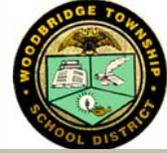


# SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER



Woodbridge Township School District, 428 School St, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
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## Marking Period 1 Wrap-Up

By Robert Zega

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the year has been completed. These last two months have been exciting ones. The beginning of the school year, especially at the elementary school level, brings promises of unlimited potential. Like the start of any athletic season, the onset of a new school year allows everyone to think they can be champions.

Speaking of the elementary schools, we are pleased with the implementation of our new K-5 language arts program. Our teachers have worked hard to prepare for this new curriculum. Our students seem to enjoy it.

Our middle schoolers have been hard at work in their classrooms. The eighth graders will be taking the ReadStep test on October 29. This test is created by *College Board*, the creators of the SAT and AP tests. ReadStep test results provide detailed feedback on student performance, allowing teachers to see how well each student is performing in key academic areas. This information can help teachers guide curriculum development and instruction, and improve learning outcomes for all students. <http://readistep.collegeboard.org/about>

In high school the first marking period has flown by. Our seniors are busy with college applications. Juniors and sophomores will be taking the National Merit PSAT on October 30. The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program cosponsored by the College Board and [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](http://www.nmsc.org). It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives our students a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools. Our students will be taking the PSAT or the PSSS (previous versions of the

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PSAT) four times before their junior year. We are one of the only (if not *the* only) school districts in NJ that provides this PSAT experience for all of our children <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>.

We will continue to focus on improving our SAT, ACT and AP test scores. To assure high academic achievement, we base all of our decision-making on several core beliefs:

- 1. We will continue to strive to employ, train and retain excellent teachers who provide continuously effective, engaging instruction.**
- 2. All children can learn, but learning takes effort.**
- 3. Each child deserves our best every day.**
- 4. Every lesson should be a positive learning experience for every child.**
- 5. We are here to help our children.**
- 6. We need to give the children what they need.**



## Major Upgrades Announced

In a historic announcement, the Woodbridge Township Municipality and the Woodbridge Township School District announced a cooperative agreement to upgrade many of the community used facilities at the schools. During a joint Town Council and Board of Education meeting on October 29 Mayor John McCormac announced that the Township would be funding major improvements at the venues used by both the schools and community. The total cost for these improvements will be just under \$10 million. The costs will be covered by the township and will not increase taxes. Highlights from the list include:

1. Artificial Turf Soccer/Football Field @ Colonia H.S.
2. Artificial Turf Soccer/Football Field @ John F. Kennedy H.S.
3. New Stadium Bleachers @ Woodbridge H.S. with new press box, team locker rooms, and bathroom facilities
4. Install Roof Mounted Air Conditioning Units @ 3 H.S. Auditoriums
5. Artificial Turf Baseball (outfield & infield) @ Colonia H.S.
6. Artificial Turf Baseball (outfield & infield) @ John F. Kennedy H.S.
7. Tennis Courts @ Woodbridge H.S.
  - a. Three (3) Refurbished
  - b. Two (2) New
8. New Auditorium seats @ Woodbridge H.S
9. New Auditorium seats @ John F. Kennedy H.S.
10. Two (2) Dugouts @ Woodbridge H.S. J.V. Softball Fields
11. John F. Kennedy Varsity Girls' Softball Fields including fence, dugouts and bleachers
12. Install sod and irrigation at fields behind Avenel Middle School
13. New indoor gym bleachers @ CHS
14. New indoor gym bleachers @ WHS
15. Playgrounds (5) at #1, #9, #20,#24, #25
16. Basketball courts (6) at #1, #18, #21, #23, #24, #25, #26, #28
17. Walking tracks (8) at #9, #19, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #28
18. Fencing around perimeter of fields at CHS
19. Two (2) restrooms and concession stand @ WHS
20. New Sound System & Stage Lighting @ WMS
21. Greenhouses at CMS & CHS

*Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.*

*~Vince Lombardi*



*New ball field at FMS*



*New playground in the CMS courtyard*

*Fall seven times, stand up eight.*

*~Japanese Proverb*



*New banners in the WHS gym*

## Woodbridge Township Board of Education

<p><b>Ezio Tamburello</b> <i>President</i></p>	 A portrait of Ezio Tamburello, a man with short brown hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, white shirt, and yellow tie. He is smiling slightly and is positioned in front of a red and white striped flag.	<p>Term - 2015</p>
<p><b>John Golden</b> <i>Vice President</i></p>	 A portrait of John Golden, a man with short hair and glasses, wearing a grey suit jacket, white shirt, and dark tie. He is smiling and has a plain white background.	<p>Term - 2013</p>
<p><b>Frank DellaPietro III</b> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Frank DellaPietro III, a man with short hair and a mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket, white shirt, and dark tie. He is smiling and has a wood-paneled background.	<p>Term - 2014</p>
<p><b>Judy Leidner</b> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Judy Leidner, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a red jacket over a black top. She has a neutral expression and a plain white background.	<p>Term - 2015</p>
<p><b>Daniel Harris</b> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Daniel Harris, a man with short hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket, white shirt, and red patterned tie. He is smiling and has a bookshelf background.	<p>Term - 2015</p>

<p><b>Brian Molnar</b> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Brian Molnar, a man with short dark hair and a goatee, wearing a grey suit jacket, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling slightly.	<p>Term - 2014</p>
<p><b>Brian F. Small</b> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Brian F. Small, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, white shirt, and blue tie. He is standing outdoors in front of green trees.	<p>Term - 2013</p>
<p><b>Monica Michelle Smith</b> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Monica Michelle Smith, a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a light-colored blazer and a necklace. She is smiling.	<p>Term - 2014</p>
<p><b>Jonathan Triebwasser</b> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Jonathan Triebwasser, a man with short dark hair and a mustache, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is smiling.	<p>Term - 2013</p>

*We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.*

*~Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

## Big Lots Makes Big Donation at Grand Opening



*The PTO co-presidents of Mawbey St. School #1 Kimberly Tighe and Maureen Logan accept a \$1,500 donation at the grand opening of the new Big Lots. Also present are Mayor McCormac, BOE members Brian Molnar, Dan Harris, Judy Leidner and Superintendent Robert Zega.*

*The impersonal hand of government can never replace  
the helping hand of a neighbor.*

*~Hubert H. Humphrey*

## Motivational Speaker Jeff Yalden Visits High Schools



Teen Expert Jeff Yalden recently spoke to our students at all three high schools. Jeff is an award-winning and internationally acclaimed youth motivational speaker, one of the TOP Teen & Family Life Coaches in America and a Radio Show host.

<http://www.jeffyalden.com/>

Jeff's entire CHS presentation can be seen at:

<http://vp.telvue.com/player?s=woodbridgechannels>

*I've come full circle being one of today's teens to now being their inspiration. I think today's teens are desperate for the attention of caring adults who recognize their problems, and speak with them honestly and directly about the challenges they face. When I was in high school, I was desperate for this attention, and since then I've been passionate about teens and what they go through every day. Therefore, I've made it my purpose to be that caring adult who shows teens that I recognize their problems, and to be their inspiration too.*

*~Jeff Yalden*

## All-Time Woodbridge HS Record Holders Honored



*The all-time Woodbridge football record holders were honored on Friday, September 27 during halftime at the Woodbridge HS football game vs. Monroe. Pictured are (l to r) Keith Hemmings, Ed Tobin, Anthony Nyers & Kyle Anderson.*

**KEITH HEMMINGS**

1996 - 1997

2,011 Career Receiving Yards  
20 Career Receiving Touchdowns

**ED TOBIN**

1980-1981

11 INT's in a Season (1981)  
12 Career INT's

**ANTHONY NYERS**

2009 - 2011

107 Career Receptions

**KYLE ANDERSON**

2009 - 2011

4,780 Career Passing Yards  
319 Career Pass Completions  
58 Career Passing Touchdowns

## Breaking Ground on JFK Track Construction



*Mayor John McCormac addresses the media and students at the groundbreaking ceremonies at John F. Kennedy Memorial HS. Also on hand were Principal Michael Cilento, Athletic Director Sean Daly, Council President Charles Kenney, Councilman James Major and Beverly Sylvester, parent of 2013 JFK graduate Christian Sylvester and current JFK student Matthew Sylvester. JFK student athletes Christine Belbey and Andrew Allen also shared their thoughts on the new track. Construction is expected to begin later this fall.*

*The essence of sports is that while you're doing it, nothing else matters, but after you stop, there is a place, generally not very important, where you would put it.*

*~Roger Bannister*

## Fords Middle School Students Visit Rutgers



*Fords Middle School students got an intensive course in the wonders of math and science this past weekend. The school partnered with Rutgers University's Engineering Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi, to offer 20 students a fun afternoon of building Archimedes Pumps and learning about the role force and friction can play in a liquid's movement.*

*The school's engineering students are preparing for their first year of competition in the New Jersey Future City Contest. In preparation for January's competition, Fords Middle School teacher Richard Dosch and Tau Beta Pi outreach coordinator Paul Jang established a team building event that would allow the middle school students to work with college juniors and seniors on the science behind motion.*

*Pictured above are:*

Rodrigo Villar  
Rajan Budzaka  
Saahil Sanan  
Manuel Villar  
Jaeden Owusu  
Devesh Kaloty  
Emmanuel Thermitus  
Krishna Sharma  
Nandini Singh  
Michael Trujillo

Marian Dumandan  
Philip Chun  
Siddhant Pradhan  
Liani Villanueva  
Fauzan Amjad  
Rutuja Karmalkar  
John Calle  
Ryan Ticas  
Jeffry Alfaro  
Mit Kumar Sony

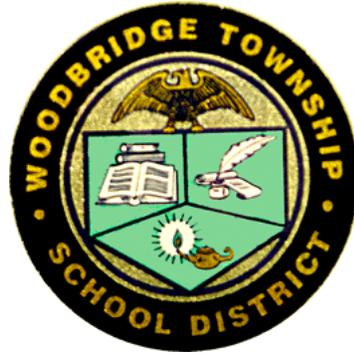
## Student Letter

*Each month we hope to publish a letter from a Woodbridge Township School District student. This month's letter comes from Naomi Kyle Salazar Santos, who is a senior at Woodbridge High School. She was born in the Philippines on August 17, 1996. Naomi moved to America when she was 12 to be with her dad, who had been working in the U.S. since 1994. She enjoys dancing, singing, cooking, socializing, participating in extracurricular activities and doing community service. Naomi's college choices include Rider University, Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, William Patterson University, or The College of New Jersey. Naomi's future plan is to be an accountant.*

I remember being a freshman, sitting in the corner of a room with nobody to talk to because I was nervous that people would judge me for being different. This changed when my freshmen mentor came up to me and asked, "What's your name? Can I see your schedule?" From there, I knew that she would turn out to be a magnificent mentor! Because of her, I wasn't afraid to be myself and socialize more with people. But, more than that, she also inspired me to be an exceptional student, which I have carried with me throughout my whole high school career.

As a junior, I was honored to be selected to be a part of the freshmen mentor program, and as a senior I was further honored to be selected as one of the five captains. We are here to motivate, encourage, nourish and teach freshmen with organization and teamwork. We deliver presentations about different aspects of high school, including the importance of time management, GPA, rank and college preparations. We also encourage freshmen to better themselves through the six pillars of character which include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Moreover, the program molded me to be the kind of leader that I've always wanted to be. Freshmen look up to me and say "that's my mentor!" Some freshmen may lack understanding about the expectations of a high school student, but that's the point of having a mentor. Mentorship is more than just answering occasional questions or providing helpful information. It is about building relationships of learning, dialogue and challenge. In order to be a mentor, I believe it's necessary to have strength of character and self-confidence. In fact, being a mentor has taught me how to be stronger because it has allowed me to develop leadership and communication skills. Once, I was a bashful freshman in the corner of the room, but now, I'm a senior who's willing to serve and empower freshmen to be the best that they can be. I've learned through my experiences as a freshmen mentor that people can make a change if they're willing. It doesn't really matter how different you are from the rest, just be your best.



# Woodbridge Township School District

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*Just remember, there's a right way and a wrong way  
to do everything and the wrong way is to keep trying  
to make everybody else do it the right way.*

*~M\*A\*S\*H, Colonel Potter*