

# Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter

Oct. 5, 2018

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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

## Important dates to note

Friday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. - BGHSA  
Paint Night fundraiser at  
Arts & Creations Poetry Studio

Monday, Oct. 8 - District schools  
are closed for Columbus Day

Wednesday, Oct. 10 -  
CO Picture Day

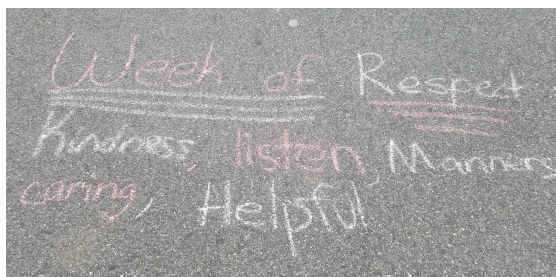
Monday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m. -  
Board of Education  
workshop meeting at BG

Friday, Oct. 19 - Memorial  
HSA Harvest Fest/Tricky Tray

Friday, Nov. 16 - BGHSA  
Purse Bingo

## October begins with district-wide "Week of Respect"

The Week of Respect is a week to educate the students about the importance of showing respect to themselves and others. To help teach the values of this very important week, students in all three schools worked on activities and lessons regarding the value of respect in their classrooms and during recess.



At Charles Olbon, there have been daily announcements regarding how the students can

respect themselves, places, things and others, according to guidance counselor Miss Indri. During recess, Miss Indri has been working with kids on coloring pictures for Omegaman, a superhero that teaches about respect and bullying, who will be visiting the school on Oct 23. The pictures will be turned into a poster that will be hung up to welcome him.

In addition, teachers have been teaching lessons about respect in the classrooms. Miss Indri has also been teaching a specific lesson on being "upstanders" to the 1st graders and creating class books for them to reference when needed.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Beatrice Gilmore School guidance counselor Mrs. Farraye notes that in surveys, students across the country have identified the cafeteria as the place where divisions are most clearly drawn.

On Thursday, students were moved out of their comfort zones to connect with someone new as part of a national campaign by Teaching Tolerance called Mix It Up at Lunch Day. It's a simple act with profound implications. Studies have shown that interactions across group lines can help reduce prejudice. When students interact with those who are different from them, biases and misconceptions can fall away.

At BG, students also received daily "Respect Missions." Monday: Respect Yourself (eat healthy, rest, pick good friends, do your homework). Tuesday: Respect Others (say please and thank you, listen when someone speaks, apologize when necessary, don't gossip). Wednesday: Respect Our Building (throw out your trash, keep our bathrooms clean, push your chairs in, clean up after lunch). Thursday: Respect Our Environment (don't litter, don't kill flowers/trees/grass). Friday: Putting them all into practice together. Students at BG and fifth graders at Memorial also drew chalk pictures on the blacktop about respect.

At Memorial, guidance counselor Kerry Mc Glame said that teachers have been infusing various lessons and activities into their classes related to respect; harassment, intimidation and bullying; kindness; and diversity. Students have been working on a Week of Respect Flag, which will be like a Tibetan flag with each student making a square that states or shows with art work how they can show respect. They also are participating in a "Week of Respect" poster creation contest.

Next week, Memorial students will be treated to an assembly with JLine Dance Crew, an interactive choreography troupe that involves entertaining students while conveying a positive message. Mc Glame said that there is a follow up discussion regarding the negative effects of bullying, how we can learn to respect each other inside and outside of the classroom, thoughtful decision making and why it is everyone's responsibility to take care of themselves and those around them. Setting clear life goals and overcoming obstacles is also heavily emphasized.

The week concluded at all three buildings with a School Spirit Day where all students and staff were encouraged to wear spirit wear or school colors of blue and gold to show unity in the common goal of being respectful to everyone and making our school and community the best it can possibly be.

It is highly encouraged that parents continue the conversation about the values of respect at home. By supporting our Week of Respect, you are showing your child that you promote the respect of others.



## **WP SNAC kicks off year with "make and take" ghost fundraiser**

To kick off the school year, the Woodland Park Special Needs Advisory Committee (WP SNAC) held a "make and take" fundraiser where kids could come make glow in the dark polymer clay ghosts that they could use as a pendant or magnet. Kits could be ordered to be sent home as well. SNAC fundraisers benefit the special needs classrooms, therapy rooms and provide social events.

SNAC was established in 2015 by parents and administrators of the school district. Its goal is to create a bridge between parents of special needs children and the school district. The committee is open to all parents. Parent support meetings are held prior to the CO/BG HSA meetings on Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, March 12, April 9 and May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the CO gym. Have questions about the school year? Your IEP or 504? Need resources or information? Just need another parent in your corner? Please stop by or contact the group.

SEE PAGE THREE



# Knitted hats donated to district in honor of Bullying Prevention Month

The Knot Just Knitting Club at Four Seasons at Great Notch recently donated nearly three dozen hand knitted hats, in various shades and patterns of blue, to the school district in honor of National Bullying Prevention Month.

Four Seasons resident and club member Alice Sodowick said that the group learned about October being anti-bullying month and thought it could be a way to help. They knitted the hats in blue as the color is synonymous with anti-bullying prevention efforts.

"We wanted someone to know that we are here and we care," Sodowick said. "Even though our children are all grown, it's a very important thing for us to do."



While the group meets for fun, camaraderie and the soothing relaxation of knitting, they most often work together with a greater purpose of giving back. The group, which averages 20-30 members, creates blankets for newborns at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson as well as blankets for kids and teens in the pediatric ward. "They can leave the hospital with something to call their own," Sodowick said. "Knitting is fun, but really, why not do it to help someone else?"

The hats donated to the Woodland Park School District have been given to the three district guidance counselors, who will disseminate as they see fit to students.

"We are so very grateful for the continued support and partnership with the generous individuals who reside in our town," said Woodland Park School District Superintendent Dr. Michele Pillari.

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## FROM PAGE TWO

The purpose of SNAC:

- To provide direct input on the policies, programs and practices that impact services and supports for children with disabilities and their families.
- To increase the involvement of families of children with special needs in making recommendations on special education policies.
- To advise on matters that pertain to the education, health and safety of children with special needs.
- To advise on unmet needs of children with disabilities.
- To provide a support group for parents of special needs children.
- To support the inclusion of students with special needs into the general education population to the greatest extent possible.

Membership in SNAC is open to all families. There is a \$5 membership fee. There are membership forms available within the school offices/board office and at [www.WPSNAC.com](http://www.WPSNAC.com). Visit the group's Facebook page for updates as well or email them at [wpsnac@gmail.com](mailto:wpsnac@gmail.com).

WP SNAC board members for 2018-2019 are Laura Spagnola-Vargas, president; Maria Billson, vice president; Lisa Mistretta, treasurer; and Gina Gerardi, secretary.

## Memorial School HSA plans Harvest Food and Drink Festival

The Memorial Middle School Home & School Association is planning a Harvest Food and Drink Festival on Friday, Oct. 19 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the WP Boys & Girls Club.

Come taste the delicious foods of our town while having fantastic drinks and the chance to win great prizes. Cost is \$35 per person and includes a live DJ, dinner, dessert and specialty cocktail samplings. Also available for purchase: basket sheets for prizes, a 50/50 raffle and special surprises. BYOB. All guests must be at least 21 years of age.

For tickets contact Sherri Doherty at 973-632-2355 or [Mickeym@aol.com](mailto:Mickeym@aol.com).

# "Trick or Trunk"

Sponsored by the Woodland Park Municipal Alliance



When: Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018

Where: WP Boys & Girls Club parking lot

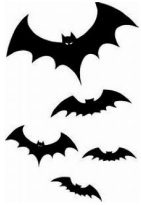
Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation of 1 bag of candy per family

To register, visit <https://register.communitypass.net>

Register by Oct. 24. No late registrations will be accepted.

This event is for Woodland Park Children only!



This event cannot take place without your help! A minimum of 50 trunks are needed to make this event a success. Please consider volunteering or buddy up with some friends to help provide candy and decorations. Attendees are asked to donate candy, which greatly offsets the amount of treats needed. A car decorating contest will take place, with prizes awarded. To register your car contact Michele at 973-219-9111.



# "Trick or Trunk"

Sponsored by the Woodland Park Municipal Alliance

## VOLUNTEER TRUNKERS NEEDED!!

WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 31

WHERE: WP Boys & Girls Club parking lot

Set up Time: 5 to 5:45 p.m.; event runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Sign up your trunk by contacting

Michele at 973-219-9111

This event is for Woodland Park residents only!



Prizes will be awarded in three categories:  
best family theme, most creative and fan vote

What is trunk or treat? Adult participants decorate their car trunk or truck bed and hand out treats. Kids enjoy a fun and safe family environment going from trunk to trunk and enjoying the creative decorations.

How do I decorate my trunk? Any way you like! You can go with a Halloween theme, sports, animals, or whatever gets your creativity flowing. It can be as elaborate or as simple as you want. Nothing too spooky or gruesome please!

The only expense to trunkers are decorations for your vehicle and treats to pass out. All attending families are asked to donate a bag of candy as admission which greatly offsets the amount of treats needed for each trunker. This event cannot happen without the support of volunteer trunks and will be cancelled if we do not have enough participants!

WOODLAND  
PARK  
PROUD TO BE  
STIGMA-FREE

Wednesday, October 10th @ 7:00 pm

Light a Luminary in Remembrance



[www.wpstigmafree.org](http://www.wpstigmafree.org)

This free event at the Dowling Gardens Gazebo, on the corner of McBride Ave. & Dowling Pkwy, will be an enlightened way to reflect, to remember, and to bring hope for all those affected by suicide, addiction, and mental illness, and loved ones lost. You may honor a loved one by writing their name and/or a message on a luminary bag and light a candle within.

If you or someone you know is in crisis please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline toll free number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is hope.

## Woodland Park HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE & PARTY

### SAT., OCT. 27th - 9 A.M.

Woodland Park Children: Pre-School-5<sup>th</sup> grade

The parade will start at Dowling Gardens at the corner of McBride Avenue & Dowling Parkway and will end with a party at the Memorial Middle School Cafeteria on Memorial Drive.

WP Residents only! All children must be registered and accompanied by an adult!

**Register online by 10/19**  
at [CapturePoint.com](http://CapturePoint.com)

<https://register.capturepoint.com/woodlandparkborough>

973-345-8100 ext. 211  
kkazmark@wpnj.us

**THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK**  
5 BROPHY LANE, WOODLAND PARK, N.J. 07424

MAYOR KEITH KAZMARK  
THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
AND THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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