

Feb. 28, 2020

Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter



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Important dates

Friday, Feb. 28 - Memorial School
third marking period progress reports
will be on the Parent Portal

March 2-6 - Charles Olbon
School Scholastic Book Fair

Monday, March 9, 7 p.m. -
Board of Education workshop
meeting at Memorial School

The Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter is sent out weekly when school is in session. It serves as a glimpse of some of the wonderful things going on in our schools, as well as a point of reference for upcoming events.

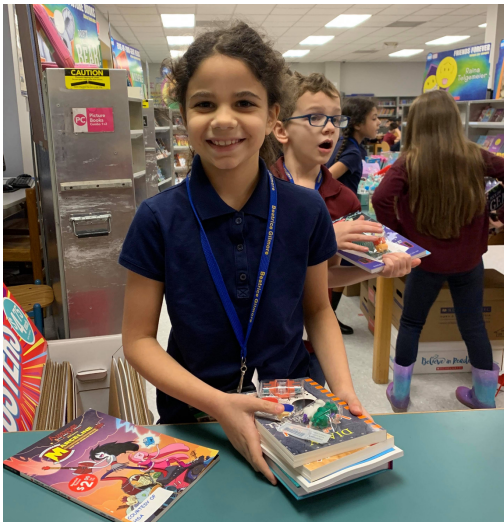
Your Partner in Education,
Michele R. Pillari, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Friendly Competition



The Memorial Middle School Home & School Association sponsored a fundraising staff versus eighth grade student volleyball game. A series of games were played by the four staff and student teams.

Bookworms



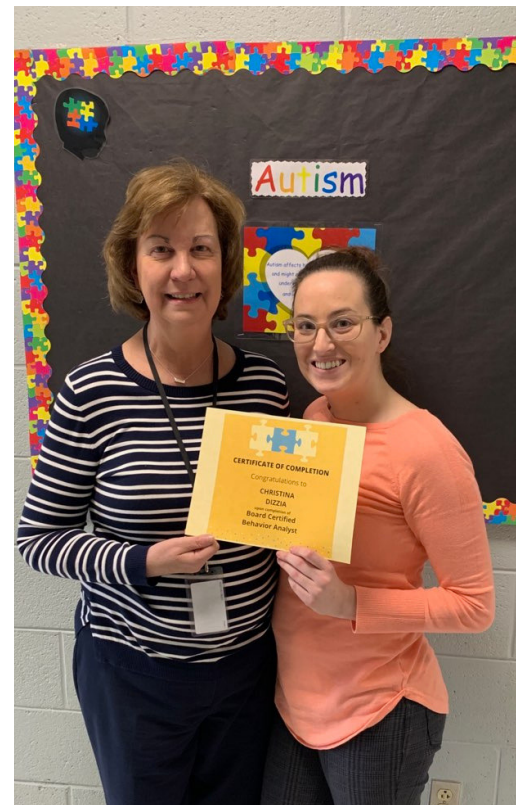
The Beatrice Gilmore School Home & School Association sends its thanks to everyone who supported its recent Scholastic Book Fair. Due to the successes of past fairs, the HSA had enough "Scholastic Dollars" in its account to be able to provide each student with a free book.

Math Honors



Participants from the virtual NJ Perennial Math Tournament at Beatrice Gilmore School recently received "dog tags" and shirts for their participation. The students were selected to participate based on test scores, teacher recommendations, grades, and benchmark assessments.

Job Well Done



Congratulations to Ms. Dizzia for passing her board certified behavior analyst exam. She works as an autistic teacher at Beatrice Gilmore School. Applied behavioral analysis uses scientific and systematic processes to help influence an individual's behavior.

Animal Club learns about The Pittie Project

The Pittie Project visited the Animal Club at Memorial School on Feb. 19.

Patricia Claus and Michele Berman are the founders of the Pittie Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Island Heights, that helps provide spays/neuters, vaccinations, and microchipping to pit bulls and pit bull mixes. All the volunteers have full time jobs and also spend countless hours of their free time advocating for the pit bull and pit mix dogs, and help anyone who has this type breed in need of the services offered.

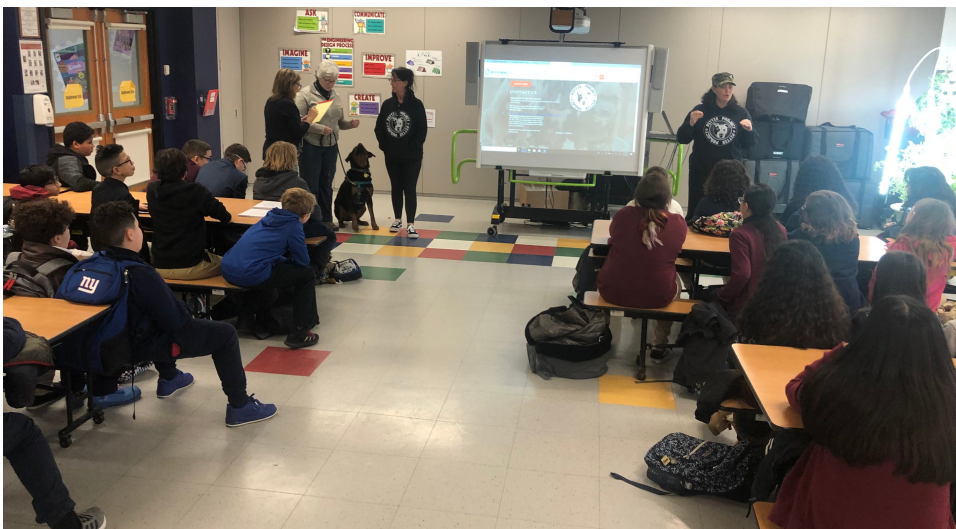
Claus explained to students about the problems with over breeding and overpopulation due to the lack of spaying or neutering. It is not true that males should not be neutered. Male dogs benefit in many ways when neutered. It helps to make them a calmer dog and less likely to roam or get into fights with other male dogs.

As a non-profit organization, the Pittie Project runs solely on donations. They attend pet expos and street fairs, run dinners and activities for fundraising, and apply for grants, all to raise awareness and donations to fund their cause. The group publicizes its activities on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and many of the Animal Club students already started following the group. Each student received a water bottle which reads "Don't Bully our Breed." Many of them were using it the next day. If you approach a student with this water bottle, they can tell you all about what they learned about the breed, the untold facts about the breed, and how to help if they see an abused or mistreated animal.

More than one third of New Jersey's shelters are filled with bully (pit bull) breeds. But these same breeds make up less than one 10th of dog adoptions. The Pittie Project's goal is to get into communities and offer support and education to reduce the number of "bully breeds" in the shelters and educate on the goodness of these dogs. All breeds have potential to make wonderful, loving, and loyal family dogs. The pit bull breed, however, has been made an unfortunate target for dog fighting. Dog fighting happens all over the country, whether in cities, small towns, or rural areas. It is a cruel sport and many dogs are killed and tortured every day. The dogs are kept in horrific conditions and are bred to fight to the death.

Students learned that education on the horrors of this sport is the first step in stopping the cruelty. Pushing for stronger laws and fines regarding dog fighting is another way to get involved. If anyone hears about or witnesses dog fighting, contact your local authorities or animal shelter. In New Jersey, the state cruelty hotline is 1-800-582-5979.

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Minute To Win It



Ms. Gilhooley's second grade class enjoyed a fun Valentine's Day game - "Minute to Win It."

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Ms. Grainne Levine also came with her Rottweiler named Finn to speak with the students. Levine volunteers at the Rescue Ridge Shelter in Spring Lake area.

Finn was adopted at about 2 years of age and is now 7. He has been certified as a therapy dog and now visits libraries, nursing homes, and schools.

Levine taught the students how to approach a dog. If the owner is present, you must always ask the owner first if you can approach. If the dog is lost, stolen, or a stray and it approaches you, let the dog smell you first. Never put your hand out for the dog to smell your hand (contrary to long standing belief), or reach over the dogs head. Keep your hands to yourself and let the dog smell you. The dog will let you know if he wants to engage in further contact. Then you may brush the side of the dogs face with your hand; they like that.

Levine also has a supply of cat and/or dog food at the rescue she volunteers at for anyone in need. If your family needs assistance, let Mrs. Donato know and she will get in touch with Ms. Levine.

Project Child Find

A Free Referral Service

1-800-322-8174
All Calls Are Confidential | Toll-Free

Do you have concerns about your child's development? **Call us!**

For more information about Special Education in NJ visit www.nj.gov/education/specialed

For children ages Birth through 2 years
Contact the New Jersey Early Intervention System
888-653-4463

Project Child Find was established by the New Jersey Department of Education through I.D.E.A., Part B funds from the U.S. Department of Education

March 5, 2020
6:00pm to 7:00pm

Hosted by PVHS SEPAG
Presentation Location
Totowa Library
537 Totowa Rd
Totowa, NJ

Community In-Service Presentation

Tourette Syndrome

and its Associated Disorders

Workshop for Parents and Professionals

Learning objectives include

- Understanding the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of TS and associated disorders such as OCD, ADHD, learning disabilities, anxiety, mood disorders, and depression

Tourette Syndrome is a medical condition. Kids with Tourette have both motor and vocal tics.

More Information on TS:
NJ Center for Tourette & Associated Disorders Inc.
www.njcts.org or email SEPAG
pvhsssepag@gmail.com