

# SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

INSTRUCTING AND INSPIRING . . .



Woodbridge Township School District, 428 School St, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
732.602.8472

## Are You Successful and Significant? Thank a Teacher

By Robert Zega

This May we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day. As I'm sure many of you did, I reflected on the teachers, coaches and positive role models I've had during my half-century of existence. I would like to share some of them without mentioning their names.

I remember my very first teacher in elementary school who recognized my aptitude in math. She allowed me to complete assignments on my own and work at my own pace—differentiated instruction in the 1970's!

I had several male teachers in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who taught me that no matter how hard I tried I could always try harder—there is no such thing as “can't.”

In high school (Woodbridge HS) I was very fortunate to have exceptional teachers who pushed me further. I gravitated toward math & science, but I remember a journalism teacher who I really liked and a geometry teacher who used literature and had us write research papers on the practical uses of geometry.

I can't say enough about my high school coaches. These relationships were different from those I had with teachers (different, not necessarily better or worse). In particular my first wrestling coach in Woodbridge Junior High was responsible for my lifelong love of wrestling.

In college I had many different professors who had positive influences on my life. I remain in contact with my undergraduate academic advisor from the University of Delaware. It was during these days I formed my philosophies and beliefs that became contributing factors of my adult decision-making.

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When I taught I became the one of those who was appreciated. During my teaching career I took great pride in the success of my students. To this day I run into former students here and there and I become overwhelmed with pride when I hear their success stories. Just this past weekend, I ran into a former student who I had not seen in at least 20 years. He now has children in the district—full circle?

I can take the liberty of speaking for all of our teachers by stating that the best way for students to show appreciation to their teachers is not with a gift, or a card or even a hug. The best way to show appreciation to a teacher is to become successful and significant beyond the classroom.

I usually tell graduating HS seniors that they leave a little part of themselves at their school and they also take a little part of the school with them—they become the school, the school becomes them. One cannot change the other without changing oneself (My high school physics teacher would be proud that I remembered practical applications of Isaac Newton's Third Law of Motion/action & reaction). The same goes for teachers—we see a little part of ourselves in each one of our students, just as they leave a tiny part of themselves with us.

So you have already shown appreciation to your teacher(s) by being successful and significant. Please remember those teachers who helped you the most and made you what you are today.

**So to all of our teachers: thank you for all you do every day! You make us what we are!**

## HIGH SCHOOL PROMS

SCHOOL	DATE	DAY	LOCATION
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Spec. Ed	5/21/15	Thurs.	The Forge - Woodbridge
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WHS	5/21/15	Thurs.	Grand Marquis - Old Bridge
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CHS	6/5/15	Friday	Bridgewater Marriott - Bridgewater
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JFK	6/5/15	Friday	Woodbridge Renaissance - Iselin
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## GRADUATIONS

**All middle school promotions will take place at 10:00 am at the respective schools (FMS at 9:00). Please see school websites for more info regarding proper attire**

**All high school graduations will begin at 2:00 pm at the schools.**

## **PROJECT GRADUATION**

SCHOOL	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
CHS	6/18/15	10:00 PM	Raritan Bay YMCA - 357 New Brunswick Ave Perth Amboy (732-442-3632)
JFK	6/18/15	10:00 PM	Jewish Community Center - 1175 Oak Tree Rd Edison (732-494-3232)
WHS	6/18/15	10:00 PM	Metuchen Sportsplex - 215 Durham Avenue Metuchen (848-248-4684)

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**Additional safety information on prom and graduation can be found on our district website at:**

**<http://www.woodbridge.k12.nj.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=169>**

## Summer Construction Update

The district and the township will be working on several projects this summer. These projects include:

- New scoreboards in our high school gyms
- New scoreboards in our middle school gyms
- New bleachers in our middle school gyms
- Additional paving at some schools
- Replacing gym dividers at our middle schools
- New softball scoreboards at our high schools
- Locker room renovations at Colonia High School
- Fieldhouse renovations at Colonia High School
- Refreshment stand renovations at JFK & CHS
- Interior fire door replacements at:
  - School #4/5
  - School #14
  - AMS
  - CMS
  - WMS
  - JFK
  - WHS
- New boiler installations at
  - School #4/5
  - School #11
  - School #18
  - School #21
  - School #22
  - School #28
  - CMS
  - WMS
  - CHS
  - JFK
- New parking lot at Woodbridge Middle School on the front grassy area by the theatre entrance
- New parking lot at Avenel Middle School in the front of the school

*Today knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity and advancement.*

[Peter Drucker](#)

## **2015-2016 Budget**

- Tax increase only \$75 per \$75,000 assessed valuation
- 10 new boilers at:
  - School #4/5
  - School #11
  - School #18
  - School #21
  - School #22
  - School #28
  - CMS
  - WMS
  - CHS
  - JFK
- New and revised curricula
  - Elementary Spanish - (Grade 2)
  - Programming 101 R/S - (High Schools)
  - Digital Literacy - iPad Language Arts elective (Middle Schools)
  - Health - (Grade 1)
  - Principles of Engineering - (High Schools)
  - Conversational Spanish - (Grades 7,8)
- Pilot Programs
  - Percussion - JFK
  - Theatre Arts Production - CHS
  - Sports Marketing - CHS
  - Advancing with Apple - Apple Certification - WHS
  - Graphic Design - Integration of WACOM Intuous Pen - CHS
  - P.A.C.T. - WHS
- New Programs
  - Syracuse Course Offerings
  - College Learning Strategies (3 credits) - WHS
  - Studio I: Practices of Academic Writing (3 credits) - WHS
  - Team Teaching Concept - FMS
  - STEM Elective - Middle Schools
  - Mathematics - Grade 7
- Refreshed Curricula
  - Language Arts – Grade 8
  - Everyday Mathematics – Grades 2 - 5
  - Social Studies – Grade 5
  - Psychology AP – R/S
  - Science – Grade 6
  - French 2 – R/S
  - SAT/ACT Prep – R/S/Honors
  - Spanish 2 – R/S
  - Spanish for Native Speakers – R/S

- \$15,000 allocated per high school for the Fine Arts program to purchase kilns, clay, alternative media and other fine arts materials
- Upgrades to 100% interactive classrooms
- iPads and/or Chromebooks for each school
- iPads in World Language – iTunes University
- Workstation upgrades – 7 labs – CHS, JFK, WHS
- StrataLogica – where all Social Studies in every elementary school becomes alive via Google Earth in a 3D environment.
- iTunes University – Health Course – elementary schools
- Mobile integrated AV presentation system – all schools
- Jump Start Nao Robot
- Additional infrastructure wireless upgrades–Fiber Phase II
- PARCC x 2
- CAD lab - JFK

Additional budget info can be found on our website at:  
<http://www.woodbridge.k12.nj.us/domain/77>



**Students and staff assemble for the awards ceremony at the Adaptive Phys Ed track meet at WHS**

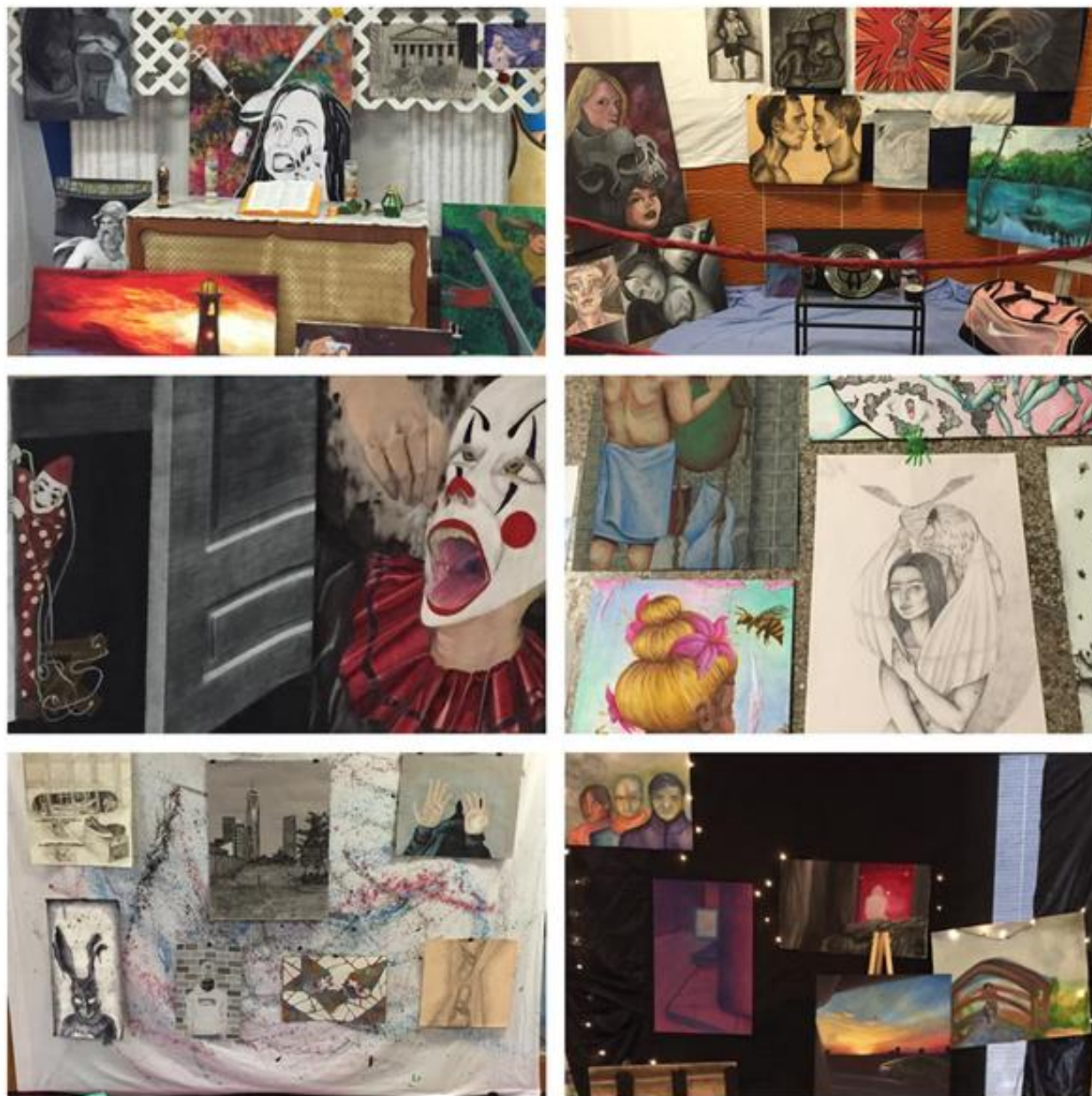




**Woodbridge v Colonia baseball at CHS**



**Mr. Tamashausky and the Lafayette Estates Chorus perform at the Board of Education meeting at AMS**






Work from the Colonia High School art show




*The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.*




[Abraham Lincoln](#)



## Woodbridge Township Board of Education

<p><b>John Golden</b></p> <p><i>President</i> Term - 2016</p>		
<p><b>Ezio Tamburello</b></p> <p><i>Vice President</i> Term - 2015</p>		<p><u>COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>Ad Hoc* Curriculum Finance &amp; Insurance* Negotiations Special Education Transportation</p>
<p><b>Frank DellaPietro III</b></p> <p><i>Board Member</i> Term - 2017</p>		<p><u>COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>Security &amp; School Safety* Athletics &amp; Extracurricular Personnel Transportation*</p>

<p><b>Daniel Harris</b> <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2015</p>	 A portrait of Daniel Harris, a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling slightly. The background shows a bookshelf with various books and an American flag to the left.	<p><u>COMMITTEES</u> Building &amp; Grounds* Ad Hoc Cafeteria* Special Education Policy &amp; Planning</p>
<p><b>Brian F. Small</b> <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2016</p>	 A portrait of Brian F. Small, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. He has a neutral expression. The background is similar to the first portrait, with a bookshelf and an American flag.	<p><u>COMMITTEES</u> Building &amp; Grounds Ad Hoc Athletics &amp; Extracurricular Personnel* Security &amp; School Safety</p>
<p><b>Brian Molnar</b> <i>Board Member</i> Term - 2017</p>	 A portrait of Brian Molnar, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and light-colored tie. He is smiling. The background features a bookshelf and an American flag.	<p><u>COMMITTEES</u> Building &amp; Grounds Athletics &amp; Extracurricular* Personnel Negotiations* Security &amp; School Safety</p>

<p><b>Jonathan Triebwasser</b></p> <p><i>Board Member</i> Term - 2016</p>		<p><u>COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>Cafeteria Curriculum Finance &amp; Insurance Policy &amp; Planning* Technology</p>
<p><b>Eileen Zullo</b></p> <p><i>Board Member</i> Term - 2014</p>		<p><u>COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>Cafeteria Curriculum* Special Education* Technology</p>
<p><b>Marie Anderson</b></p> <p><i>Board Member</i> Term - 2017</p>		<p><u>COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>Finance &amp; Insurance Policy &amp; Planning Technology* Negotiations Transportation</p>

\*Denotes committee chairperson

To the Class of 2015:

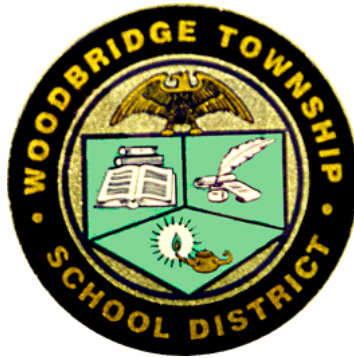
**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!**

**BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE!**

We know you will all be *successful and significant!*







# Woodbridge Township School District

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Central Administration

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Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
732-602-8487

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Acting Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
732-602-8536

Joanne Shafer  
Director of Personnel Services  
732-602-8470

Julie Bair  
Director of Special Services  
732-602-8575

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can  
use to change the world.*

[Nelson Mandela](#)