



Washington Township Schools "Making a Difference"

Un-BEE-lievable Students

Congratulations to ALL our students who competed in our geography and spelling bees this month. Our champions include:

4th Grade Spelling Bee

- 1st Place - Hailey Ford
- 2nd Place - Nicholas Paruta
- 3rd Place - Rebecca Sigman

5th & 6th Grade Spelling Bee

- 1st Place - Juan Cornejo
- 2nd Place - Josh DiNapoli
- 3rd Place - Nicole Antonelli

Geography Bee

- 1st Place - Taylor Moskal
- 2nd Place - Daniel Freeman
- 3rd Place - Alexandria Szucs



Port Colden School
Brass Castle School

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Patriot's Pen Award

All 6th grade students participated in the annual Patriot's Pen Essay Contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The topic this year was "When is the right time to honor a veteran". Coming in first place for the district was Will Heerwagen. Placing locally were 1st place - Andy Quinones; 2nd place - Josh DiNapoli; and 3rd place - Taylor Moskal. The four students were honored recently by the VFW at an evening program.

School Based Mentoring Program

Several students in our school district are participating in a School Based Mentoring Program run by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Warren County. Adult mentors from our community are carefully paired with a particular student and meet one time per week during that student's lunch. The mentor comes to Brass Castle or Port Colden School where they share a rewarding relationship with their student and provide academic, emotional, and/or social support. The program has been a great success, having a positive impact on all students who have a mentor. If you would like to involve your child in the School Based Mentoring Program, or if you are interested in becoming a School Based Mentor, please contact your child's teacher or Lynn Hardcastle. You can reach Mrs. Hardcastle by e-mail at lhardcastle@washingtontownshipschools.org or by phone at 689-1188, ext 609.

Mark Your Calendars

Talent Show 2010....Coming Soon!

"Blast from the Past Into the Future" Fourteen acts

Mark your calendars....

Friday, March 12!

Reminder... **Kindergarten**

Registration will take place at Brass Castle School on April 19-20

Warren Hills Special Education
Parents' Advisory Group

Warren Hill High School Library

Feb. 10th 7pm

Topic: IEP Goal Development

Letters to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The sixth grade students recently wrote letters to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. after studying his life, accomplishments, and his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Evan Murray, Jacob Turner and Aidan Zola were selected by the Warren County Human Relations Commission to read their letters at the 9th Annual Celebration of Diversity in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sixth grader Kalynn Ruth was also a featured speaker at the ceremony.

Also reading their letters were former Brass Castle students, Tyler Ford, Stacey Giordano and Brittany Heerwagen who are now attending seventh grade at Warren Hills Middle School. Yet another Brass Castle alumna who spoke was Lauren Webb, a recent graduate of New York University.

The teachers, administrators and parents who attended this special and inspiring celebration were extremely proud of our students, current and former!

Building a Community of Writers

On January 18th our teachers participated in a variety of professional development workshops. Pre-school, kindergarten, and first grade teachers learned about a writing program called 'Kid Writing'. 'Kid Writing' is based on the premise that all students can be successful writers. It uses a developmental approach to help students write the sounds and letters they hear in a given word. Students start by sketching pictures and add words as they progress through the writing stages. The teachers are eager to start the program in September!

The second grade teachers also spent the day learning about writing. Beginning next year, the second grade teachers will be using the Writer's Workshop method of teaching writing. This program will build upon the skills the children will learn in kindergarten and first grade. The program was developed by Lucy Caulkins at Columbia University and is used in classrooms nationwide to help children become successful writers.

Grade 3-6 teachers spent time in their workshop investigating strategies to improve student writing skills with Sue Hocking, a teacher from Frelinghuysen. Encouraging students to take composition risks (i.e. alliteration, figurative language, onomatopoeia, and internal monologue) was promoted.

A-B-C... D

is for Diversity

Students in Mrs. Pare's Pre-K class have been exploring the concept of diversity this month. Through the use of story boards, books, making booklets, color pages and art projects, our young students have learned how both Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks changed the way people think and treat one another.



Fourteenth Annual Warren County All-Star Band

Warren Hills High School
Thursday, March 4, 7:30pm
(Snow Date - Friday, March 5)

Aidan Zola - Clarinet
Thomas Lezon - Trumpet
Sarah Morris - Trumpet
Anthony Roessner - Alto Saxophone
Anthony Lea - Alto Saxophone
Brian Flaherty - Percussion



Parental Monitoring Software

Parental Control Bar is a free public service that helps concerned parents in preventing their children from accessing adult-oriented websites. This software is a simple, powerful and effective filtering tool to assist parents. Simply activate Child-Mode while children surf the internet, and the toolbar will block access to adult-oriented websites.

The software is available for download at:

<http://www.parentalcontrolbar.org/>

System requirements:

Windows Vista, NT4, SP6, XP

Internet Explorer 5.5, 6, IE 7 & IE 8

Does not work with multi-user accounts.

Firefox 1.5, 3.0,

Firefox 3.5 coming soon

New! - Safari 10.4

File Size: 4.7MB

Windows 7 -coming soon

Summer Recreation Program

Summer will be here before you know it! Yes, summer, you remember those sunny warm days when you can walk outside without a heavy jacket, gloves and a hat. I know, I know it is hard to think about summer when it is 20 degrees and snowing outside, but to the enjoyment of most kids it will be here before you know it.

Once again the Washington Township Summer Recreation Program will be running in conjunction with the Washington Township Summer School Program. Over the past couple of years the two programs have proudly worked together to offer the kids in Washington Township both a fun and educational summer. Kids will be able to attend the Recreation Program and receive extra help from district teachers in their studies at the same time. For most kids the word "school" is extinct during the summer. The coordination of the two programs allows the kids to enjoy the best of both worlds and not be scared to step foot in a school during the summer.

The Summer Recreation Program will be running for three weeks in July. Week A will run from July 12 - July 16, Week B will run from July 19 - 23, and Week C will run from July 26 - July 30. The program runs from 8:45 - 12:15 and is held at Brass Castle School. The program offers many outstanding programs that encourage the kids to actively use their bodies and minds. It also allows the kids to continue making and building their friendships with their classmates.

Registration for the Summer Recreation Program will be held on Tuesday, March 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 at the Brass Castle School Library. Registration forms will be sent home to the students in early February. If you have any questions about the Summer Recreation Program, please contact Raphael Margolin at rmargolin@washingtontownshipschools.org.



Mayor Samir Elbassiouny addresses Mrs. Melhem's 3rd grade class.

Mayor Meets Melhem's Munchkins

Students in Mrs. Melhem's third grade class had a special visitor to their classroom—Mr. Samir Elbassiouny, the mayor of Washington Township. Mayor Elbassiouny's visit to the class served as the culminating activity for the students' "Government at Work" unit. Mayor Samir Elbassiouny was kind enough to take time out from his busy schedule as Executive Director of Warren County Community College Foundation to speak to the students about being our mayor.

The students eagerly asked him questions such as, "What inspired you to become mayor?"; "How did you get voted in?" "How many votes did you get?" "Is your job hard?" "Does your wife help you?" "What do you do at your regular job?" "What things do you debate?" "Whose jobs do you oversee?" "When are your meetings?" Mr. Elbassiouny graciously and patiently answered all of the students' questions with detail. He planted the idea that as citizens we have a responsibility to be involved in our community. We have a choice to 'lead, follow or get out of the way.' He said, "If you choose to lead, you must give 100% of yourself to the job." The students came away with new knowledge that they will use some day as either voting citizens or leaders themselves making the decisions.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for inspiring little munchkins to grow up to be good citizens.

G&T and Focused Enrichment Corner

If you look around the corners, on top of book cases, and soon to be in the Display Case of the Brass Castle Library, you'll see some interesting pieces of work developed by our Focused Enrichment Science groups. Using simple materials of cardboard, Popsicle sticks, string, and duct tape - to name a few; students have made bridges that can withstand a ton of bricks! Well, maybe one or two bricks. But the design and process of building through trial and testing has made learning about the forces of tension and compression a great deal of fun!

Go Green with "E Blast"

As part of our continued efforts to go green, we have begun our use of "e-blasts." By using our Honeywell Alert system, we are able to send out any school correspondence via email. We are currently sending out hard copies as well but beginning September 1, 2010, the start of the new school year, we will only send out electronic copies. For that reason, it is very important that you check your Honeywell profile to be sure that you have checked off "e-mail" as a method of communication. Should you have questions about this, please contact Kim Sigman, at ksigman@washingtontownshipschools.org