

Oct. 25, 2019

Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter



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Important dates

Monday, Oct. 28 to Friday, Nov. 1 -
Red Ribbon Week

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m. -
BG Halloween dance

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 7 to 9 p.m. -
Memorial School Halloween dance

Thursday, Oct. 31 - Halloween
parades: CO, 10 a.m.; BG 1:15 p.m.

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

WP Police visit schools to share safety messages

As part of School Violence Awareness week, students at local schools received visits from police officers earlier this week, who gave them age appropriate tips to keep safe. Officers Carino and Morrison from the Woodland Park Police Department visited Charles Olbon School on Monday, and Officer Rosario visited Beatrice Gilmore School on Tuesday, along with Special Class II Officer Mickey.

At each school, talks were tailored to offer age appropriate safety basics for the children. At both schools, officers stressed to the students that they should know their address and phone numbers of parents and siblings, and that they should only call 911 in a real emergency. Officers talked about bullying as well as cyber bullying. They covered the topic of strangers and being aware of your surroundings. All the officers stressed importance of safety drills. "Safety drills are very important," Officer Rosario said. "You do them so it can become second nature."

With Halloween approaching, the officers stressed that kids should trick or treat only where they know and never alone. The officers urged the kids to be extra careful crossing streets, in addition to wearing reflective clothing or carrying a flashlight or glow sticks.



Championship boxer shares his stories with Memorial School students

Memorial School students were treated to an assembly last week by Cam Awesome, courtesy of the WP Municipal Alliance Against Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, as part of School Violence Awareness Week.

Cam Awesome is a well-known youth-speaker and personality. He is an Emmy nominated six time USA National Champion, four time Golden Gloves National Champion, two time Olympic Trails Champion Heavyweight boxer, and former captain of the USA National boxing team.

Cam told the students he didn't start boxing until he was a senior in high school. As a teen, he was bullied and was overweight. As he told the students his story on how he trained to become a champion boxer he noted how life was much like boxing training. Getting knocked out is like failing a class. If you work hard you succeed, much like how if students study they will do well. He spoke about working to build resilience. "If you can fail without being discouraged, success will become inevitable," he said.

In speaking about social media, Cam encouraged the students to be wary of believing everything they see online. He said everyone usually only puts the "good stuff" on their social media. When Cam failed to make the Olympics, the backlash online got to him, sending him in to a depression, where he abused alcohol "No one hit me, no one touched me, but it hurt more than anything," he said of the words of strangers online.

Cam was able to pull himself out and become the success he is today. He realized he was a winner, with so many other dozens of boxing titles won. "Have a back-up plan," he told the kids. "And set big goals."



Students can celebrate Red Ribbon Week with special dress down days

Red Ribbon Week is a busy one for the district schools. In addition to Halloween festivities and assemblies, there are dress down days throughout the district. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign.

Charles Olbon:

Monday, Oct. 28 - We're "RED" Day (READY) to be DRUG FREE- wear RED
Tuesday, Oct. 29 - Sock it to Drugs- wear crazy socks/mismatched socks
Wednesday, Oct. 30 - Team up against DRUGS- wear team jerseys
Thursday, Oct. 31 - Halloween costumes can be work to school

Beatrice Gilmore:

Monday, Oct. 28 - We're "RED" Day (READY) to be DRUG FREE- wear RED
Tuesday, Oct. 29 - Sock it to Drugs- wear crazy socks/mismatched socks
Wednesday, Oct. 30 - Team up against DRUGS- wear team jerseys
Thursday, Oct. 31 - Halloween costumes can be work to school

Memorial School:

Monday, Oct. 28 - We're "RED" Day (READY) to be DRUG FREE- wear RED
Tuesday, Oct. 29 - Sock it to Drugs- wear crazy socks/mismatched socks
Wednesday, Oct. 30 - Team up against DRUGS- wear team jerseys
Thursday, Oct. 31 - We're Too Bright for DRUGS- wear bright/neon color
Friday, Nov. 1 - Reach Your Dreams, Don't Do Drugs - wear pajamas and/or comfy clothes



Thank you to the WP Daisy and Girl Scouts who decorated our district schools with red ribbons to mark Red Ribbon Week.

Presentation to school board details newly expanded pre-K program

Charles Olbon School Principal Giovanna Irizarry shared a presentation with the Board of Education on Monday evening about the district's expanded pre-kindergarten program. Currently, the school houses two integrated classes and one disabled class, serving a total of 34 students.

The full day program uses the "Creative Curriculum for Pre-School" program as its guideline. It aims to identify knowledge, skills and concepts that are important for pre-school children to acquire in a number of areas including social/emotional development, literacy, motor development and much more.

Teachers take a studies approach, integrating content learning through in-depth investigation of topics. Students raise questions and discover answers through exploration. They also work on a "question of the day" and take part in small group instruction.

Students in the pre-K classes investigate interest areas. They are able to engage with each other and manipulate materials in their own way. The curriculum program used provides teachers the opportunity to engage in meaningful play with the students. Students are also able to explore centers such as music, art and more.

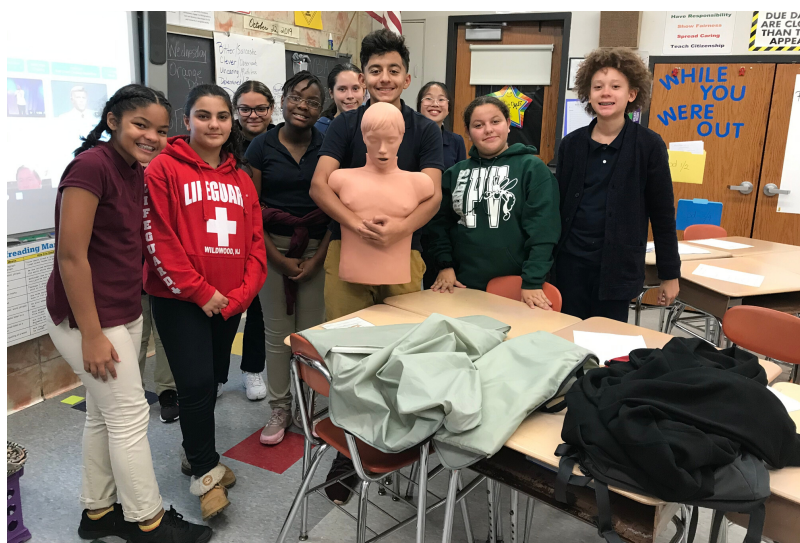
The school district was recently awarded \$261,360 in pre-K expansion grant funding by the state. Going forth, the district plans to reopen School #1 on McBride Avenue for the 2020-2021 school year and offer tuition-free pre-K to approximately 115-120 students. "The goal will be to expand on the number of students serviced each year," said Dr. Michele Pillari, district superintendent.

Quiz Wizards



The 6th grade STRIVE students participated in the Passaic County Quiz Bowl last week held in Prospect Park. The students challenged other students in a trivia match-up against Hawthorne, Prospect Park, Haledon, and Little Falls. The Woodland Park team comprised of Kayla Valer, Joe Iannacone, and Victor Puzio placed 2nd place in the competition. Our other team competing comprised of Tanush Patel, Abdul Abdullah, and Jessica Nuestro. Congratulations!

Healthy Start



The Memorial School Health Club recently held its first meeting of the year, under advisor and school nurse Teresa Carbonelli. The students learned how to assist a person who is choking.