

Feb. 7, 2020

Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter



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Important dates

Monday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m. - Board of Education regular meeting at the Municipal Building

Tuesday, Feb. 11 to Friday, Feb. 14 will be early dismissal days, and Monday, Feb. 17 and Tuesday, Feb. 18 the district will be closed

Welcome to the Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter, which 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

Footprints For Life program returns to Charles Olbon School

The Center for Prevention has brought the Footprints for Life program back to Charles Olbon School this year. The Woodland Park Municipal Alliance Against Alcoholism and Drug Abuse has funded the program for all second grade classes.

The six-week early prevention program teaches important life skills to the students through the use of puppets and stories that feature real life situations.

The program offers a chance for students to practice the skills they have learned in a fun and non-threatening way. The lessons address decision-making practice, inter-personal skills, peer pressure, and peaceful conflict resolution.

At a recent session, students went over past messages such as using their "solutions stoplight." Red means stop and take a breath; yellow is share feelings and "I" messages; and green means come up with a resolution.

In this session, the facilitator, Catherine Apostol, covered smoking and vaping.

Students learned about why people start, what is bad about it and what is in a cigarette and vape. "When we put nicotine in our bodies, our brains think we need it to survive," Apostol said. They also did an exercise using straws that demonstrated the difficulties a smoker can have breathing.

Parents can visit www.footprintsforlife.org/kids to learn more about the curriculum and program.



Artistic Honor

Patricia Tiseo, a fourth grader at Beatrice Gilmore School, was honored as a winner in Passaic County's annual "My County, Poster Calendar Contest." She is shown with BG art teacher Mrs. Toole. As 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Constitutional Amendment granting women the right to vote, in honor of women's suffrage, Clerk Danielle Ireland-Imhof added a second theme this year. The 24 winners - 12 for the My County Calendar and 12 for the Women's Suffrage Calendar - make up this year's calendars that are distributed to schools, government offices, libraries, and other locations. Patricia's creation is featured for the month of June in the Women's Suffrage Calendar.



Police officer led LEAD program begins at Beatrice Gilmore

The Woodland Park Police Department has launched LEAD - Law Enforcement Against Drugs - a new program, similar to now defunct DARE program, in local schools.

Officers Omaira Carino and Derrick Morrison recently underwent training to become LEAD program instructors. The program was launched in Beatrice Gilmore School to all fourth grade classes and will begin soon at Memorial School for eighth grade students.

The law enforcement led education curriculum, "Too Good for Drugs," puts social and emotional learning to work through fun and interactive lessons, building the self-confidence students need to make healthy choices. Lessons focus on goal setting, decision-making, anger management, conflict resolution, peer-pressure refusal and more. The lessons let students learn, practice and master these essential life skills.

The character education process promotes a number of traits including caring, courage, responsibility, respect and cooperation. The program partners with parents as well, by sending home information that can help parents reinforce the lessons at home.

The program is presented in 10 lessons. The first unit is aimed at establishing and developing social and emotional competency skills. The second unit focuses on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and the effects of their use on the body. Additionally, the students learn about refusal strategies, using over the counter and prescription drugs safely and how making healthy choices will impact their life-long wellness.



Kindergarten registration to be held next week

The School District will hold registration for the 2020-2021 school year for children entering kindergarten at Charles Olbon School, 50 Lincoln Lane, on Tuesday, Feb. 12, and Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Children entering kindergarten must be 5-years-old on or before Oct. 1, 2020. To obtain the registration packet, visit www.wpschools.org.

Parents must present: birth certificate with raised seal; proof of residency (three documents required – deed/current mortgage statement or current lease/notarized letter from landlord, current utility bill, and valid driver's license or photo ID for parent/guardian); and proof vaccinations as required by NJ law. Physical examinations are required for students before entering school.

On Board



Mayor Keith Kazmark swore in Board of Education' member David Amanullah at the Feb. 3 meeting. He joins his running mates Dr. Joe Giamarella and Christine Tiseo who were elected in November, each for three-year terms.



Sixth grade students are taking part in We're Not Buying It program

The Woodland Park Municipal Alliance Against Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is sponsoring a six-part workshop called "We're Not Buying It," which is currently running for Memorial School sixth graders, given by 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 have focused on "media is everywhere," alcohol and marijuana use, prescription drugs, dealing with stress, staying safe on social media and bullying.

In this week's session, they worked with facilitator Ashley Caine about peer pressure and what they would do in certain situations. They worked on refusal skills by doing an exercise where each student would come up and be confronted with a potential situation by Ms. Caine. They then would say or do what they think they would if they were ever in that situation.

Ms. Caine told the students it is important at their age to have conversations with a trusted adult such as a parent or other family member. Should they ever be in a situation where they feel unsafe, they can utilize a signal that they can send which they can predetermine with that adult. For example, a text that says, "Mom, can you pick up peanut butter?" can be a trouble signal to them. "Come up with this now so that if you do get in to a situation where you are uncomfortable that you can get help," she said.

One School, One Book initiative concludes at Beatrice Gilmore

The One School, One Book program, sponsored by the Woodland Park Municipal Alliance Against Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, has concluded. The entire student body and staff read "Friendship According to Humphrey" by Betty G. Birney together, one a chapter a night.

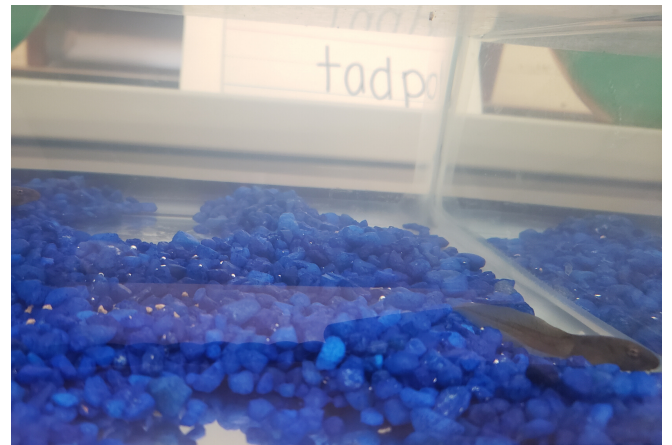
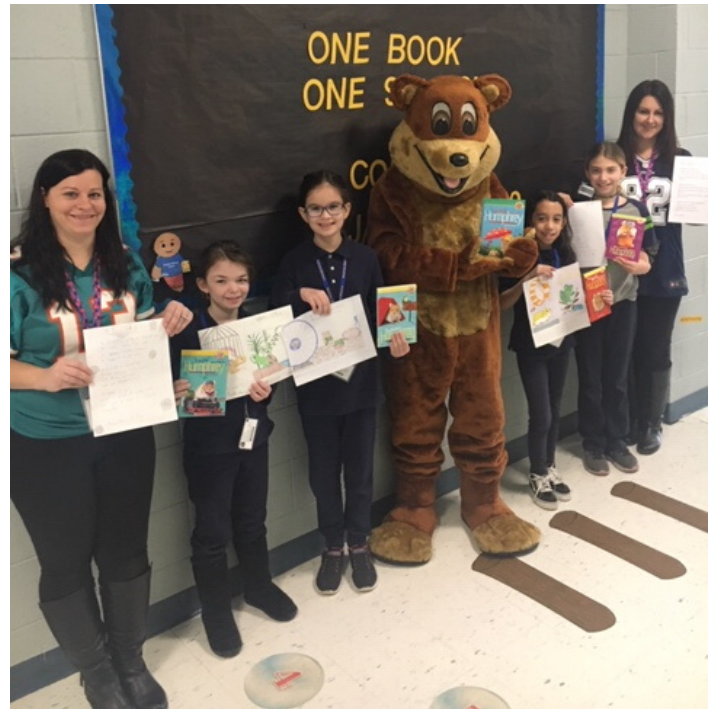
The goal was to bring the school community together to talk about the importance of reading and friendship. The book covers such topics as friendship, conflict resolutions and acceptance and the program facilitates conversations and understanding.

One School, One Book poetry contest winners were: third place, Mercedes Vila; second place, John Montoya; and first place, Lola Aspirany.

One School, One Book illustration contest winners were: third place, Eva Fallaha; second place, Angelina Skurteska; and first place Olivia O'Brien.

Trivia contest class winners were Mrs. Voinov's fourth grade class and Mrs. LaSala's third grade class.

The school also got two tadpoles to celebrate the friendship between book characters Humphrey and Og. Students are voting on his name this week. Some of the names in contention are Kermit, Freddie, Oggy and Hopper. The winners will be revealed on Feb. 14.



Sharing Success

Beatrice Gilmore School teacher Mr. Krakower recently presented "Creating A Paperless Elementary Science Classroom" at the NJ Association of School Administrators TECHSPO conference held in Wildwood. He spoke about how Beatrice Gilmore has created a paperless classroom for third and fourth grade students while having fun with science using Google's GSuite products including Google Slides, Google Classroom, and Google Docs.