

# Pride in Our Schools

## March 2014

We are very proud of our students and staff.



Students at Central School created Valentines for Veterans to send to the nearby VA Hospital in Lyons. Kindergarten children wrote messages thanking the veterans for serving our country and wished them a Happy Valentine's Day. Each was unique and beautifully created. What the classes of Rebecca DeMarco, Christina DeShields, and Andrea McGuire did made a difference in the lives of *many*, who already have made a difference in the lives of *all*.



The Warren Middle School math team took 6<sup>th</sup> place last month in the regional Math Counts Competition. Rachel Lu (8<sup>th</sup> grade) placed in the top 10 of the competition out of 130 students and Christopher Yu (8<sup>th</sup> grade) placed 15<sup>th</sup>. What an accomplishment for both mathematicians as they competed against teams from Princeton and were in the hardest regional division in the state. The WMS math team continues to bring home top honors in many challenging math competitions!

Warren appreciates its community partnerships. When the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at ALT School concluded their Electricity unit in Science, Cristina Ulloa invited PSE&G employees to give a presentation on electrical safety and to explain how electricity travels from PSE&G to our community. Two employees discussed their role in bringing electricity to homes and schools. Students were able to see and touch some of the materials used for safety, as well materials used in the travel and conduction of electricity.

Buddy classes at Mt. Horeb School meet at least once a month to promote social interactions, peer leadership and interactive learning opportunities. Carla Annese and Dawn Gauvin's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class got together with Kristen Stoyanov and Catherine Maguire's Kindergarten. After discussing the district's brand "Shining Brighter Every Day" the children brainstormed ways in which they shine brighter and recorded them on a sunbeam. The projects are currently on display in Mt. Horeb's All-Purpose Room. Stop by one day soon to see them... and take a moment to reflect upon how YOU shine bright!



February was Dental Health Month. Nurses Jan Brennan, Alexis Sacks, Harriet Stambaugh, and Doris Zanchelli shared tips throughout the district to reinforce the importance of good oral hygiene. Since nutrition plays a vital role in dental care, they offered suggestions such as limiting food and beverages with high sugar content, increasing vegetables, and drinking plenty of water. Each elementary school invited local dentists and orthodontists to hold age appropriate assemblies where toothbrushes and reading materials were also provided to each student. Thank you to Dr. Banasiak, Dr. Mellas, and Dr. Nettune.

At Mt. Horeb School, students in Meredith Fishelman and Kristen Stoyanov's classes participated in a Chinese New Year parade. The school is also hosting its International Day mid-March, where 14 countries will be represented. Students will "travel" the world with "passports" in hand, gaining stamps, knowledge, and cultural awareness along the way.



As part of ALT's International Day last month, Sania Shareef, a student in Cheryl Plager's class, performed a special Bollywood dance in front of the entire first grade. Check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website under *Travel to Asia* to read more!



Jennifer SanAntonio's 5<sup>th</sup> grade entries for the Week in Rap Shout-Out Contest were showcased on a popular site called Flocabulary. Students were asked to imagine and describe their own holiday. They worked cooperatively and devised themes such as Shine Bright Day, to honor our district brand; Saint Grevianna Day, to celebrate compassion for animals; and Technological Tuesday & Tech Day, to recognize all of the 21<sup>st</sup> century projects happening throughout Central School and Warren Township Schools as a whole. Visit <http://blog.flocabulary.com/imagine-your-own-holiday/> to check out the posted submissions done by Vijay Subramanian, Alex Chen, Grace Zamora, Valerie Wang, Brianna Santoro and Arianna DaSilva.

Community Service Update... The four Warren Township elementary schools united for a recent service project, organized by Woodland's Service Club advisor Christina Beekman. Having the BOE Administrative Office and all elementary school buildings as collection sites allowed staff, students, and members of the town to generously donate a total of 265 pairs of jeans for the **Teens for Jeans** campaign! The jeans were all delivered thanks to Mrs. Shanahan and Mr. Brink. This service project epitomizes the community spirit throughout Warren.

Congratulations to the following 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Christine Cirrotti's Language Arts classes who won awards in the 2013 Scholastic Art & Writing Contest: Keerthi Adusumilli, Carl Peterson, Catherine Chen, Sumer Huber, Emery Joch nau, Eliana Neuwirth, Vincent Dai, Alexis Tekin, and Shaun Cagnetta. Students selected a theme they were passionate about, and worked with peers to edit and revise their writing. Students submitted works in poetry, short story, journalism and personal narrative. The judging panel looked for writing that best exemplified originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.



Over 60 students participated in the first Warren Middle School History Bee. Students were scored on the results of a 50 question exam which was narrowed to the top four students in the school after the Online Regional Qualifying Exam was completed. Congratulations to the following students whose scores were high enough to advance to the Regional Finals in April: Michael Harrison, Nathan Pinho, Daniel Shell, and Neelay Trivedi. Best of luck!

Adding a touch of humor in advance of Super Bowl XLVIII, the Mt. Horeb Service Club held a 'souper' bowl food drive. Advisor Chris Burkhardt shared how successful it was in that the service club collected and donated an entire carload of food to a food bank in Westfield. In addition to soup, they received a variety of canned goods which brought comfort to many families during this harsh winter.

**Lights... Camera... Action!**



Fourth graders at ALT School put on a production of *Thwacked! A Fractured Tale of Frogs, Folks and Fairytales*. Over 50 students worked hard for months, and had a great performance which combined singing and acting. Great job to Kelly Backus and her ALT students. Central School's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders brought Dr. Seuss' *The Sneetches* to life on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The script was written by Jenny Kaniuka, Central School's vocal music teacher, and based directly upon Dr. Seuss' story of the Star-Belly Sneetches.

Students also sang several song selections from Seussical to commemorate Read Across America Day. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, under the direction of Karen Sutherland, Woodland's 4<sup>th</sup> grade will present *The American Dream*. This musical will celebrate our country, from the early years through the Civil War. The dialogue incorporates many historical figures and documents. The music highlights various styles and instrumentation.



Warren Middle School students competed in a quiz bowl, called the Charter Oak Open, taking home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place honor. It was an intense 24-team quiz bowl competition where students displayed outstanding knowledge, sportsmanship and teamwork. Congratulations to all Warren students involved:



Calvin Li, Rachel Lu, Brenda Peng, Carl Peterson, Jarett Schwartz, Lindsey Shi, Neelay Trivedi, Arbi Ulaj, Jason Ye, and Christopher Yu. As advisor Susan Cooper reflected, "It is a tribute to Warren Township Schools' fine teaching staff, dedicated families, and hardworking students...keeping Warren on the map, this time from Connecticut!"

Working in conjunction with Antonette D'Orazio, the Head of Youth Services at the Warren Township Library, Library Media Specialist Susan Jackson, was able to procure new county library cards for over 70 students (grades 3-5) and many staff members from ALT. These library cards will enable the new patrons to have access to materials at all 12 county library branches and access to the complete collection of library databases from home. Patrons can even reserve free passes to many outstanding museums using their library cards. Visit the library website at [www.somerset.lib.nj.us](http://www.somerset.lib.nj.us) for more information.

La clase de español es muy interesante en la escuela Woodland! Shannon O'Shea taught her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students about the traditions and culture of Puerto Rico and they created their very own "vejigante" masks to celebrate Carnival. Her 2<sup>nd</sup> graders learned their "alfabeto" in Spanish and participated in a bilingual spelling bee. They had to use the Spanish alphabet to spell words they learned throughout their thematic unit based on The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.



In celebration of Read Across America Day, students in Lynn Alger's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Broadcast Journalism class created READ posters featuring numerous staff members. They were hung throughout the halls of Warren Middle School.



Central School art abounds! The Somerset County Youth Art Month display will be held at the Center for Contemporary Art, located in Bedminster, now through March 9<sup>th</sup>. This art display gives every teacher in Somerset County an opportunity to showcase a selection of amazing student work. Becky Davenport, Art teacher at Central School, was allowed to submit a total of twelve pieces of artwork for the exhibit. She feels this exhibit offers a great representation of the artwork being created throughout the county.



Kindergarten: Morgan Martignetti and Emily Wang  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Ella Cullinane and Avery SanFilippo  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Daniella Aguiar and Annie Dong  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Lily Colman and Sean Gubitosi  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Savannah Bellovin and Josh Ferreira  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ruthie Gu and Alan Wang

Additionally, Ruthie Gu's artwork was chosen to be displayed at the State Youth Art Month display at the Trenton State House. We are lucky to have many talented young artists in all of our schools.

Five violin students auditioned and placed at the CJMEA Region II orchestra audition a few weeks ago. Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> graders Catherine Chen and Eris Ulaj, 7<sup>th</sup> grader Jocelyn Wang and 6<sup>th</sup> graders Catherine Cai and Karen Fung. Violinists Catherine Chen, Eris Ulaj and Catherine Cai will be allowed to audition for the NJ State Intermediate School Orchestra in March at the Eastern HS in Voorhees, NJ. Dedicated educator John Seremula Jr. is in his 11<sup>th</sup> year of teaching in the district, and is proud to have had students place in the Central Jersey Region II Orchestra and NJ State Intermediate Orchestra in each of those years. Good luck to all of our musicians!



Congratulations to those recognized as the January Students of the Month, at Warren Middle School.

6<sup>th</sup> grade - Catherine Cai and Jack Dwyer  
7<sup>th</sup> grade – Sabrina Sanchez and Patrick Carmody  
8<sup>th</sup> grade - Rachel Lu and Nick Ciatti  
Unified Arts - Michelle Du and Jose Rebimbas

This month, the Discover Invertebrates program from Jenkinson's Aquarium will present a program on invertebrates at Woodland School. Thanks to the PTO Dream It-Fund It monies, the classes of Christina Beekman, Amy Jordan-Eitelberg and Susan Leonard will get to learn interesting facts about why starfish (now called sea stars) are not fish, and that invertebrates are the most abundant animals on Earth. They will also interact with live specimens and learn how to classify various invertebrates such as urchins, snails and crabs based on common characteristics. This program supports the Science curriculum of Living Things in Kindergarten.

At Central School, students in Nicole Evins' 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class created a healthy cookbook with delicious recipes and colorful illustrations. Additionally, an original poem was written by Lyndsay Carroll's class and an original song and skit was created by Lisa Scherzer's class. This project was spearheaded by Health/PE teacher Laura Lamson in conjunction with a contest called "CRUNCH Bunch" sponsored by Celebrate NJ!. Lamson worked with all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes, their teachers, and a host of other staff, to promote nutrition, safety and fitness. All three 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes were awarded top prize. What a team effort! Check out the featured article on the warrentboe.org website to read more!







Many educators continue to embrace technology precisely how research suggests is best practice. Bonnie Pierson at Warren Middle School has integrated numerous scenarios into her 7<sup>th</sup> grade SS curriculum, and collaborating with Library Media Specialist Cynthia Cassidy has been a critical factor in creating the projects and effectively using Google Docs. One of the most ambitious scenarios thus far was the Russian Ruler FakeBook Project. Students researched one of eleven Russian rulers while keeping research notes and all resources for the project linked electronically, which streamlined the process greatly. They then created a fake Facebook page for their ruler using a Google Presentation template where creative application of historical facts and imagery will be used for whole class instruction. “The level of critical thinking students used was truly impressive, and without the electronic tools, the procedure would have been impossible,” Pierson expressed.

ALT 5<sup>th</sup> graders, in the classes of Kathy Boraski, Michelle Jarmicki, and Mary Lynch, were involved in a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning scenario entitled Making A Change. The project was tied in with their persuasive writing unit. Students saw video clips on Rosa Parks and MLK Jr. and were given a challenge to make a difference in their school or the Warren community. The topics which interested them included healthier options at lunch, more exercise at school, better bus safety and security, more field trips, and varied entertainment options for preteens in town. While working in groups of three or four, students researched their topics and created a variety of solutions. Groups designed Prezi presentations, commercials, brochures, and even a Lego replica of ALT School. They raved about the experience.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Mt. Horeb School are in the process of working in differentiated groups to create ABC books which will be published and donated to the school library. Each group of students was given a specific topic to research and will complete all of the steps relating to the creation of a book. Upon completion of the project, students will reflect on their books, and evaluate their process and progress. Through this 21<sup>st</sup> century scenario students will create books, discover information, visualize a concept, design a visually appealing product, present a published book, and reflect on set goals. This is an exciting time for students as their creative juices are flowing! Teachers Carla Annese, Michelle Antonelli, Dawn Gauvin, and Kathleen Haydu are looking forward to watching their global digital citizens learn and grow, and are thankful to the efforts of Library Media Specialist Jeanice Edge for supporting the project.



For Valentine’s Day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Woodland School participated in a grade wide community service project for St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center. Prior to the project, all students watched a short Happy Tails video about St. Hubert’s. Tennis balls were donated to the entire grade and were used by students for a craft project to make homemade dog toys. Cards were decorated to adorn the pet cages and a donation drive was successfully organized. Students and families generously donated food, treats and toys for dogs and cats. By giving back to their community, core values such as kindness and respect were solidified. It is never too soon to start a lifelong commitment to giving!



Principal Milita proudly recognized an entire Central School class for shining brighter every day... It all began when 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Lisa Scherzer told her class that her daughter had made and sold rubber band loom bracelets in order to donate the proceeds to charity. During this project, she also surprised a special child who was faced with many unique challenges, and neither the child nor her classmates had the physical ability to make the bracelets themselves. Lisa Scherzer's class asked if they could contribute by producing more jewelry items on their own time. Within the span of a few days, the class divided up the work and had over 100 pieces of hand-made rubber band jewelry created. They packaged the items, along with cards, and the recipients were thrilled to say the least! This shining moment, which started with one and expanded to many, is a testament to how the joy felt by those who gave, was just as great as the joy felt by those who received... and a new connection between the two schools had begun!

Have you visited the Board of Education Office recently? ALT's artwork will be showcased through March 10<sup>th</sup>. Following that, Central School's display will be hung. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Central School did abstract painting based on the ideas of color and brush exploration. After looking at different abstract artwork by artists Kandinsky, Miro, and Delauney, students began to paint their own abstract art. Students learned about various brush sizes and their uses, while using a variety of color schemes, such as warm, cool, and complementary colors, to enhance their paintings.

Stop by to see the colorful and creative student artwork!



Keep an eye out for more Warren Township Schools' artwork at the Warren Library this April!



Woodland School's annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The children studied and applied the scientific method during their Measuring Time unit in Science. As a culminating project, 5<sup>th</sup> graders maintained a science journal in which they recorded their independent investigations and will create displays for the fair. Many thanks to Mary Pat Brown, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, for organizing the event.

Congratulations to Inica Kotasthane, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Anabela Ordner's class, whose writing was published in The Showcase, February 2014 edition. You can read her writing piece, Bye-Bye Butterfly, online at [www.theshowcasemagazine.net](http://www.theshowcasemagazine.net).



The use of Chromebooks in 6<sup>th</sup> grade has already allowed for more collaboration between students, encouraged learning partnerships and best of all, has given students a chance to shine as they help each other. By sharing documents via Google Docs, students communicate their ideas and each can contribute to the work at hand. Both teachers and students are supportive of the process and feel a strong sense of community and excitement about the capabilities. What a wonderful opportunity for all at Warren Middle School.



Throughout February, current 5<sup>th</sup> graders in all four schools had the opportunity to ask questions during 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation. Principal Comba, along with a few Warren Middle School students, described some of the experiences that 5<sup>th</sup> graders can look forward to next year. Lockers, numerous teachers, new specials, and navigating a larger school were some topics discussed. Students were excited to learn more about how their life will change in just a few months, especially when they learned that they will each be given a Chromebook to use throughout their school day!

Towards the end of March, Central School's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will participate in Biography Day as they dress as someone famous. Students were asked to choose a biography on their reading level, and to create a report about their famous person. Each student will have an opportunity to share information about their chosen individual and entice classmates to guess who they represent. Not only will students teach their peers about someone famous from history, but many other classes around the school will enjoy the experience as well. Biography Day is so rewarding!

Although winter has not been kind to us, as a school community there have been numerous examples of people shining brighter each and every day. Going above and beyond this winter in terms of cleaning, repairing, shoveling, plowing, and most importantly, ensuring the safety of our students and staff, has been the Buildings & Grounds team. Thank you to the maintenance and custodial staff for their hard work, patience and flexibility this winter.



“Hearing and reading about the good work accomplished by our staff and students reinforces the confidence and pride I have in them. I am fortunate to work and learn in Warren Township Schools.” ~ Dr. Tami Crader, Superintendent

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