



Washington Township Schools



“Making a Difference”

Important Calendar Changes

This winter we were fortunate not to utilize all of the weather emergency days that were built into the original school calendar. In order to prepare for the end of the school year, the following adjustments are being made to the 2015-16 district calendar:

Thursday, May 26th – Schools will be closed for students, extending the Memorial Day Break (In addition to Friday, May 27th and Monday, May 30th)

The last day of school is scheduled for Friday, June 17th.

The 6th Grade Promotion Ceremony will take place on Friday, June 17th.

Thursday, June 16th and Friday, June 17th will be early dismissal days for students.

These adjustments to the calendar are subject to change, in the event we need to utilize another emergency closing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the changes in the calendar, please contact your child's school.

PARCC Testing Dates

Grades 3 & 4 – April 25 – 29

Grades 5 & 6 – May 2 – 6

PTA Reflections

On Wednesday, March 23, 2016, the Washington Township PTA honored those students who participated in Reflections, a national PTA arts competition.

Students from Brass Castle and Port Colden elementary schools entered in three different categories: literature, arts and visual arts. They reflected on this year's theme, *"Let Your Imagination Fly!"* and utilized their talents in their respective art forms.

Those students honored with Certificates of Participation were: Mackenzie Wolicki, Liliana Anderson, Faith Oranye, Jennifer Umana, Ava Mott, Peyton Bigelow, Kaitlyn DeGeorge, Allison Slovak, Jennifer Drevitch, Evan Heine, and Stephanie Dunlup,

Warren County PTA winners included:

Pre-K -2nd Grade: Anderson Card – 1st Place for Art, Brody Adie – 3rd Place for Art, Rylie Werneke – Honorable Mention for Art

3rd – 5th Grade: Laney Adie – 1st Place for Art, Raina Teter – Honorable Mention for Art, Bailey Asbury – Honorable Mention for Art, Tess Errickson – 1st Place for Literature, Bailly VanOrman – 2nd Place for Literature, Gianna Cozzolino – Honorable Mention for Literature, and Emily McAdams – 2nd Place for Music.

Middle School: Sarah Schlaffer – 1st Place for Literature, Bryant Aquirre – Honorable Mention for Literature, Olivia Heath – 1st Place for Visual Art and Emily Conklin – 3rd Place for Visual Art.

Congratulations to all who participated! Continue to inspire and create!

Science Fair 2016

This year the Science Fair was a success! We had fifty five sixth grade students and their families attend the open house Tuesday, March 15, 2016. That week the Science Fair judges narrowed the projects down to the top eight. I know it must have been a difficult job because there were 89 projects!

I would like to thank all of the sixth graders for participating, the staff members who worked independently with individuals on their projects, and all of the judges that gave up time away from work or other responsibilities to help evaluate the projects. Each sixth grader received a certificate for participation in the 2016 Science Fair.

After careful evaluation by the judges, they narrowed the projects to the top eight. The students were recognized for First place, Second place, Third place, and four students were recognized for honorable mention. Bryant Aguirre won a prize for a Crowd Favorite award that was voted on at the open house. These students all received certificates, and Science Fair medals.

Winning first place was Keith Rhinehart with his project about birds and their color preferences. Ryan Shulman won second place for his project about polymers and turning milk into plastic. In third place was Lucas Ribiero with his project about hydroponics. The following students were recognized for honorable mention: Noah DiNapoli, Tanner Klingel, Jonathan Knittle, and Arlie Josh San Pedro.

Congratulations sixth graders on a job well done! You proved you mastered an understanding of the scientific method and displayed it in so many ways with your interesting and unique Science Fair Projects! Thank you for your hard work. ~Mrs. Penner

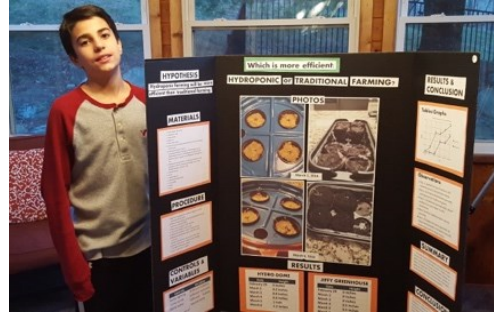
First Place:



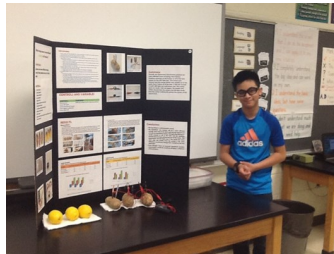
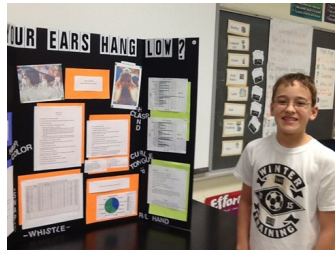
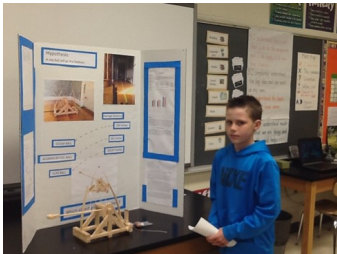
Second Place:



Third Place



Honorable Mention:



Crowd Favorite:



Archery Team Members Qualify for National Tournament!

Congrats to the 2016 Archery team for earning Brass Castle's highest team score of 2,582 in their three years in the program!

Also, we are very proud to announce that three of our archers qualified to shoot in the National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky during the month of May. Qualifying scores and students are as follows:

Katrina Kling- 258

Tyler McCatharn- 249

Donald Lauton- 247

For a complete list of NJ State tournament results please go to the Brass Castle physical education website. . Previous year's scores can be found there as well. Great job this year and best of luck to our three qualifiers in the National Tournament.



Pictured from Left to Right: Coach John Hornyak, Louis Spann, Tyler McCatharn, Bryant Aguirre, Kiam Perez-Melendez, Daniel Stone, Gage Graba. Bottom row: Jonathon Knittel, Kaleb Wagner, Kaitlyn Fennell, Kayla Fernandes, Katrina Kling, Dimitra Georgoutsos, Donald Lauton, Josh San-Pedro (not pictured Jennifer Drevitch, Tucker Indrikovic)

Super Writers are Super Heroes

Mrs. Melhem's class is always writing. This week's narrative essay prompt was truly enjoyed by her class. They imagined they were given the power to be a superhero! They wrote an essay describing them as a new superhero! They explained their name and their ability and how it would help the people in the community. After Mrs. Melhem dressed up as the Gluten Gladiator's sister, Cooking Queen, she modeled how she would answer the prompt. She wrote that her character would help all the people of the community who had Celiac by creating gluten free drive through(s). She could also wave her wand so all food that was gluten free, would be packaged in bright green as to stand out so that people who had Celiac didn't have to read labels anymore.

Students were then so excited to dress up and present their essays to their classmates! The laughter could be heard down the hall as the heroes read about their abilities to help their community. *Here are some of the heroes written about in the essays.*

- ★ The Cupcake Crusader: fed the poor who notcould afford to put on a birthday party
 - ★ The Ultimate-o Potato: made it rain french fries for the hungry
 - ★ Shape Shifting Shyley: changed himself or people into any shape to help mysteriously stop crime
 - ★ The Homeless Helper: sought out people in homeless shelters and built them houses
 - ★ The Doggie Detour: helped stray dogs find their way home
 - ★ The Snowtastic Hero: creates snowfall for kids to get out, play and exercise
 - ★ The Plumbing Problem Solver: fixed community plumbing problems for just \$5.00
- Now, don't you think these heroes are super?*



News From 3P!

Mrs. Page's class just finished publishing their realistic fiction pieces. On March 24th, they spent time reading each other's pieces and complimenting one another. Their pieces will be hanging in the hall outside the classroom in April.



Get me to the Greek (Wax Museum)

Recently, the 6th grade put on the performance of the ages. The Greek Ages to be exact. Students worked feverishly researching and writing information about a Greek historical or mythological figure of their choice. Students completed the project by becoming their Greek figure, dressing in traditional Greek attire, and presenting their information as a Greek wax character. Many students from kindergarten, fourth, and fifth grades came to visit the Greek wax museum to hear about their lives and what made them unique. Thank you to all of the wonderful parents who helped by preparing the students for their presentations and taking pictures!



Counselor's Corner — April 2016

Perseverance

Row, row, row your boat... for those of you who know me pretty well, you understand that spring is the season of 'rowing' for my family. Our Kyle rows for crew powerhouse Yale and our Shannon has begun her freshman spring rowing for Duke... Caeley, a high school freshman won her first race for Blair last week. I must say, Shannon has been gloating over the fact that she is in the south and not in NJ or CT where ice crystals have been freezing on her siblings' blades...

I am amazed hearing about (or watching) them train day after day... all for less than seven minutes of glory on a race course. Their perseverance and focus on a single goal is inspiring. There is nothing glamorous about lifting a heavy boat on and off a trailer, getting wet – even when it's freezing and windy outside – but all their hard work pays off when you see the crew shell gliding down the water seemingly effortlessly.

This time of year, I also reflect on the progress of our Washington Township students. They, too continue to demonstrate great perseverance whether it is our littlest finally mastering the alphabet, a Kindergartner adding to their sight words, a fifth grader working on decimals until they finally 'get it' - our kids have worked diligently since September... and here we are with 2-1/2 months remaining.

Spring can be a wonderful time – who doesn't enjoy the fresh green and pastels splashed on our landscape, finally having outdoor recess and daylight after 7. It is important to remember, that this time of year also brings it's own challenges. End of year projects, assessments, events (dances, talent show, programs) can all add to feelings of being overwhelmed. I will help remind our students, that hard work makes a difference. One day at a time. One class at a time. One page at a time. With our support, our children will realize that perseverance matters!

As always, I thank you for allowing me to support your wonderful, fun, hardworking children. I can be reached anytime if you have questions, concerns or would just like a sounding board to help you navigate these last couple of months. My email is dtierney@washtwpsd.org and the best number to reach me is 908-689-1188 ext 611.

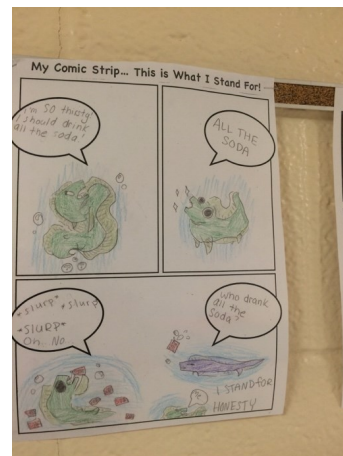
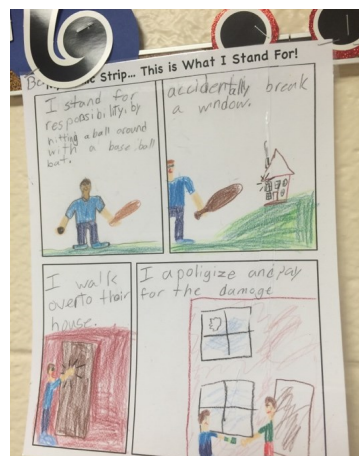
PENNY WARS – Habitat for Humanity Fundraising Update





Both Brass Castle and Port Colden students and staff have been embracing our community fundraiser in support of Habitat for Humanity. You would be proud of how generous (and competitive) our children have been! Next step – counting our donations and presenting a check to our local Warren Habitat office... stay tuned for the details in the May newsletter! Thank you again for all of your support!

Update on Some of Our Character Building and Community Focused Activities

Look what our kids at Brass Castle stand for!
Friendship, Honesty, Kindness, Good Sportsmanship...



APRIL 2016– Perseverance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	4 Giving up is the only sure way to fail – Never Give Up!	5 Life has 2 rules... 1). Never quit and 2). Remember rule number 1 ☺	6 Remind yourself to never, never, never give up	7 Remember-it takes climbing one step at a time to reach the top of the stairs.	8 Make a goal to try something new or different this month	9
10	11 Anything is possible with a positive attitude and hard work	12 Share your strengths with others	13 	14 Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other... Keep moving forward	15 Did you know Thomas Edison failed 10,000 times before he made his electric light?	16
17	18 What is difficult for you? Work extra hard on this today	19 The word 'quit' must never be in your vocabulary	20 Work hard with a positive attitude today. That's an unbeatable combination!	21 'A river cuts through a rock not because of its power but because of its persistence'	22 "When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."	23
24	25 Make a choice to do your best even if it takes a little longer	26 Believe in yourself	27 Decide to improve one thing about yourself today	28 Be happy with a small accomplishment today	29 Did you reach the goal you set for yourself this month? If not use your determination to keep trying	30
						

Look at a stone cutter hammering away at this rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before.

~Jacob Riis

PARCC Parent Checklist:

5 WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD

The PARCC logo is displayed in white serif font on a solid purple rectangular background.

Throughout their academic career, all students will take standardized tests, including an annual state test to measure how well they are progressing in the skills and content at each grade level.

Tests can open doors to many great opportunities in life, including college, scholarships and professional careers. For many students, however, standardized tests can bring a lot of stress and anxiety. Here are some resources to help you better understand what your child is learning and some simple things you can do at home to help him or her feel less anxious and more prepared for the PARCC test.

- ✓ **FIND OUT THE FACTS.** To start, students will take the test sometime between March 7 and June 10 (check with your child's school for exact dates) and it will be broken down into three to four units in each subject. Students will typically take one or two units on any given day. Depending on the grade level and subject, students will have up to 110 minutes to complete each unit, though many will finish in much less time. In 2014, students took a field test to determine how much time was needed to finish each section. Once that time was determined, additional time was added to ensure all students had ample time. For more information about the PARCC test, visit <http://bealearninghero.org/classroom/parcc> and talk to your child's principal and teachers.
- ✓ **TAKE A LOOK AT THE PRACTICE TEST.** This will help you better understand how the test is aligned to classroom work and see the types of reading, math and writing questions your child will be answering. You may want to walk through the test with your child to help familiarize him or her with the test format and features and answer any questions. To see a practice test, visit <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>. You can also see questions from last year's PARCC test at <https://prc.parcconline.org/assessments/parcc-released-items>.
- ✓ **KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE LEARNING IN ENGLISH AND MATH.** To find out the learning expectations of your child's grade level in both subjects, take a look at the PTA Parents' Guide to Success at <http://www.pta.org/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2909&navItemNumber=4065> which gives descriptions of the skills and knowledge your child is expected to gain every year. You can also see samples of what your child's writing should look like in every grade at <http://raisethebarparents.org/what-will-my-child-be-learning-each-year>.
- ✓ **USE YOUR CHILD'S TEST RESULTS FROM LAST YEAR TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE HE OR SHE MIGHT NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.** Talk with your child's teachers to see what types of supplemental activities you can do at home. Find activities that match your child's performance in both subjects in the Be a Learning Hero Skill Builder at <http://bealearninghero.org/skill-builder>.
- ✓ **PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!** Homework is a great way to reinforce the skills and content your child learns everyday in the classroom and that the test measures. In addition to the state test, it is another measure you can use to see how well your child is progressing throughout the year. To get homework help in both subjects, visit <https://homeworkhelpdesk.org/>. For sample problems and questions along with solutions and answers, visit <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/common-core-test-guide/>.