

Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter

Sept. 6, 2019

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Building the road to success

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**

School district moving forward with a number of curriculum and technology initiatives

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready to begin a new school year both energized and recharged.

As we start the new school year, our District buildings are in great shape thanks to the hard work and long hours put in by Interim Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds David Grimes and his team. The office staffs have been compiling teacher packets, memos, student packets, etc. Due to the efforts of these individuals, our schools are prepared and ready for a smooth opening. I extend a sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to all!

Please join me in welcoming the following staff members to our school district as they anticipate the upcoming school year.

Charles Olbon School: Kelly Gilhooley, grade 2; Ileana Gutierrez, grade 1; Michelle Morris, grade 2; Michael Volpe, PE; Danielle Mete, MLR, grade K; Haya Matari, kindergarten aide; Elisa DiLizia, lunch aide; and Gail Macaluso, lunch aide

Beatrice Gilmore: Savannah Brink, grade 3; and Margarita Rios, lunch aide

Memorial School: Lisa Barreto, principal; Stephen Scholtz, assistant principal; Donna Farrell, art; Jessica Jones, special education; Joseph Napoli, special education; Noel Segarra, ELA; Zainab Shafi, special education; and Franny Montesino, 1:1 aide

Districtwide: Susan Confrancisco, director of special education; Jaimie Partridge – districtwide behaviorist; and David Grimes, interim supervisor of buildings and grounds

We continue to make great strides in the area of curriculum and program. At Memorial, we are excited to introduce new readers and writers workshop units which include class novel studies. These units combine whole-class novels and independent reading to help our students grow as readers.

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Important dates to note

Monday, Sept 9., 7 p.m. - Board of Education workshop meeting at CO School

Wednesday, Sept. 11 - BG school photo day

Thursday, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m. - Kindergarten Ice Cream Social at CO School

Thursday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. - Memorial HSA meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. - CO HSA meeting

Thursday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m. - BG HSA meeting

Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m. - Board of Education regular meeting at Memorial School

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. - BG Back to School Night

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. - CO Back to School Night

Thursday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m. - Memorial Back to School Night

Monday, Sept. 30 - Memorial school photo day



District awarded \$261K in tuition-free pre-K expansion funding

The Woodland Park School District was one of 28 that were notified this week of pre-K expansion grant funding awards. This \$20 million in funding to the 28 districts means that approximately 1,450 additional children across the state will have access to quality pre-K. Woodland Park received a grant of \$261,360 and was the only district in Passaic County to receive funding.

The goal to open full day pre-K in Woodland Park has been discussed and planned for the past six years, according to Superintendent Dr. Michele Pillari. "We are so proud that we are opening full day pre-K for our children," she said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for our children and our community."

The money awarded allows the district to fund its current pre-K program for this school year, which was expanded to serve up to 30 children. Going forth, the school district plans to reopen School #1 on McBride Avenue for the 2020-2021 school year and offer tuition-free pre-K to approximately 115-120 students.

School #1, which closed as a district school in the early 90s, has been rented the last number of years by charter schools. Renters have made significant improvements to the building over the years, putting the district in place to be able to reopen it for district use without impacting the general budget. When fully executed and operational, it is the intention of the expansion program to offer tuition-free pre-K to up to 215 students.

At the Sept. 4 Borough Council meeting, Mayor Keith Kazmark and the Borough Council presented a proclamation in acknowledgement of the expansion plans.

"This will be a great benefit to students who may not otherwise receive this type of education," Kazmark said. "This is a tremendous accomplishment and will have a long lasting effect on every child that comes in to the program."

Dr. Pillari noted that when the state expanded its grant funding available, the district jumped at the opportunity to apply for funds. Administrators, board members and Charles Olbon Principal Giovanna Irizarry worked on meeting the application requirements and deadlines.

"Mrs. Irizarry was instrumental in putting the application," she noted of the year-long process.

Fall events are being planned by Home & School Associations

Our local Home & School Associations have been getting ready for the school year and have been busy planning lots of events for the students. These volunteer groups rely on the support of parents, guardians, teachers and the community to accomplish their goal of providing educational programs and fun activities for the students to enjoy throughout the school year.

The Charles Olbon HSA will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the school. Membership forms will be available. Come meet the new boards, provide your input and feedback, and sign up for event and activity committees. The COHSA is planning a number of events this fall including spirit wear and Meadow Farms fundraisers and ice cream socials for the upper grades. Join the group's Facebook page "COHSA" to stay up to date on all the activities planned.

The Beatrice Gilmore HSA will hold its first meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the school. The HSA will hold its first fall fundraiser, a back to school carnival, on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 12 to 8 p.m. at the school. Join the group's Facebook page "BG HSA" to stay up to date on all the activities planned.

The Memorial School HSA will host its first meeting on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. For anyone interested in joining the 8th Grade Committee, there will be a meeting right afterwards to discuss the 8th grade dance. This fall, the HSA will kick off fundraising efforts with a spirit wear and discount coupon card sale. Join the group's Facebook page "Woodland Park Memorial Middle School HSA" to stay up to date on all the activities planned.



Special Police Officer will be stationed at each school this year

At Wednesday evening's Council meeting, the Borough swore in three Special Police Officers, who will serve in our Borough schools. Police Chief Eileen Tiernan said that the three bring a wealth of experience to the district. The officers are paid through a shared service agreement between the Borough and the Board of Education.

William Gilhooley will be returning for his sixth year as a school resource officer. He is a retired Captain from the Woodland Park Police Department where he served 28 years.

Andrew Poremba has 28 years experience. He worked for the Wyckoff Police Department where he was in charge of many functions within the department. In addition, he most recently worked security for the Glen Rock High School. Andrew's experience will make him an asset to our Police Department and school system.

Michael Cossari has 34 years of law enforcement experience, having recently retired from the Paterson Police Department. Michael worked in the detective bureau in major crimes for the last 15 years of his career. Michael, known as Mickey, will also be a great addition to our Police Department and school system.

Police Chief urges vigilance driving around Borough schools

Woodland Park Police Chief Eileen Tiernan reminds drivers to be extremely vigilant driving around our Borough schools before and after school hours, as many of our students walk home, and to expect minor delays. She also reminds those dropping off students to follow the school's drop off and pick up procedures and obey parking restrictions.

The Department will have officers present at each school daily. They are there to make drop off and pick up easier for parents. Drivers and those walking are asked to pay attention to their directions.

Afternoon hours are particularly dangerous. Over the last decade, AAA reports that nearly one in four child pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 and 7 p.m. Here's how you can help keep kids safe:

- Slow down. Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason.
- Come to a complete stop. Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.
- Eliminate distractions. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.

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In addition, we are excited to introduce a new instructional block of time for all students to focus on the foundational skills of reading, vocabulary and word study.

This summer we continued our work in partnership with Rutgers University and New Jersey Department of Education on our New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) initiative. The NJTSS is an evidence-based framework for implementing academic and behavioral supports and interventions to improve achievement for all students. Our work has allowed us to implement a universal screening districtwide in both CO and BG Schools. We have developed diagnostic tools and plans for progress monitoring and revised our basic skills entrance and exit criteria based on our analysis. This grant partnership spans across grades K-3, however we will be expanding it to fourth grade and plan to begin the universal screening process at Memorial School this fall.

Revisions to our K-8 mathematics curriculum as well as new programs and resources have been secured in order to support our continued focus on student achievement. New indicators have been embedded into the curriculum in order to demonstrate differentiated instruction through a more scaffolded approach. Teachers will continue to develop lessons and instructional strategies based on math centers/stations which will enhance instructional practice through modeling, analysis, and theoretical approaches to teaching math. This summer, time was also spent developing an advanced curriculum for the 7th grade pre-algebra class which provides students with an understanding of both 7th and 8th grade standards.

To support all of these approaches to teaching math, BG and CO Schools have revised the standards based report card to reflect the new units in the curriculum. A rubric has also been created and is available to parents in order to assist with interpretation of the information presented on the report cards.

We are excited to introduce ixl.com for grades 2-8 for the upcoming school year. Each child will have access to this online program at home. IXL is a great resource to help each child excel in math class. This program provides students with opportunities to practice the content being studied in the classroom. It also provides insight into each student's academic progress.

In September, CO and BG Schools will be working with another math program which supports differentiated and individualized learning. This program, Happy Numbers, builds an individual-paced math dialogue and responds to students by unpacking concepts step-by-step, scaffolding learning, and providing immediate feedback based on student input.

Please keep on the lookout for a math webpage on the district's website. Here you will find any and all information about our district's math programs, growth mindset analogies, curriculum pacing guides, and rubrics.

Memorial School will be implementing a 9 period schedule in September. This period will allow for enrichment opportunities for the students. This will include support in the areas of language arts and math as well as opportunities to participate in clubs, character education activities, and have many other student self-elected educational experiences throughout the year.

The addition of Period 9 also allows teachers to have a professional learning period with their content area colleagues. This new configuration will allow for rich content discussions among colleagues facilitated by various members of our administrative team.

We will also be offering band as an elective course this school year. We look forward to seeing the music program grow. We have also added two new cycles to our schedule: STEM and study skills/research.

As always, the technology department has been working diligently this summer to prepare all of our technological needs. District servers have been updated with improved speed and uptime of the network. All laptop carts at CO School have been upgraded. New Chromebooks have been purchased for BG School as part of our transition to Google during the upcoming school year. We are happy to announce that we have begun the installation process of video camera upgrades at CO School in order to increase the level of security both inside and outside of the building. In addition, reimaging and regular maintenance to the computers in our district has been ongoing and continuous throughout the summer months. Please join me in thanking our technology team for working on this during the summer months for a successful implementation in September.

Mr. Grimes and our custodial team have been working tirelessly this summer in order to get the buildings and grounds ready for the opening of school. For student safety, the gym floors in each school have been sanded and polyurethaned.

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Beatrice Gilmore School is looking better than ever. All hallways have been painted with a lighter, brighter color, the main office had a complete makeover and the windows in the gym have been replaced.

Memorial School is also looking better than ever. The library has been painted and reconfigured and the main office also had a makeover. We are also happy to announce that the main office will now house both secretaries. This will make for a smoother and more efficient operation.

This summer, five classrooms, two bathrooms and one office space at Charles Olbon School were reconstructed. The newly constructed classrooms were created with collaborative learning spaces in mind which will promote deeper understandings and learning of critical academic and life skills. The new learning spaces will also support a student-centered learning environment which will empower the children to be active participants in the learning process through hands on experiences, critical thinking and problem solving. This includes new smart flat panels TVs for the renovated classrooms. Students will have the opportunity to practice important social skills such as communicating effectively with one another and self-regulation, while learning in an environment that reflects real-life experiences. We are excited to be providing educational experiences in learning spaces that meet the needs of our students in our ever-changing society.

These are only some of the many things that have been happening here in the schools this summer. As you can see, we have been quite busy! As we begin our sixth year together, I continue to remain energized and enthusiastic about our direction. We are moving our school district forward and it is truly amazing to be a part of the process with all of you.

Mission: "To promote educational experiences which will prepare our students to develop high levels of academic achievement, engage in a lifelong desire to learn and develop a deep respect for life and its diversity in our global society."

If we truly believe this in our hearts, then we will achieve! Remember: We are all in this together.

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

"Libraries = Success" aims to boost middle school literacy

The Alfred Baumann Library has been selected to participate in the "Libraries = Success" program, sponsored by the NJ State Library. A joint collaboration between the Library and the Woodland Park School District, this initiative is geared toward encouraging middle school students to sign up for a library card. The initiative runs in September, which is National Library Card Sign-up Month.

While the campaign specifically targets 6th to 8th graders as they embark on the milestone of officially becoming independent learners, the "Libraries = Success" campaign will work to reach all students. Library staff members will be on hand at all three district back to school nights to provide information to parents/guardians and library card sign up applications, and work to strengthen the bridge between the school district and the Library.

A library card provides endless opportunities for students and will save them money while reaping rewards in academic achievement and lifelong learning. Whether it's providing free access to programs, in-person and virtual homework help or technology workshops, a library card is one of the most cost effective back-to-school supplies. Resources at the Library are available to anyone with a library card.

Promotional giveaway items and marketing materials will be provided to the State to help the Library with the initiative.

For more information about how to sign up for a library card, visit the Library in person at 7 Brophy Lane, or visit www.abwplibrary.org.



ALFRED H. BAUMANN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
PRESENTS:

FREE! **END OF SUMMER PARTY** ICE CREAM COTTON CANDY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
12:00 - 3:00 PM

Celebrate your summer reading accomplishments with games, treats, a bouncy house, and prizes!

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 12:00-3:00 PM

GAMES!
BOUNCE HOUSE
PRIZES!

MAYOR KEITH KAZMARK & THE WOODLAND PARK COUNCIL
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE ALFRED H. BAUMANN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR...

7TH ANNUAL
Kindergarten ICE CREAM Social

THURSDAY
SEPT. 12
2019 • 6:30 PM

CHARLES OLBON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ALL-PURPOSE ROOM

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!

THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK
MAYOR KEITH KAZMARK
THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND
THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
www.wpnj.us
councilmembers@wpnj.us

WOODLAND PARK
PROUD TO BE STIGMA-FREE

COLOR RUN

When: Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019
Registration starts at 8 a.m.; run starts at 9 a.m.
Where: Zaccaria Park off Rifle Camp Road

Cost: \$10 per person
The first 100 paid registrants will get a free t-shirt. For guaranteed choice of shirt size, registration must be in by Sunday, Sept. 8 by 5 p.m. Children under 5 are free. Children's t-shirt sizes will be available. Please bring protective eyewear for children (i.e. goggles)

Register at wpstigmafree.org. Payment can be made the morning of the event.

A color run is a short, fun run where participants wear white or light-colored clothing and are splattered with an assortment of powdery colors. The powders are a combination of baking soda, cornstarch, and safe dyes. Even though it is safe, it may take a few washes to get the color completely out of your clothing. Some people wear glasses or goggles to keep the color out of their eyes and use a bandanna to keep it out of their mouth.

The Woodland Park Task Force for Mental Health Awareness exists to increase community awareness surrounding mental health. This Task Force seeks to offer information, education, assistance and support to those who are living with or suffering from mental illness and diagnosable conditions as well as individuals who are impacted by mental health disease.

Back to School Carnival

SEPTEMBER 15TH

INFLATABLES | GAMES | FOOD | MUSIC

BEATRICE GILMORE SCHOOL
1075 MCBRIDE AVE
WOODLAND PARK

12PM TO 8PM
HOSTED BY: BG HSA

COME ENJOY A FUN DAY!
AIM AND WIN!!!

www.wpnj.us