhanced the music curriculum and gave the students a chance to shine through singing, acting and movement!

The community of Warren is lucky to have beautiful artwork created by ALT students hung at the local Starbucks for all to admire. The artwork was created in the fall by students in Donna Pellagrino's art classes. She provided a sampling of artwork from various grade levels in four different mediums. In an effort to bring community and school together, the PTO sponsored framing and displaying the artwork and it will remain on display until the spring.

Happy Chinese New Year! 新年快乐! (Pronounced sh-ing ni-an ku-ai luh) It is the Year of the Horse 马. The 8th grade Mandarin Chinese classes created surveys in English and Chinese to gather information relating to Chinese New Year celebrations, food, traditions, etc. Working in groups, students will use various tools including Google Form and then will analyze their survey results and present their findings. Many elementary schools also recognized the day, including kindergarten students at ALT School who were invited to share special greetings with their classmates during morning announcements.



Over 60 students participated in the first Warren Middle School History Bee. Students were scored on the results of a 50 question exam. Then the group of the twelve top scorers listed below was narrowed to four who will go on to the next level of competition. Thank you to Susan Cooper who organized the History Bee and congratulations to the following history buffs:

Ruitao Chen
Alexandria Logan
Nathan Pinho
Neelay Trivedi

Ian Glass
Ian Martin
Jarett Schwartz
Arlind Ulaj

Michael Harrison
Brenda Peng
Daniel Shell
Eris Ulaj



JOIN US!

Woodland's Service Club, along with advisor Christina Beekman, has organized a Teens for Jeans collection in the Warren Township school district. **To aid the cause, drop off donated jeans (any size/toddler through adult) to any of the elementary school buildings, or the Board Office at 213 Mt. Horeb Road.** Jeans will be collected until February 12th! In conjunction with DoSomething.org, Aeropostale takes the collection of jeans and distributes them to area homeless shelters. Thank you for your support!



"I am always impressed, but never surprised, by the examples of how our students and staff Shine Brighter Every Day." ~Dr. Crader, Superintendent

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