

Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter



Building the road to success

June 15, 2018

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Important dates to note

Welcome to the Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter. We are excited to announce that this e-Newsletter will be sent out weekly when school is in session. This will serve as a glimpse of some of the wonderful things going on in our schools, as well as a point of reference for upcoming events.

Your Partner in Education,
Michele R. Pillari, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

June 18, 7 p.m. - Board of Education meeting at Memorial School

June 20, 21 and 22 are early dismissal days -
Memorial and BG dismiss at 12:48 p.m.; Charles Olbon at 1:28 p.m.

CO receives grant to continue Arts in Education programming

Charles Olbon School was awarded an Arts in Education Residency Grant Program. CO will receive \$6,000 to implement a 20 day residency. The money will be used to fund an on-site artist who will work with specific classes to teach the children story telling through the art form of West African dance and drumming. The school will be using the tale of "Anasi the Spider." A multicultural culminating event will take place at the end of the year which will include the community. Principal Mrs. Irizarry, Ms. McGinnis and Ms. O'Connell will be attending a one-day Arts In Education orientation over the summer.

CO teachers Mrs. Voinov and Mrs. Toole have been invited to the 2018 Educational Leaders as Scholars Conference at Princeton University to present the work they engaged their students in this year, alongside the artist-in residence from Young Audiences. Mrs. Toole created chalk designs based on the principals of Rangoli, while Mrs. Voinov's class created mandalas as a piece of mindfulness work that was integrated across the curriculum. Mrs. Voinov and Mrs. Toole will be sharing how they used art across the curriculum, as well as using it to increase social skills and inclusion.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #238 essay contest winners honored

The winners of the West Paterson American Legion Auxiliary Unit #238's 2018 Americanism Essay Contest were honored at a special program on June 13. The post also held its annual Flag Day ceremony outside prior to the program. Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the American flag's design on June 14, 1777 by Congress. The Legion holds this event annually where tattered, unwanted and old flags are properly disposed of by burning them.

The following students are the winners at the unit level:

Beatrice Gilmore School: third grader Xavier Diaz and fourth grader Abdul Abdallah. Honorable mentions - Aayaan Malik and Jason Snyder

Memorial School: fifth grader Daniella Mencia, sixth grader Alberto Toro, seventh grader Samantha Ramos (no winner for eighth grade). Honorable mentions - Lily Aspirany, Gabriela Acosta and Jenna Hindeleh

At the Passaic County level, Xavier Dias was the Class I winner, Daniella Mencia was the Class II winner and Samantha Ramos was the Class III winner. All county winners' essays will move on for consideration at the NJ State level in June. It was announced at the event that Mencia's essay has been selected to move on to the state level.

Sixth graders take part in Municipal Alliance-sponsored workshop

The Woodland Park Municipal Alliance Against Alcoholism and Drug Abuse sponsored a six-part workshop called "We're Not Buying It" over the last two weeks for Memorial School sixth graders, given by Jen Boyle from the Center for Prevention, based in Newton.

The program aims to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol, marijuana, and drug use, and to prevent bullying. Participants learn how to deconstruct media messages that promote or glamorize substance use. With a better understanding of the marketing directed toward them, students are better able to resist messages and to make healthy decisions.

Sessions focused on 'media is everywhere,' alcohol in the movies, marijuana use, prescription drugs, and bullying. Boyle customized the sessions for each class as she said some were more knowledgeable than others on the topics discussed.

At each session, "fast fact" sheets were handed out and students picked ones they wanted to discuss, such as "1 in 5 say painkillers are not addictive" and "each day an average of 2,000 teens will try prescription drugs recreationally for the first time."

Students discussed healthy ways to deal with stress. They offered suggestions including talking to friends, going to the park, and listening to music. In addition, they talked about refusal skills should they ever be offered alcohol or a drug. Students brainstormed in small groups to come up with ideas. They included, "Nah, I'm good;" "Tell the person the bad things that can happen to them;" and "No thanks, I already have something called a life." Boyle noted that, "Mom said I can't" is one of the best. "Use your parents as an excuse whenever you can, as it can't be disputed," she said.

Boyle encouraged the students to be open with their parents about the dangers. She said it's important to have a plan with parents that includes a "code word" they can text to them if they are in need of help. "Discuss with them what you can do to get out of a situation," she stressed.

Students also spoke in depth about staying safe on social media. Boyle said the most important things kids can do are to never lie about their age, keep profiles private, and never share a password with anyone but parents. "It is your account," she said. "And you will be responsible for what is posted and incur the consequence."

Cyberbullying was also discussed. After discussing some fast facts, students worked in small groups to come up with anti-bullying slogans. Some ideas were: "Bullying is bad; it makes people sad;" "Be helpful, not hurtful;" and "Stand up; don't stand down."

WP Boys & Girls Club announces registration sessions for fall soccer

Fall soccer registration will be held at the WP Boys & Girls Club on the following dates: Thursday, June 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, June 19 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, June 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Registration fee is \$50; \$90 for two siblings. New this year, soccer is open to Pre-K children. Registration fee is \$40. Registration is open to all Woodland Park boys and girls in Pre-K to eighth grade. Teams are co-ed for Pre-K to 2. Grades 3 to 8 are girl and boy teams and teams will play other towns (minimal travel required). For more information, email Rick at wpsoccerclub2@gmail.com.

Memorial Middle School Students of the Month for June are announced

The Students of the Month at Memorial School for June are:

Grade 5: Josue Pacheco, Jake Mazzie, Madelyn Barros, Calvin Cherian and Emma Jurkic

Grade 6: Brianna Taveras, Maria Spirova, Michelle Calderon, Jasmine Ortega and Lucas DelVecchio

Grade 7: Thiara Rijo, Hailey Casillas, Joe Sheridan, Mariana Marques and Patrick Puzio

Grade 8: Gabriella Sevillano, Kristina Hilla, Yezmin Osorio, Emily Velez and Chyna Sinclair

Woodland Park Summer Camp hosts informational parent meeting

The Woodland Park Summer Camp held a parent meeting on June 11 where attendees could meet the directors and other staff members, learn about their child's daily schedule, and get answers to any questions they had.

The camp will be led by director Shannon Marren and assistant directors Christina Scillieri and Danielle Indri. Marren has been with the camp for seven years. Scillieri teaches 6th grade science at Memorial School. Indri serves as guidance counselor for Charles Olbon and Beatrice Gilmore Schools.

"I have the utmost faith in Shannon's team," Mayor Keith Kazmark said at the meeting, adding that children will be enjoying completely renovated and expanded facilities due to the recent completion of \$1.1 in work at both Zaccaria and Rose Place parks.

Parents were encouraged to "like" the camp on Facebook as photos of activities and reminders would be posted regularly. Marren noted that if parents have any concerns or questions they should call or email the camp and not post on the Facebook page. Camp reminders will strictly be emailed to parents via the Community Pass system.

The children are broken down in to three groups - grades Pre-K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Activities were designed by educators and are age appropriate for each group of campers.

Other important notes:

- On the first day of camp, parents must park and bring their child to check in. Bring immunization records and proof of residency. Campers will receive their t-shirt and badge on the first day.
- No hand-held games, toys, iPods, or phones are permitted.
- Label all items brought to camp (lunch box, towel, bags, etc.)
- An EMT is on staff daily at the camp from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Apply sunscreen before the day begins. A camper may bring spray sunscreen with them to camp if needed.

Any questions prior to camp opening can be directed to recreation@wpnj.us. Once camp is in session, parents can contact the camp at 973-278-5053 or summercamp@wpnj.us.



Summer reading program kicks off at the Alfred Baumann Library

The Alfred Baumann Library kicked off its annual summer reading program in Municipal Council Chambers on June 13 with a visit from Turtle Dance Music. The summer reading theme for this year is "Libraries Rock!"

Library Director Linda Hoffman encouraged the kids in attendance to continue to read in the summer to combat "summer slide" while school is out. Participants of the program can choose whatever they would like to read - fiction, non-fiction, magazines, comics, or blogs.

Those who did not register yet can do so at the library or online at www.abwplibrary.org. There is a summer reading tab on the left side. Younger children will receive a sticker on their chart at the library for every 20 minutes read. Incentives are given along the way as the chart is filled up. Older children will earn prize entries for activities they complete on a bingo board.