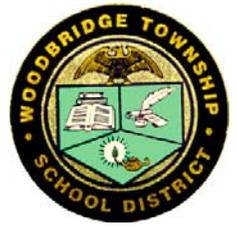


SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER



Woodbridge Township School District, 428 School St, Woodbridge, NJ 07095
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Holiday Season

By Robert Zega

I always loved the holiday season when I was an elementary school principal—Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and New Year’s Day. The students were so excited and the teachers had the daunting task of harnessing their positive energy. One of the holidays we are emphasizing this year is Veterans’ Day. Our district has made the pledge to our Woodbridge veterans to make sure our children learn about the contributions and sacrifices our veterans have made. Our students will also learn about the brave men and women, and their families, who continue to stand in harm’s way to ensure the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

This month we celebrated Veterans’ Day in our schools by inviting local veterans to visit with our children and participate in a variety of patriotic activities. On Monday, November 3, every school hosted a local veteran. The activities culminated with a luncheon at Woodbridge High School. All of the veterans enjoyed a hearty lunch and wonderful conversation about their morning at school. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with the veterans and hearing about their experiences. Many of the veterans were happy to reminisce about their memories of active duty. I heard stories from men stationed everywhere from Key West to Northern Africa to Southeast Asia. As the gentlemen relived their days, I couldn’t help to think about how lucky we are to have these men; how fortunate we are that they put the future of our country ahead of their own well-being. I met one former sailor who was aboard a ship that was involved in testing the first nuclear explosions. Another navy veteran told us of the roller coaster of emotions he experienced being stationed in the South Atlantic during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

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When I spoke at the luncheon I made a promise to the honored veterans that our children will learn and appreciate their sacrifices and contributions. I promised that our district would keep their stories alive so we would never forget how important they are. This year was a great beginning—we will continue to expand our Veterans’ Day activities in the years to come.

I also should note that the positive feedback I received from our children, the wonderful reviews from our staff and the beaming pride and patriotism at the luncheon shared by the veterans and the school staff members present will never be measured on any state test. The lessons learned by our children that week cannot be evaluated and summed up with a numerical score. It was a great holiday and I am proud to be an American!



Construction Updates

As part of our historic joint effort between Mayor McCormac, the Woodbridge Town Council and the Woodbridge Township Board of Education, our schools facilities have undergone major upgrades. These upgrades include:

Woodbridge HS Stadium: Outside is finished, waiting on inside
Woodbridge HS Gym Bleachers: **COMPLETE**
Woodbridge HS auditorium seating: **COMPLETE**
Woodbridge HS tennis courts: under construction
Woodbridge HS parking lots: **COMPLETE**
Woodbridge HS concession stand: under construction
Woodbridge HS JV softball field dugouts: **COMPLETE**
Colonia HS turf football/soccer field: **COMPLETE**
Colonia HS turf baseball field: **COMPLETE**
Colonia HS gym bleachers: **COMPLETE**
Colonia HS Auditorium air conditioning: **COMPLETE**
Colonia HS paving: **COMPLETE**
JFK HS turf football/soccer field: **COMPLETE**
JFK HS running track: **COMPLETE**
JFK HS turf baseball field: under construction
JFK HS auditorium seating: **COMPLETE**
JFK HS auditorium air conditioning: **COMPLETE**
JFK HS paving: **COMPLETE**
JFK HS softball field: **COMPLETE**
Woodbridge MS auditorium seating and acoustic upgrades: **COMPLETE**
Avenel MS athletic fields: under construction
Mawbey Street Elementary School parking: **COMPLETE**
Mawbey Street Elementary School playground: **COMPLETE**
Lafayette Estates Elementary School playground, walking track & basketball court: **COMPLETE**
Playgrounds at elementary schools #9, #20, #23: **COMPLETE**
Basketball courts at elementary schools #23, #24, #26, #28: under construction
Walking tracks at elementary schools #9, #19, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #28: under construction

Board of Education Construction Update

In addition to the upgrades funded by the Township, the Board of Education has also financed a substantial amount of summer projects. The updates are below:

Avenel MS boiler replacement: COMPLETE
Avenel MS clock replacement: COMPLETE
Avenel MS gym floor: COMPLETE
Avenel MS lockers: under construction
Avenel MS stage curtain: COMPLETE
Avenel Street #4&5 refinish 5 classroom floors: COMPLETE
Claremont Avenue #20 concrete ramp for wheelchair accessibility: COMPLETE
Colonia HS walk-in freezer: COMPLETE
Colonia HS wrestling/dance room: COMPLETE
Colonia MS clock replacement: COMPLETE
Fords MS clock replacement: COMPLETE
Iselin MS cafeteria floor: COMPLETE
JFK HS auditorium carpet: COMPLETE
JFK HS gym divider removal: COMPLETE
JFK HS refinish gym floor: COMPLETE
Lafayette Estates #25 parking lot expansion: COMPLETE
Mawbey Street #1 boiler replacement: COMPLETE
Patch & paint auditorium floor at WMS, WHS, JFK: COMPLETE
Paving/Sealing/Striping at schools #4&5, #18, #19, #20, #22, #23, #24, #25, IMS: COMPLETE
Pennsylvania Avenue #27 boiler replacement: COMPLETE
Port Reading #9 boiler replacement: COMPLETE
Robert Mascenik #26 boiler replacement: COMPLETE
Ross Street #11 painting four classrooms: COMPLETE
Ross Street #11 road & fence construction: COMPLETE
Woodbine Avenue #23 parking lot: COMPLETE
Woodbridge HS auditorium air conditioning: under construction
Woodbridge HS auditorium carpet: COMPLETE
Woodbridge HS gym divider removal: COMPLETE
Woodbridge HS gym floor: COMPLETE
Woodbridge HS heating system upgrades: under construction
Woodbridge HS new projector screen in auditorium: COMPLETE
Woodbridge HS painted main foyer: COMPLETE
Woodbridge HS track repair: COMPLETE
Woodbridge MS clock replacement: COMPLETE
Woodbridge MS gym bleachers: COMPLETE
Woodbridge MS painting in gym and third floor: COMPLETE
Woodbridge MS refinished gym floor: COMPLETE

*Today's accomplishments were yesterday's
impossibilities*

Robert H. Schuller



Students raise the flag at Port Reading Elementary School #9 in celebration of Veterans' Day



US Navy Seaman 1st Class (Ret) Malcom Marcus
visits Colonia HS on Veterans' Day



US Army Sergeant (Ret) Romando Peritti visits with students at Port Reading Elementary School #9



US Air Force Sergeant (Ret) Dan Dunn visits with Matthew Jago Elementary School #28 to celebrate Veterans' Day



US Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class (Ret) Robin Goodrich raises the flag at Pennsylvania Ave Elementary School #27 on Veterans' Day



Woodbridge Mayor John E. McCormac and Middlesex County Freeholder Charles Kenny raise the flag at Menlo Park Elementary School #19 on Veterans' Day



US Army Veteran Ted Evon joins Principal Cilento and JFKMHS students on Veterans' Day



US Army Sergeant (Ret) Michael Jarnutoski joins Principal Short and Avenel Middle School students on Veterans' Day. Pictured left to right are: Scott Caldwell (Program Coordinator), Matthew Deschamps, Michael Jarnutoski, (Honored Veteran), Dewayne DeRios, Ricky Otoo, Joseph Short (Principal)



US Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class (Ret) Henri Buzzi at Lynn Crest Elementary School #22 on Veterans' Day

***Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men.
It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads
that gains the victory.***

George S. Patton

Woodbridge Township Board of Education

<p>Brian Molnar <i>President</i> Term - 2014</p>		<p>Negotiations Committee</p>
<p>John Golden <i>Vice President</i> Term - 2016</p>		<p>Finance & Insurance Committee Chairperson Negotiations Committee Security & School Safety Committee Transportation Committee</p>
<p>Frank DellaPietro III <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2014</p>		<p>Security & School Safety Chairperson Transportation Committee Chairperson Athletics & Extracurricular Committee Building & Grounds Committee Finance & Insurance Committee</p>

<p>Daniel Harris <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2015</p>		<p>Building & Grounds Committee Chairperson Ad Hoc Committee Athletics & Extracurricular Committee Personnel & Grievance Committee Policy & Planning Committee</p>
<p>Brian F. Small <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2016</p>		<p>Athletics & Extracurricular Committee Chairperson Personnel & Grievance Committee Chairperson Ad Hoc Committee Building & Grounds Committee Security & School Safety Committee</p>
<p>Monica Michelle Smith <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2014</p>		<p>Negotiations Committee Chairperson Curriculum Committee Chairperson Cafeteria Committee Technology Committee</p>

<p>Ezio Tamburello <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2015</p>		<p>Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson Policy & Planning Committee Chairperson Curriculum Committee Negotiations Committee Personnel & Grievance Committee</p>
<p>Jonathan Triebwasser <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2016</p>		<p>Cafeteria Committee Chairperson Curriculum Committee Finance & Insurance Committee Technology Committee</p>
<p>Eileen Zullo <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2014</p>		<p>Technology Committee Chairperson Cafeteria Committee Policy & Planning Committee Transportation Committee</p>

I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.

[John Steinbeck](#)

Student Letter

Each month we hope to publish a letter from a Woodbridge Township School District student. This month's letter comes from WHS senior Allison Violante. Allison has been a member of the National Honor Society since her Junior year. She currently has a 3.91 GPA and will be graduating in the top 15% of her class. She has been a member of Women's Choir, Concert Choir, and Women's Select Choir for the past two years. Allison has also served as a freshman mentor. She enjoys athletics and has been a member of the Softball team since her freshman year. She plans on majoring in Computer Science and is applying to NJIT, Temple and several other schools.

Dear Freshmen,

This is your first year in high school, and I know you're thinking it's going to be really hard. I know this because I've been there, and I remember what it was like to be a freshman. I'm currently a senior at Woodbridge High School, preparing to embark on my college career. I'm writing to offer a little advice that may help you make your four years in high school a little easier.

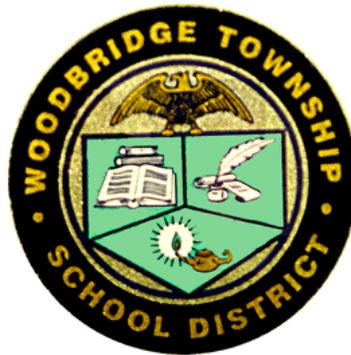
School starts with the classroom. When it comes to classwork, pay attention and don't slack off. The worst thing you could do is not pay attention, because when it comes time to do homework, you'll have no idea what you're looking at. Then, you won't do it because you won't understand how to answer the questions. If you don't do homework, it's going to reflect not only in your classwork average, but also on test and quiz grades, because you won't understand the material. Make sure you always pay attention and stay on top of your school work, because if you understand what is going on in class, it may make the class more enjoyable and you may even have more fun.

Another big thing is to keep yourself organized. I find that the more organized I am, the easier things seem to be. Organization can make life so much easier because if you need to find something, you'll know exactly where it is. Ultimately, you relieve clutter, eliminate stress, and free up more time that would otherwise be spent running around looking for things. This not only applies to your notes and things for school, but also for your life in general.

The best way to organize your life is to balance your time, and keep it balanced. I understand you want to have a social life, but don't make that your main focus. School needs to be your main priority; it opens doors later in life. Time management will help you get your work done—and done well—and free up time for the things you want to do later. Needs must be a priority over wants. And really, isn't it better to finish all the school work first, so you don't have to worry about it later?

High school goes by quickly. Before you know it, you'll be in your graduation gown, walking to the cadence of "Pomp and Circumstance." Yes, it can be a lot of hard work and stress, but, if you approach it the right way, it doesn't have to be. Make time for yourself. Explore the clubs or athletics available to you, and pursue your interests. Success in high school does demand hard work, so make sure you stay focused on the main goal: get an education.

Allison Violante
WHS, Class of 2015



Woodbridge Township School District

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Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

John F. Kennedy