

Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter



April 18, 2019

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Important dates to note

- Thursday, April 18 - One Session Day
- Friday, April 19 - Good Friday - District closed
- Monday, April 22 - Friday, April 26 - Spring Break - District closed
- Monday, April 29 - Schools reopen

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 and with our students, as well as a point of reference for upcoming events.

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

WP Education Association PRIDE fundraiser is a celebration of life

On April 12, the Woodland Park Education Association PRIDE Committee, along with the teachers at Memorial Middle School, held an 8th grade class fundraiser for a beautiful young lady and 8th grade student, Josephine Palman, who has been diagnosed with a brain cancer called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG.) She was supposed to be the special guest for the occasion, but couldn't make it as she has been in Cornell Medical Center's PICU for the past four weeks.

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Month long campaign raises funds, awareness

April at Memorial School is Autism Awareness Month, and features a number of activities. A door decorating contest was held with Mr. Sans' class declared the winner. Autism merchandise such as bracelets, pencils, etc., have also been for sale during the month. Students have been able to purchase and wear awareness shirts every Friday this month.

Additionally, students have been taking part in Penny Wars, where funds are raised for the District's Autism program. Students can place pennies in their class level jars. They can place silver coins in other grade level jars. The silver coins deduct points from the other grades. The goal is to have more pennies than silver coins at the conclusion of the month. The grade with the most pennies at the end of April wins. On May 1, Memorial will join together with Beatrice Gilmore School and "light it up blue" with an Autism Walk outside around the walking path for students and staff.



Mr. Sans' class was the Autism door decorating contest winner.

Meaningful Messages



Autism awareness door decorating contest winners at Beatrice Gilmore School were Mrs. Herrmann's class (at right) and Mrs. Seavy's class. In addition to the contest, the school had Autism merchandise for sale by student volunteers at recess and specialized classroom lessons led by Ms. D'Astolfo. There was also a poster contest with Mrs. Facciolio's class winning and Mr. Rizzo's class as runner up.



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Some of the 8th graders offered to help prepare for the dance, making decorations on their own time. The class truly came together to support one of their own. Approximately 90% of the 8th grade class was in attendance and enjoyed two hours together, laughing, talking, dancing and celebrating life - Josephine's life. Some who were not able to attend still made donations to the cause. Students danced, enjoyed a photo booth, ate and appreciated each other's company.

The Palman family is dealing with a tremendous amount of debt because of the medical bills. With the help from the community in planning the fundraiser, the committee was able to keep expenses low and raised almost \$1,500 for their family. The district's very own

DJ Richie provided a fun atmosphere where students and teachers danced and laughed together. 2Sweet, a bakery owned by the Shafer family, who have two 7th graders who attend Memorial School, provided delicious miniature cupcakes. Pizza City brought wave after wave of pizzas for all to enjoy. It is businesses like theirs who help to make the community for the children so wonderful. Their continued partnership in helping to make a difference in our town is evident in their kindness and generosity.

"These acts of kindness have made a difference in our journey," Josephine's mother Patricia wrote on a recent update on Josephine's GoFundMe page, which is located at <https://www.gofundme.com/josephine-the-tumor-warrior>.

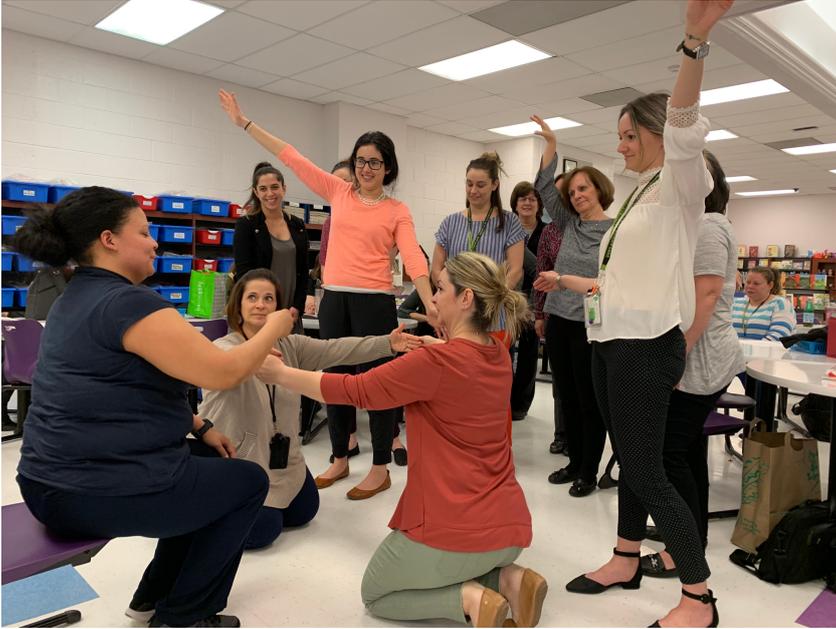
Businesses and students came together to support the struggles of a Woodland Park family suffering in so many ways and on so many levels. It is lessons like these that cannot be taught from a textbook. The 8th grade class learned how they could help one another. On that night, they helped Josephine.



Early registration for Woodland Park summer camp ends this Monday

Early registration for Woodland Park Summer Camp, held at Zaccaria Park on Rifle Camp Road from June 24 to Aug. 9, will end on April 22. Regular registration will run from April 23 to June 10. The 2019 camp schedule, trip packet and registration form are now available at www.wpnj.us under the recreation tab. Registration and payment can be done online at <https://register.capturepoint.com/woodlandparkborough>. Payments can be made by credit card or check and must be made in full at the time of registration. Any questions, contact the Recreation Office at 973-345-8100, ext. 213. Follow Woodland Park Summer Camp on Facebook for up-to-date information.

Bringing Art To Life



Charles Olbon teachers learned the power of storytelling through improvisation at a faculty meeting. Dodge Theatre to Learn Professional Learning Community will be working with the second grade team to implement the Theatre to Learn curriculum. The curriculum focuses on bringing to life the art of theatre as a live performing art form in which the students will use sound and movement to tell stories to communicate and connect to an audience. The teachers are excited to begin this work and transform the way students engage in storytelling.



Flashlight Friday

Students in Mrs. Wilson's Language Arts classroom utilized "Flashlight Friday" to enhance their independent reading with small flashlights. Students self-selected flexible seating from a variety of choices (café tables reminiscent of Starbucks lounges, small cushions, and partner areas) and found a space they felt they could do their best work. Students used flashlights to help them highlight intrinsic and extrinsic character traits of their independent fiction characters. Others opted to read independently from electronic reading libraries.

