

Oiler Spills  
March 2019  
Cynthia Scroggins, Superintendent

On February 26, students in grades 5-12 attended Ryan's Story, an assembly focused on anti-bullying, cyberbullying, and suicide prevention. The program is presented by John Halligan who lost his 13 year old son to suicide on October 7th, 2003. After Ryan's death, his parents learned that he was ridiculed and humiliated by his peers at his middle school in Vermont and online. Ryan was one of the first victims of cyberbullying. In just a few months after Ryan's death, Mr. Halligan spearheaded the Vermont Bullying Prevention law in 2004, in honor of his son Ryan. He also led the passing of a bill in 2006 which requires education about suicide prevention in public schools. Since his son's suicide, Mr. Halligan has made it his life's work to spread the need for awareness and prevention of bullying, cyberbullying, and teen suicide. He travels across the country during the school year presenting to many middle and high school students. He has presented at over 2000 schools and over 1 million students.

On February 27th, Nathan Hale held its first ever STEAM night. This was a project conceived and led by assistant superintendent, Lorri Covaciu. STEAM is an educational initiative that uses science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math to engage students in problem solving and experimental hands on creative activities. STEAM helps students develop the critical thinking skills needed for success in the 21st century. Donations for the activities were received from the City of Whiting, Whiting Education foundation, Whiting public library, Mind Benders, Nipsco, Challenger learning center, and the Adler Planetarium. Students and parents were given the opportunity to move through a variety of STEAM experiences and challenges. Nathan Hale's literacy, math, and now STEAM night, provides families with a great opportunity to learn and play together.

Nathan Hale Elementary will be holding its Preschool and Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 school year on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. It will be held at the School City of Whiting Administration Center on 1500 Center Street. There will be two sessions, with the first starting at 9:00 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. and the second session beginning at 12:30 p.m. through 3:00 p.m.

The School City of Whiting offers both the Geminus Head Start program and the regular Title I PreK program. The Geminus program is for children who will be 3 or 4 by August 1, 2019. The Title I PreK program only takes children who will be 4 by the same date. The Head Start program is also income-based and a pre-screener will be completed when you register to see if you qualify. Students registering for kindergarten must be five by August 1, 2019. Students for all programs must be residents of Whiting.

Please bring a photo ID, your child's birth certificate, your insurance card, your child's immunization records, 2 proofs of residency, and proof of income when you come to register. You will need to pick up a registration packet ahead of time from the Nathan Hale office if your child is registering for kindergarten. If you have any questions about the process or registration, please contact the Nathan Hale office at (219) 659-0738.

All students who register will receive a special bag of goodies to help them get ready for next school year. We hope to see you there!