



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

Wed., Dec. 18, 10 a.m. -  
CO 2nd Grade Holiday Concert

Wed., Dec. 19, 7 p.m. -  
Memorial School Winter Concert

## Memorial School students learn how to be upstanders for animals

Memorial School's Animal Club hosted two special visitors from St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center on Wednesday - volunteer Karen Potocek and Iris, a rescued 1-year-old pup. Founded in 1939, St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center, based in Madison, operates five animal shelters and has a nationally renowned Training and Behavior Center.



St. Hubert's provides a variety of services including humane education, a pet food pantry, low-cost spay/neuter program and a professional education series.

Potocek spoke to the students about a variety of different issues on the theme of "Empathy & Compassion - Influencing Your World. She told the students that animal rescue and education is the work of upstanders - not bystanders. She said they could be upstanders for animals as well, by choosing adoption over purchasing, spaying or neutering their pets, being mindful of the businesses they support as well as working to educate others.

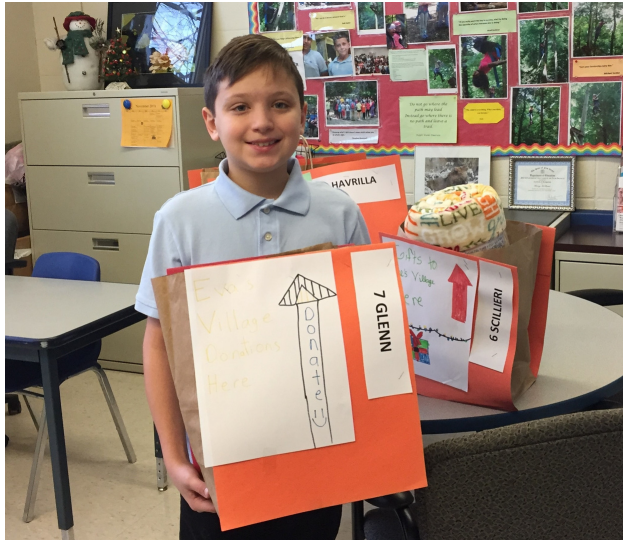
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# Giving Back

The Eva's Village Holiday Drive is sponsored annually by the Memorial School Anti-Bullying Alliance. Students and families donate toothpaste, shampoo, soap, socks, gloves, scarves and small fleece blankets to help homeless residents and visitors at Eva's Village in Paterson. This year's drive was an enormous success thanks to the generosity of students, parent and teachers.



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Potocek told the students that when it comes to pet adoptions, they have choices - a pet store or adoption. She described life for animals in the puppy mills that breed dogs for pet stores and how they often can lack cleanliness and animals can have poor health and lack of socialization. She encouraged the students to "adopt, don't shop" if their family was going to get a pet. In addition, many small animals purchased from pet stores often wind up being surrendered to shelters such as ferrets, birds, rabbits and reptiles.

Students learned about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets. Potocek detailed how it helps control the pet overpopulation crisis, and helps an animal's overall health and behavior.

Potocek also spoke to the students about the difference between farm animals and factory farm animals, the ones raised for consumption. She noted that factory farm animals are not often treated very well and often live in very poor, crowded conditions.



### Memorial Middle School

#### Winter Wonderland Tricky Tray

Come out for a fun night with friends. Bring your own food and drinks and get ready to win some great prizes.

Date: Friday January 18<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-11pm

Location: West Paterson Boys and Girls Club

Cost: \$20.00 per person includes:

- Coffee & Dessert
- 1 sheet of tickets

Also Available for purchase:

- Basket Sheets for Fantastic Prizes
- 50/50 Raffle
- Special Surprises

**Ticket Information:** Space will be limited so please contact Sherri Doherty for your ticket purchases as soon as possible. [Mickeym@aol.com](mailto:Mickeym@aol.com) or text 973-632-2355.

**Additionally:** BYOB and all guests must be at least 21 years of age.

In order to make this Memorial Middle School largest fundraiser of the year a success, we need your support. We are in need of donations and assistance, so please contact any of the committee members and let them know how you can help.

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