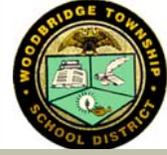


SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER



Woodbridge Township School District, 428 School St, Woodbridge, NJ 07095
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Happy New Year!

By Robert Zega

Happy New Year to one and all! As we embark on 2014 we enter the new year in our mad dash to comply with the “Big Three” major initiatives this year: Common Core Curriculum, new teacher evaluations and PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). Students, staff and parents have been working feverishly to implement and prepare for these mandates from the NJ Department of Education.

The good news is that we have been preparing for the onset of these for the past year. PARCC assessments will be administered on-line. This means that for the first time in history all Woodbridge Township students will take a computerized, standardized test. This of course would mean that students would need access to computers that are “PARCC compliant.” We have made significant purchases of iPads, chromebooks, workstations and laptops to ensure our students have enough computers to test. See: <http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>.

If you are not a teacher you may not be aware of the new teacher evaluation system that has been implemented this year. Another State mandate, all teachers are being evaluated using web-based software and databases. This new system, called Teachscape, is designed to improve instruction and ultimately increase student achievement.

See: <http://www.teachscape.com/>

The Common Core is a new and somewhat controversial set of national teaching standards. Forty-five states nation-wide have adopted the common core standards in some form. The common core defines “fewer, higher and clearer” benchmarks for students to achieve upon the completion of each grade level. For a really practical explanation, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s0rRk9sER0>.

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The first half of the year was successful. We hope that we can continue this success throughout the rest of the year. As always, 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.**



Fall Sports Standouts

We are proud of all of our high school sports teams from this past fall. We know that when our student athletes wear their school colors they represent their families, coaches and schools with pride. Listed below are some of our accomplishments from the fall season. Congrats to all!

Woodbridge High School

Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams each won the GMC White Division Sportsmanship Award

JV Girls Volleyball had a record of 22-1 and were finalists in the GMC Tournament

Freshman Girls Volleyball won the GMC Championship

Fall sports collected over one ton (2,000 lbs) of food for the We Feed Program

Fall sports raised over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen Fund

Colonia High School

Varsity football team qualified for the NJSIAA State Tournament

Girls volleyball participated in the JP Stevens cancer awareness tournament

Both boys and girls soccer qualified for the NJSIAA State Tournament

John F. Kennedy Memorial High School

Girls Tennis won the GMC White Division Sportsmanship award

Girls Volleyball Coach Bob Hugelmeyer won GMC White Division Coach of the Year

Girls Volleyball was in the GMC finals

Varsity football won its first NJSIAA playoff game in 20 years

Super Sharing Kennedy Park

Kennedy Park participated in a project called Super Kids-Super Sharing, teaming up with the National Football League, the New York Jets, the New York Giants, the NY/NJ Super Bowl XLVIII Host Committee, and Verizon.

Our school collected over 850 items to donate to lower income schools in other participating districts and programs that benefit local children in need. The donations included school supplies, sports equipment and over 600 books! We were also able to donate used cell phones to benefit domestic violence prevention organizations and local shelters.

Teachers Ms. Patricia Osman and Ms. Nina Jacob took a group of fourth and fifth grade students to Essex County College to drop off and help sort the donated items. After having the opportunity to meet representatives from the Jets and Giants, the students were able to enjoy the NY/NJ Super Bowl Host Committee's "Huddle Shuttle".

In a four day span, Kennedy Park School did an amazing job collecting donations. This was a wonderful opportunity for the faculty, students and families of Kennedy Park to come together and serve through giving.



Woodbridge Township Board of Education

<p><u>Brian Molnar</u> <i>President</i></p>		<p>Term - 2014</p>
<p><u>John Golden</u> <i>Vice President</i></p>		<p>Term - 2016</p>
<p><u>Frank DellaPietro III</u> <i>Board Member</i></p>		<p>Term - 2014</p>
<p><u>Daniel Harris</u> <i>Board Member</i></p>		<p>Term - 2015</p>
<p><u>Judy Leidner</u> <i>Board Member</i></p>		<p>Term - 2015</p>

<p><u>Brian F. Small</u> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Brian F. Small, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books and an American flag.	<p>Term - 2016</p>
<p><u>Monica Michelle Smith</u> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Monica Michelle Smith, a woman with dark hair, wearing a red jacket over a black top and a pearl necklace. She is standing in front of a bookshelf and an American flag.	<p>Term - 2014</p>
<p><u>Ezio Tamburello</u> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Ezio Tamburello, a man with short blonde hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and light-colored tie. He is standing in front of a bookshelf and an American flag.	<p>Term - 2015</p>
<p><u>Jonathan Triebwasser</u> <i>Board Member</i></p>	 A portrait of Jonathan Triebwasser, a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a plaid shirt. He is standing in front of a bookshelf and an American flag.	<p>Term - 2016</p>



New Courses and Programs on the Horizon

In keeping with the idea that our students deserve our best, the board of education and the administration are continually exploring new curricula and programs for our district. Instructional news on the horizon includes:

1. Project Advance: Dual enrollment courses through Syracuse University—select members of our staff will spend a week at Syracuse University being trained in different courses. They will come back to their respective high schools next year and teach dual enrollment courses. Students in these courses will earn high school and college credits simultaneously.
2. All high school teachers will be issued a Google Chromebook to facilitate classroom instruction.
3. BYOD (bring your own device) will be instituted at our high schools. Students and staff will be allowed to access the internet via the district network. We feel this will be a powerful instructional resource.
4. Woodbridge High School will implement an Army ROTC program.
5. Colonia High School will pilot an engineering course in conjunction with Rutgers University.
6. John F. Kennedy Memorial High School has been piloting a “zero hour” AP Computer Science course. Zero hour is a course that begins at 7:00 am every day before the school day begins. Zero hour allows students to volunteer to take an additional course.
7. Woodbridge High School will be piloting a Fireworks/Flash course during Spring 2014. Students in this course will learn programming skills that will enable them to take more advanced courses in programming.
8. New technology courses, including: Digital Presentations, Dreamweaver, Video Game Design, Web and Beyond—Google Docs, Mobile Applications, and more.

The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind.

Kahlil Gibran

Colonia High School Blood Drive



Colonia High School held its annual blood drive on November 22, 2013. This is the 13th year CHS has held their blood drive under the supervision of health teacher Lynn Sheehan. The first drive was held June 2000 and they have sponsored two drives per year since then. This past drive (November 22, 2013) had 180 students sign up to donate (146 pints were collected) AND 180 students also signed up to bake cupcakes, etc. for the donors to eat afterwards.

To date Colonia High School is credited with **2882** collected pints of blood !!!!!

We, the People, recognize that we have responsibilities as well as rights; that our destinies are bound together; that a freedom which only asks what's in it for me, a freedom without a commitment to others, a freedom without love or charity or duty or patriotism, is unworthy of our founding ideals, and those who died in their defense.

Barack Obama

Representative Frank Pallone Speaks to WHS About e-Cigarettes



Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., D-N.J., visited Woodbridge High School on Monday, January 13, 2014 to speak to a select group of students regarding the dangers of e-cigarettes. In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Surgeon General's first report on smoking and health, Pallone (pictured above) visited the school on Monday and spoke to some students about the possible risks of e-cigarettes as well as their potential for addiction.

Pallone told students that the landmark 1964 report, which found that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and is linked to other serious diseases, began the effort that essentially culminated with legislation that gave the federal Food and Drug Administration the ability to regulate tobacco products.

He discussed how cigarettes can't be advertised on TV, can't be smoked in public places and how warnings must be placed on cigarette packages.

Pallone said money also was provided to states to educate people about the dangers of cigarettes.

To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear.

Buddha

Bobby Jordan Gets Win #100



Bobby Jordan became just the third wrestler in Woodbridge High School history to reach 100 career victories with a 13-2 decision over Dylan Haltli in the Barrons' loss to Sayreville on Wednesday night.

Jordan, who improved to 9-0 on the year and whose career record stands at 100-18, ranks third on the school's career wins list behind Joe Bubenheimer and Marcello Medini.

Haltli entered his 113-pound bout against Jordan with a 12-1 mark. Jordan used a seven-point surge in the second period for the win.



Celebrating Bobby Jordan's 110th win are (from L to R) Bobby's mom, Leticia, his older brother Allan, Bobby and proud dad Allan.

CHS/JFK Plays Their First Home Game

Ice Hockey was introduced to the Woodbridge Township School District in the 2007/2008 school year. All three High Schools outfitted a team. Following a rule change that would allow schools within a district to combine teams, Woodbridge Township School District followed suit for the 2013-2014 hockey season.

Patriots Hockey – is now, the combination of the Colonia Patriots and the Kennedy Mustangs' Hockey team. The team is comprised of 35 players and coached by Head Coach, Chris Monticollo aka Monti (CHS) and Asst. Coach Warren Rotella (JFK). For the first time in either team's existence, there is a JV and Varsity roster. A new uniform was designed by Coach Monti, to cleverly incorporate both schools logo.

On January 6th 2014, the Patriots hockey team played their first game on home ice (Woodbridge Community Center) against Central Regional. The evening opened with the National Anthem sung by Brielle Fragge (CHS) and Mayor McCormac dropped the ceremonial puck between Patriots Captain Robert Coffman and Central Regional's. Game can be seen on TV Chanel 35 on demand.



The CHS/JFK hockey team surrounds local dignitaries in a ceremony prior to the team's first home game. The special guests include (from L to R) Benny LaSala, CHS AD; Ken Pace, CHS Principal; Brian Small, Board of Education Member; Robert Zega, Superintendent of Schools; Philis Rebetje, Event Coordinator & Hockey mom; Coach Monticollo; Coach Rotella; Woodbridge Mayor John E. McCormac; Ezio Tamburello, Board of Education Member; Michael Cilento, JFK High School Principal; Sean Daly, JFK AD.

Student Letter

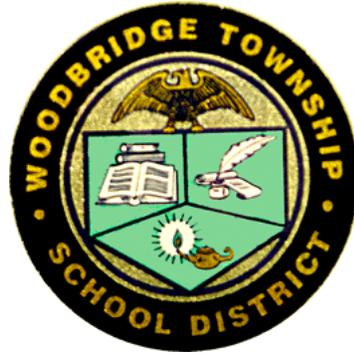
Each month we hope to publish a letter from a Woodbridge Township School District student. This month's letter comes from Verdah Ahmad, who is a senior at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School.

In nearly five months, I will graduate from John F. Kennedy Memorial High School. As I embark upon an exciting new chapter of life by entering college, many enthusiastic middle school graduates will also eagerly await their turn to walk proudly through the halls of high school. While high school has been an incredible experience full of memories that I will covet for a lifetime, it has also provided me with my fair share of blunders and regrets. Here are a few things that I wish someone would have told me during my freshman year:

- 1) **Teachers are your greatest allies.** With many freshmen, there is often an adjustment period when it comes to the grading system of high school. If you receive a below par score on your first high school test, your teacher is not out to get you! Teachers have dedicated their lives to educating and cultivating productive relationships with their students; don't hesitate to approach them after class to ask how you can improve or how you can receive extra help.
- 2) **Plan ahead.** Your freshman year can often set the tone of the rest of your high school career. Therefore, take this time to develop proper time management and studying skills. Although there may be days when you feel as if all of your teachers are plotting together to drown you in homework, budgeting time properly will help you avoid feeling overwhelmed. For example, if your teacher informs you of a test four days in advance, study for 30 minutes every day. By the time the test rolls around, you will have studied for two hours without having even noticed!
- 3) **Don't be afraid of failure.** In the words of C.S. Lewis, "Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement." Inevitably, during at least one point in high school, you will fail to achieve the standards that you, your parents, your teachers, or your coaches set for you. When you do mess up, reflect on your mistakes and learn from them. Do not let your temporary inadequacies define your self-worth.

*To know that we know what we know,
and to know that we do not know what
we do not know, that is true knowledge.*

Nicolaus Copernicus



Woodbridge Township School District

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*When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't
adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.*

Confucius