



Washington Township Schools



“Making a Difference”

Board of Education to Review Grading Scales and Honor Roll Criteria

The Washington Township Board of Education will be reviewing policies to update the district’s grade scale and honor roll criteria. The district is updating its grade scale to align with the scale utilized by the Warren Hills Regional School District. In September of 2014, the Warren Hills District implemented a new scale to better match the needs of the district and to ensure the high school was competitive with schools within the state. The Washington Township School District will be reviewing policy changes to ensure that our district is aligned with Warren Hills. The proposed honor roll changes will align with the new grade scale and will focus on fifth and sixth grade students, allowing fourth graders a year to adjust to the rigors of intermediate level classes before working towards the honor roll system.

The proposed changes are listed below:

Current Grade Scale for Grades 3 – 6

- A (93 – 100)
- B (85 – 92)
- C (76 – 84)
- D (68 – 75)
- F (67 – below)

Proposed Grade Scale for 2015 – 2016

- A (90 – 100)**
- B (80 – 89)**
- C (70 – 79)**
- D (65 – 69)**
- F (64 – below)**

Current Honor Roll System (grades 4 – 6 are eligible for recognition)

Principal’s Honor Roll: 93% average with no grades lower than 93%

High Honor Roll: 93% average with no grade lower than 85%

Honor Roll: 85% average with no grade lower than 85%

Proposed Honor Roll System (grades 5 & 6 are eligible for recognition)

Principal’s Honor Roll: all grades 95% or above

High Honor Roll: all grades 90% or above

Honor Roll: all grades 85% or above

The Board of Education will be reviewing the first reading of this policy at its June 8, 2015 meeting and second reading of the policy will take place at the July 13, 2015 meeting. If you have any comments regarding the changes to this policy, please contact Keith Neuhs, Superintendent at kneuhs@washtwpsd.org or 908-689-1119 ext. 602. Input from the school community will be shared with members of the Board of Education at the June 8th meeting.

The Washington Township PTA proudly presents the 2015 Family Fun Art Night & Student Expo

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Brass Castle School

In addition to the creating fantastic art projects, families are invited to tour the school to view the Student Art Exhibition presented by Mrs. Giuliano. Student art works will proudly be on display all around the school. Save plenty of time to appreciate the many, masterpieces created throughout the year. Once again, plan to be amazed by the enthusiasm and creative abilities of our students.

Our Spanish teacher, Senora Scherrei, has created special video presentations of students from all the grades that will be playing continuously on monitors in the halls. These are “must-watch” productions the kids will enjoy viewing as much as the parents.

Also on tap for the evening, our music teacher, Mr. Rizzo, has assembled a group of band members that will be performing musical selections throughout the evening. Be sure to stop and enjoy their performances as you meander through the building. A new addition this year to our Art Night is “poetry reading” by Grade 6 students, coordinated with the ensemble groups. You can hear our young poets as well as see their displayed multi-genre research projects in the library.

All of these cultural events and productions await your family, so be sure to send in your RSVP and join the fun celebrating your love of the arts! **And don't forget those cameras!****Volunteers who would like to help at the crafting art event or would like to donate snacks or beverages are welcome to email PTA FFAN Chairperson-Dana Pellegrino- Heath at Danagioia@aol.com.**

Ensemble Night

Select students from Brass Castle’s instrumental music program will be showcasing their talents at the 5th Annual Ensemble Night, on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7:00pm at the Brass Castle School. The students have been working hard since our Spring Concert and they have been looking forward to sharing their small ensemble pieces with family and friends.

Battle of the Books 2015 Champions!

It was one warm Tuesday evening on May 19, 2015. A time when normally these students might be out and about at their spring activities, but our Battle of the Books team took a time out to participate in the Warren County competition. It was a culmination to few intense months of reading by our five participants. They each took on the responsibility to become experts on two of the ten books. Wonderfully, the success of their efforts led to a Magnificent FIRST PLACE! Such an excellent showing among 21 Countywide 4th grade teams, we are beaming with pride.

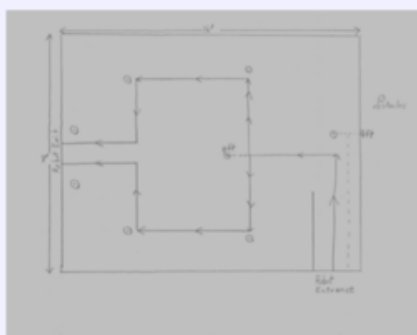


Kaitlin DeGeorge, Allison Slovak, Gianna Cozzolino, Ilya Chernykh, and Alia Wimmer

Robotics Competition 2015 Champions

Driving, Wrestling, and reprogramming at the annual **Warren County Robotics Competition**; these were the tasks at hand for our 6th grade participants on May 20, 2015. Students' patience and perseverance were put to the test at Lopatcong Middle School. The robot creations had to make their way through an obstacle course without knocking down the bottles or straying off the course! Next, the student's robots faced – off with their opponents on the “wrestling mat” to see which robot could hold its' ground against the other's robot - very exciting stuff for our future engineers!

Congratulations to Michael Finke, first place in the Maze event, as well as first place in the Alternate Maze event. (The more bottles knocked down, the better.) Alex Yahara placed second in these two events, giving all the competitors a run for their money. Ryan Elbassiouny's and Eddie Kaiven's robot to the title in the Sumo Wrestling event. A great experience for all involved, including Joey Accetturo, Jason Merrill, Julia Fox, Lauren Kohansby and Amy Twohig.



The Maze



Last row (L to R): Amy Twohig, Julia Fox, Jason Merrill, Ryan Elbassiouny
Front row (L to R): Joseph Accetturo, Eddie Kaiven
Missing: Michael Finke, Alex Yahara

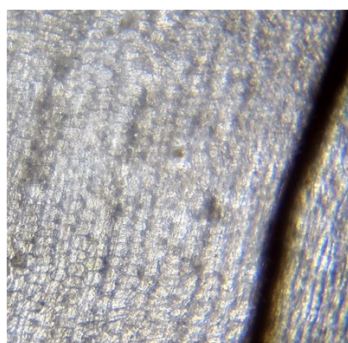
Michael Finke,
First Place

Fun with Science in Mrs. Page's Class

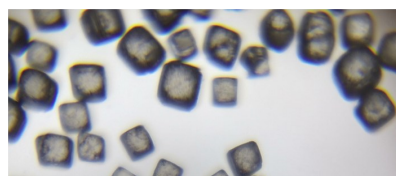
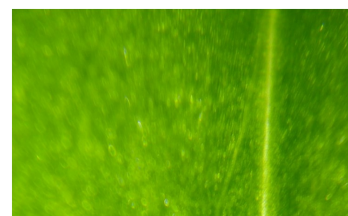
In science, Mrs. Page's class is learning about life science. The class has learned about food chains, life cycles, and has even learned a little about cells. To further explore living things in nature, the class looked at some plants and animals under a homemade microscope. Students saw what an onion skin, leaf, orange peel, hair, and a bee look like up close. The class also looked at some things that were not living due to their curiosity. They looked at salt, sugar, cloth, and a pencil shaving. Some of the things were very shocking to see so close up!



Onion skin



Leaf



Salt

News from the Nurses

Important Vaccination Reminder to All 5th Grade Parents:

Remember all students entering 6th grade next year must receive one dose of Tdap and one dose of Meningococcal vaccines before school starts. Documentation of having received these vaccines is due to the Health Office on or before Friday, August 28, 2015.

*** Students, who receive these vaccines over the summer, should send in documentation of receiving these vaccines to the Health Office at that time. Please note – your child will not be allowed to begin school until all immunizations have been completed and received in the Health Office. Due to state laws, we cannot allow your child to attend school until documentation is provided. Proof of immunization can be mailed, dropped off, or faxed (908)-689-2356, Attention: School Nurse.

Parents of Current 1st and 4th Grade Students:

Physicals and a copy of your child's current immunization records are requested for the 2015-16 school year. This documentation can be sent to the Health Office at any time during the summer or school year.

General Reminders:

As we enter the warmer weather, please remember to apply sunscreen to your child BEFORE they come to school. Children are not allowed to bring sunscreen to school and it cannot be applied by staff members during school. Also, please discuss the importance of drinking water throughout the day with your child. Staying hydrated is very important during this warmer weather. Please consider sending your child to school with a water bottle every day.

In preparation for next school year, if your child will require medications for the 2015-16 school year, please visit the district's Health Office webpage and download the appropriate forms to be completed by your child's physician. Links are provided on the left hand side of the webpage for the appropriate forms (i.e. asthma, food/insect allergy, diabetes management, seizure management and all other medications, including over the counter medications).

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school nurse:

Port Colden School: Janine Barzdines, RN, 908-689-0681 ext. 507

Brass Castle School: Katie Wikander, RN, 908-689-1188 ext. 607



Memorial Day

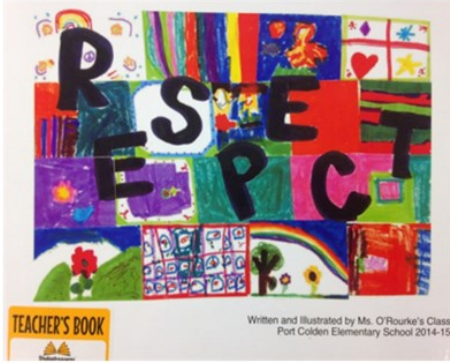
In the play “Remember Not to Forget” presented by Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Pare’s 5th grade class, Brass Castle students learned about the history and origins of Memorial Day, as well as a number of common traditions we observe during this national holiday. Americans commemorate this holiday in a number of ways, including the Boy and Girl Scout Luminaria program and the VFW Buddy Poppy Program. From the play, we learned that Moina Michael started the tradition of wearing red poppies after hearing the poem “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae. The students enjoyed working on the props and costumes themselves, and were honored to have members of the Washington VFW in attendance. They hope that on Memorial Day, while you enjoy your day off, you stop for a minute at 3:00 to remember the brave men and women who have died in service of our country.

Port Colden School celebrated Memorial Day May 20th with a special program to remind students about the significance of the Memorial Day holiday. The program included student readings about the history of Memorial Day, singing of patriotic songs and poetry readings dedicated to our Veterans from the Port Colden Writing Club. The program concluded with a *meet and greet* in our library where veterans and their families received refreshments and gifts.

The Memorial Day programs at both schools were sponsored by the Washington Township Education Association through the writing of N.J.E.A.’s P.R.I.D. E. grants.

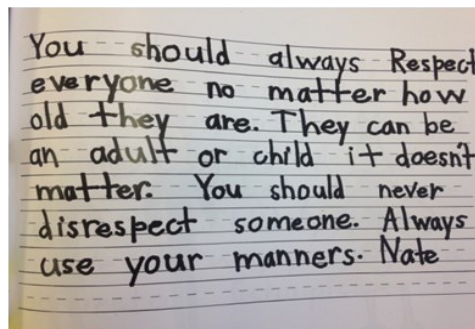


Respect: Written and Illustrated by Ms. O'Rourke's Second Grade Class



If we had to describe our school year in one word we would have to go with... SUPER! We can thank a lot of different people for that but one thing that has made our time together in second grade so great is our respect for ourselves and one another. When our class decided to write a book it took us a long time to choose what we would write about. We knew we wanted it to be something important so we started thinking about the character traits we've talked about and practiced all year; responsibility, effort, good choices, caring, honesty and respect. We decided that above all, respect was something that we all valued and could write about. Each student wrote

and illustrated one page describing ways to show respect and how they demonstrate respect to their families, friends, teachers, school, homes and planet. After lots of hard work using pencils, markers and publishing pens, we had a final product ready to send to the publishing company. However, we could all agree really that it was worth it when we were able to page through our very own, shiny, colorful, hard cover book! The students are very proud of their work and welcome visitors to stop in to our classroom to check out our first published book. Here is a sneak peek inside the book!



Sixth Grade Earth Day Team

A group of sixth grade students was assembled during the week of Earth Day for the purpose of designing activities that would continue the lessons of that important day. They planned and created a thoughtful bulletin board and came up with school wide activities lasting one week. The activities were explained on a flyer that was distributed to all classes.

Monday was "low-tech day" when students were asked to refrain from using video games and other electronics. Tuesday was reusable container day. Many students took extra care to pack their lunch items in reusable containers. On Wednesday- "no paper day"- students and teachers tried to use only recycled paper. Perhaps the favorite day, Thursday was "lights out- read outside day"! Classrooms were "dark" and it was wonderful to see groups of students reading outside on a beautiful spring day. The week ended with a "wear blue or green" as a final celebration of our wonderful Earth.

The hardworking students who worked together to plan these activities included Simryn Desai, Nathan Duffell, Julia Fox, Eddie Kaiven, Nic Read, Elizabeth Schlafter, Amy Twohig and Alex Yahara. Thanks, Sixth Grade Earth Team!!

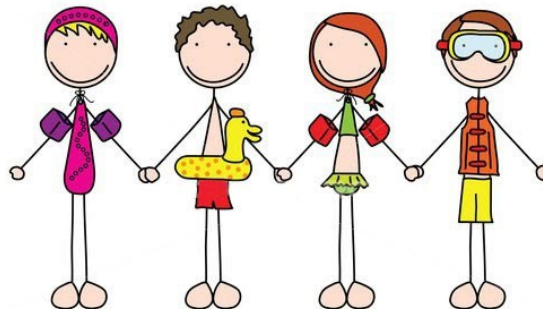
Counselor's Corner June 2015

Once again we are slowly descending into the slower days of summer. Memorial Day weekend was so beautiful on many levels. Superficially, the weather was just about the nicest we have had for this early in the season. My kids were barefoot, sporting tank tops accompanied with loads of sunblock all weekend. They reconnected with friends that they only see for a couple of months each year. More poignantly, we were reminded by patriotic parades, American flags and our red, white and blue clothing that there is really more to this weekend than our reconnection with summer. One of my favorite quotes says it all, "America: Home of the Free, because of the Brave." Thank you to all our service men and women and their families who have sacrificed for us...

I invite you to celebrate the anticipation of freedom that our kids are gearing up for this month: long, lazy days, toes in the sand (or grass,) starlit nights and fireflies. Though some well-deserved 'down time' is needed for all of us, it is still important to structure our children's days. For our youngest, set some time aside each morning and evening to read – you read a page, they read a page. For our older children, our local library has amazing summer reading programs that are fun and rewarding. If you are heading on a family road trip, the license plate game is a great stand-by. Collect the states you all see on cars/trucks and have the kids identify the capital (and show where it is on a map). Use your iPhones, iPads, or just keep a list that can be researched when you all arrive at your destination... My younger children take a map of the US with them on long trips and color in each state that they identify on a license plate (they are always curious how the car 'drove' over from Hawaii! ... I am too)! Please contact me if you would like support with summer activities for your family (camps, day programs etc).

As we wind down the academic year in Washington Township, I would like to truly thank you for sharing your children with me. I am so proud to be a part of a school community that focuses on knowing each child for the unique person they are. Here's to our sixth graders who are eagerly (and anxiously) preparing to leave our safe haven... You will do great things – remember to be kind and work hard!

Over the summer, I can be reached via email at dtierney@washtwpsd.org. In addition, I would be happy to share my cell phone number with you - please contact me if you would like it. Congratulations on another successful year and enjoy the time with your family this summer!



JUNE 2015 –Positive Character

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 Thank your teacher for something he/she taught you this year J	2 A positive attitude leads to better self control	3 Remember to practice positive character every day	4 When you have done your best – be happy with the success you have accomplished	5 Believe in yourself – you are great!	6
7	8 A positive attitude focuses on the great things ahead	9 Your character is your choice – make it positive	10 Be patient with yourself – you are learning to make good choices each day	11 Show your positive attitude with a SMILE	12 Believe in yourself and finish this year strong	13
14	15 Walk into school each day with a positive attitude- You Got This!	16 With a good attitude you will not lose your temper as often	17 Smile and encourage those around you – family and friends	18 Be strong – make your actions positive ones	19 Less than a week to go – what are your positive plans for the summer?	20
21	22 Be kind and work hard – these lessons will help you to be a successful person	23 A positive attitude focuses on the good things ahead - <i>Enjoy the summer !</i>	24 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! Be positive, be safe, set goals and have fun!	25 Make a positive difference in someone's life this summer	26	27
28	29	30	Enjoy the precious moments this summer ☺			

“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

This summer, be a positive force in your community, in your family and with your friends. Start each day with a smile and make ‘good’ choices. I am proud of you all – see you in the Fall