



# Washington Township Schools

## "Making a Difference"

### Honeywell Instant Alert

With the winter season upon us, the Washington Township School District may have the need to forward eblast notifications for delayed openings, school closings or early dismissals. Our Honeywell reports indicate that there are several parent families not receiving our eblast notifications.

If you are not receiving our alerts please go to the parent login page found on district web site under "Parents" and choose **Honeywell Instant Alert Log-in**.

Once logged in, there is a page where you can determine which type of alert you wish to receive and to what device or account (cell phone, home phone, text message, and / or email). This page simulates a table where you can place check marks after the contact mode. If you have forgotten your username or password, please click on the link "Forgot Username/Password." Honeywell will email you the information needed. If you have any difficulties, please contact your child's main office and school personnel will assist you with the web site.

Devices	All	High Importance	School Information	Transportation	Activities	General - email Only	Weekdays		Weekends	
							Calls Start	Calls End	Calls Start	Calls End
(908) [redacted]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midnight	Midnight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midnight
(908)689- [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midnight	Midnight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midnight
(908)689- [redacted]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midnight	Midnight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midnight
ksigman@washtwpsd.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
908- [redacted]@text.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

SEND TEST MESSAGE

SAVE RESET

The Washington Township School District uses the following alert types:

**High Importance** = Phone messages including: Delayed Openings, Early Dismissals, School Closures, The Week Ahead, and Important phone messages

**School Information / General Email Only** = Weekly eblasts, any eblast that does not include a phone message

Port Colden School  
Brass Castle School

Volume 7, Issue 4

December 2014



### Port Colden Concert

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Port Colden School's Winter Concert, which will be held at Warren Hills High School, at 7:00pm. The concert will feature students in grades 1-3 singing winter and holiday musical selections. Parking at the concert is available on the side of the building (please do not park in the front circle). We look forward to seeing you there!



# Preparing for PARCC

PARCC Assessments will be given to students in grades 3 -6 in March and May of 2015 (PARCC Assessments replace NJASK tests). Testing dates are still be finalized but our anticipated testing dates are listed below. Testing is scheduled to take place in the morning.

## March - PARCC

9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade testing

16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade testing

## May - PARCC

11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade testing

18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade testing

18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade testing

**About PARCC.** The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) represents a fundamental shift in how we think about testing, state to state. PARCC is based on the core belief that assessment should not be a process to penalize educators and districts, but rather a tool for enhancing teaching and learning. The PARCC assessments in English Language Arts (ELA/Literacy) and Mathematics are carefully crafted to give teachers, schools, students and parents better and more useful information on how we're preparing our kids for careers and college — and life.

**Traditional Assessments vs. PARCC.** PARCC assessments are tests worth taking and are the type of new generation assessment that teachers have requested for years. They include texts worth reading and problems worth solving.

- In ELA/literacy, the PARCC assessments will look much deeper at student writing abilities and critical-thinking skills, for example. In some instances, states will be adding a writing component that isn't currently part of their state tests.
- In math, students will have to solve complex problems, show their work, and demonstrate how they solved the problem. Unlike pencil-and-paper bubble tests, these new assessments will more closely resemble high-quality classroom work. PARCC will measure what children are learning, in a more meaningful way.
- PARCC's estimated testing time is reasonable and reflects the shift from traditional multiple choice tests to performance-based assessments. The new assessments are designed to measure the full range of knowledge and skills students need to be career and college ready or on track toward that goal, through performance based tasks. The assessments will be innovative in design and more engaging for students.
- PARCC assessments will measure the full range of student performance, including the performance of high- and low-achieving students. Too often, now, tests don't adequately measure the skills and knowledge of students working significantly beyond or below their grade level. The new assessments will add additional time for testing in some states; however, they will produce a clearer and more accurate picture of student achievement.

(Information provided by Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers)

For sample PARCC Assessment problems go to:

<http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes>

## Thank You!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous donations to the troops. Your response to the program was overwhelming. We were able to present at least 8 boxes filled with supplies to the Rolling Thunder. They were truly amazed by the generosity of our families. The Gifted and Talented and Enrichment students wrote cards to the soldiers and we included them in the care packages, too. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all for helping to make the troops' holidays a little brighter!

Mrs. Michele Cooper- G&T/Enrichment Teacher

Mrs. Toni Lynn Melhem- Veteran's Day coordinator



## Veteran's Honored

Veteran's Day, November 11, 2014 at Port Colden School and Brass Castle Schools brought Veteran's and the community who honored them together.

Armistice Day commemorates the [armistice](#) signed between the [Allies of World War I](#) and [Germany](#) at [Compiègne, France](#), for the cessation of hostilities on the [Western Front](#), which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Port Colden students wrote essays about who their favorite veteran heroes were and why. Our *Old School House* was the perfect setting for third grade winner, Jessica Pawlowski, and her parents to ring the bell 11 times.

After songs, tributes and dedications, our Veteran's were served breakfast, coffee and cake. They then were gifted with water bottles and lunch totes along with many thanks, hugs, smiles and photos for their service to our country.

Veterans from around Warren County visited Brass Castle School on November 11<sup>th</sup> to participate in celebrating the 95<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day. Brass Castle girl scouts, Avery Acevedo, Lauren Kohansby and Samantha Lipinski began the ceremony with a history of Veterans day and introduced boy scouts, William Fleck, Jason Merrill and Eric Wian who led the flag ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance. Following, the students and guests sang *The Star Spangled Banner* and *My Country Tis' of Thee*. And then our musicians played *America the Beautiful*. Sixth grade students, Michael Finke, Nicolas Read and Elizabeth Schlaffer read their winning Veterans of Foreign Wars essays, "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans." Then veterans and their families were invited inside for refreshments and to see our Wall of Honor, celebrating family members of students and staff who fought for the United States. As the veterans walked to the Wall of Honor, everyone in the crowd clapped for each veteran as they walked by. A special thanks to Mr. Rizzo, Mrs. Peterson, Ms. Pomeroy, Mrs. Mattes and the PTA for all their efforts to make the day such a memorable one.

***Our District Patriotic programs are sponsored by NJEA's PRIDE in Education.***

## Dictionary Delivered

"Rotarians are people who like to help people." That is one of the main ideas that Port Colden's third graders acquired when the Washington Rotary came to visit on Nov. 5th. From their presentation, students learned the Rotary is a service organization of men and women who give of their time to make their communities and the world community a better place. The Washington Rotary Club gives to others throughout the year through programs that contribute to the improvement of the local community. Some of their projects are:

~ **The Street Signs Project** - Each year, Rotarians replace any needed street signs with larger, reflective signs to assist emergency personnel in all of Washington. The signs are white for the Borough and blue for the Township. Each sign has a Rotary symbol on it.

~ **National Night Out** - The Rotary helps people by serving hot dogs and hamburgers to the community during this annual police event. Rotarians now assist our local police department as they serve over 800 meals.

~ **Worldwide Projects** - Rotarians also find time to get involved with helping people throughout the world. Rotary International is the leading member of Global Polio Eradication. Rotarians have contributed over \$600 million to this cause alone.

~**For our Borough and Township Police**, our local rotary raised money to fill each police car with audio and visual car cameras.

~**For our Third Grade Students: The Dictionary Project** - A dream came true in 1995 for a South Carolina principal who was a Rotarian. He wanted to provide 3rd grade students nationwide with a new dictionary. Every Rotary Club in New Jersey now participates. Our Washington Rotary distributes nearly 700 dictionaries to nearby schools annually. To date, 90,000 dictionaries were given to Garden State 3rd graders. Overall, 15 million students have benefited from this simple idea started by one Rotarian.

Port Colden students were extremely excited when presented with their brand new dictionaries to take home. Children could not put them down throughout the day because they were so eager to read about so many new things! This dictionary not only provides new words and definitions, but it has a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the alphabet in sign language, Constellations, the longest word (which is over 1,000 letters and is the name of a chemical) and a list of all the presidents!

*Thank you* Rotarians, for helping our students become better readers, writers and spellers with this beautiful dictionary gift!

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## Socktober!

Brass Castle Sixth Graders ran a special collection during the month of October - Socktober!

They collected socks - 279 pairs of socks to be exact. Their goal was 300, they almost made it!!

The socks are to be taken to Family Promise in Oxford, NJ and then will be distributed to the homeless to help keep their feet warm and dry during the upcoming winter weather.

Thank you to all who donated the socks and made our collection a success.



## Mind Games Club

### With Miss Grochowicz and Mrs. Maurer

Third Graders have been stretching their brains and using their thinking skills during Mind Games Club. We have been busy working as teams to solve mind puzzles. On the first day, students worked in groups of three to "Save Sam". Our gummy friend Sam was stranded in the ocean without his lifeboat, paddle, and life vest. Teams worked together to put Sam's life vest back on and return him to his boat, all without using their hands!

On Day two, students used marshmallows and spaghetti to build a tower. Lots of creative strategies were used and all of our groups did a great job!



## Kindergarten Thanksgiving

On November 21, 2014 the Kindergarten classes had their Thanksgiving Program in the gymnasium. Family members watched their little pilgrims and Native Americans perform Thanksgiving songs. After the performance the students and family members created a turkey centerpiece using apples and candy. The students' turkey disguises (based on the book, A Plump and Perky Turkey) were displayed in the hallway. The program concluded with a delicious feast. We wish to thank all of our Kindergarten families for their generous donations!

## News from 3P

In Mrs. Page's class, we are learning about how to write non-fiction or expository pieces. We have been spending a lot of time researching topics using the i-pads in our classroom, and we have begun to create books with sections and chapters! We have become experts on and have written about many topics. Some of our books are about animals, some are about historic events, some are about a special place, and some books are about sports and famous people! We can't wait to share our wonderful books on our bulletin board come December.

## Sixth Grade / Senior Citizen Program

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Brass Castle invited 50 seniors to participate in the annual Senior Program. The theme for this year's program is "That's Entertainment." The all purpose room at Brass Castle was decorated to resemble a 50's diner where Grade 6 students interviewed their senior partners about entertainment past and present. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful breakfast where the best part was meeting new friends to build new relationships.

The sixth graders are now writing a biography chronicling their senior partners' lives. Seniors and students will meet again in February to continue discussions and finalize book writing details. The completed books will be presented to the seniors in May. Additionally, a DVD is also being prepared by Mr. Flumerfelt that will include all the meetings for the year. Everyone is looking forward to our next meeting which will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Brass Castle School. The program is sponsored by the Washington Municipal Alliance, New Jersey Education Association and Washington Township BOE.





# First Grade Feast

The first graders were busy in November learning all about Thanksgiving - the pilgrims, the Native Americans, turkeys, and even about their own heritage. Since the Pilgrims came from another country, we focused on our own nationalities and where our ancestors came from. To culminate this study, we celebrated with an International Thanksgiving Feast. On Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> the parents joined us for a fun time of sharing and eating. We enjoyed a great variety of foods since they each represented a different nationality. The students shared what they were thankful for and wore their pilgrim hats while eating on the Thanksgiving placemats they made in school. It was a great learning experience and a fun time for everyone!



## Poems from Miss O'Rourke's Class: Port Colden Poets Possess Potential!

Over the last few weeks in Second Grade we have been learning about figurative language and poetry writing. Students worked together to use strong word sense by writing Adjective-Noun-Verb-Adverb Poems. They helped us visualize interesting creatures by writing poetry filled with similes. Then, right after that, BOOM! They used onomatopoeia in poems to stand for many sounds on one noisy night. Finally, they stretched their vocabulary knowledge to put together smaller pieces of poetry using amazing alliteration. A few of the poems that came from Miss O'Rourke's second grade class are featured below. Enjoy!

Julia Flynn

**W**

The  
Wonderful  
Wolf  
Wondered  
Wisely  
While  
Wind  
Went  
Wild.

Jordan Simpson

**"My Cat"**

My cat's name is Shadow and he lives outside:  
His claws are as sharp as a chainsaw,  
His fur is as soft as a bed,  
He is as happy as a smiley face,  
His eyes are as green as the grass,  
He is as black as the night,  
Even though sometimes he bites people,  
I still love him!

Tannah Graba

**"My Bunny"**

I have a bunny for a pet  
Who lives in a bunny cage:  
Her fur is as black as a crayon,  
Her eyes are as blue as the sky,  
Her nose is as smooth as cloth,  
Her paws are as small as grapes,  
Her tail fluffs like a pom-pom,  
And even though she is a little bit bad,  
I still love her.

Marissa Schulte

**"My Cat"**

I have a cat for a pet  
Who lives in my closet:  
Her eyes are as blue as water,  
Her fur is as soft as a pillow and as yellow as  
the sun,  
Her tail is as long as a snake,  
Her claws are like pine needles,  
Her breath smells like flowers,  
Her ears are as pink as roses,  
Her meow is as soft as the wind,  
And even though she gets mad sometimes,  
I still love her.

Kyle Roth

**The Noisy Night**

The moon came up  
And the dog said RUFF!  
The crunch bar said CRUNCH!  
And the wind said WHOOSH!  
The telephone said RING RING!  
And the football said ZOOM!  
The racecar said VROOM!  
And my friend said ACHOO!  
Then the dog said SHOOSH!  
And they all went to sleep.

Echo Picone

**F**

The  
Famous  
Fabulous  
Frightened  
Fawn  
Fractures  
His foot  
By falling  
Foolishly.

Meghan Daniel

**P**

The  
Perfect  
Pretty  
Puppy  
Named petunia  
Picks  
Pansies  
When she eats  
Pineapple  
And peanuts  
With a poodle.

Joseph Ozeriansky

**L**

The lynx  
Licking  
Lollipops  
Sings  
La  
La  
La  
La;  
Lucky  
Lynx  
He  
Is.



Brianna Mizerek  
P  
The  
Prettiest  
Panda practiced  
Proudly  
And perfectly.  
She promised  
To perform  
As a  
Gold prize-winning  
Princess.

Alyssa Marques  
**"A Great Time at Myrtle Beach"**

Bright umbrellas lift nicely,  
Colorful surfboards dive slowly,  
Soft towels lay quietly,  
Wavy waves tear loudly,  
Giant tsunamis crush quickly.  
Huge whales jump high,  
Blue sharks swim speedily,  
White seagulls fly beautifully,  
And those are reasons you should go to the beach  
more often.

Nate Luzasky & Joseph Ozeriansky  
**"A Cool Stadium"**

Harlem wizards score awesomely  
Bouncy basketballs dribble loudly  
Tall hoops swish rapidly,  
Fast players shoot quickly,  
Squeaky sneakers sneak smoothly,  
Cheering fans scream cheerfully,  
Yelling coaches help kindly,  
Whistling refs blow whistles madly;  
You would want to go to this cool stadium!



## Counselor's Corner

December 2014

We just arrived back from a weekend that one can only truly understand by experiencing the sights, sounds, intense preparation and general chaos ... ok, this sounds pretty complex, but we actually spent time in Philadelphia with our family supporting two of our girls at The Oireachtas (by the way, bonus points for anyone who knows what I'm talking about... J - hint: Oireachtas is a regional Irish Dance competition and is used as a qualifier for Nationals and Worlds.) My husband's family is of Irish descent which makes our girls' love of Irish Step Dancing a really positive connection to their heritage. I am not Irish... However, I was swept up in the frenzy of dance, music and 'bling' (you should see the girls dresses and head pieces) and enjoyed the camaraderie of friends and new acquaintances.

Though I came into the weekend as a bit of an outsider having never been an Irish Dancer and not being from an Irish family, I was swept right up in the mix. What a wonderful community. A community of families celebrating their unique heritage but most importantly a community of parents supporting their children's dreams...



This month our Community of Character is focusing on just that - *Community*. We define community in many different ways. It can be our neighborhood, our religious organization, our child's sports teams, our own families... I hope that when you think of *your* community you also include our own Washington Township schools at the top of your list... Our students and families have been busy putting together wonderful gift baskets for several of our Township families this holiday season. The spirit of giving is alive and well in our school community!

I invite you to read this month's Character Calendar for daily reminders and conversation starters. It bears repeating how grateful I am to be a part of our school community and invite you to reach out to me any time if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. I am available via email [dtierney@washtwpsd.org](mailto:dtierney@washtwpsd.org) or by phone 908-689-11188 ext 611 (BC) 908-689-0681 ext 567 (PC.)

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy Holiday Season and joyous times spent with your own personal communities!

*"I alone can not change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."*  
Mother Teresa

# DECEMBER 2014 - Community Awareness

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"It takes a village to raise a child"	1 Think about how you can be a positive member of your community, school and family	2 Your home is your 1 <sup>st</sup> community - treat your family with respect and kindness	3 Give back to your community - Volunteer for something positive this month	4 It is always worth being reminded - Treat others how you would like to be treated	5 Be a good citizen of your classroom-work as a positive team player	6
7	8 Citizenship begins at home - do your chores with a smile	9 Appreciate what you have and be willing to share with others	10 Show pride in our school - you are lucky to have great opportunities and a bright future !	11 Do a good deed for someone today - without being asked	12 Do a kind deed for someone less fortunate than you	13
14	15 Be a leader in your community - help those less fortunate than you	16 Be a role model in your school community	17 Reach out to someone in need today and share a smile	18 Celebrate the Joy of the Season with your friends and family!	19 "Be the change you wish to see in the world"	20
21	22 Take a moment to thank a school volunteer today - a classroom parent, PTA member or Big Brother/Big Sister - what they do matters!	23	24 NO SCHOOL	25	26 	27
28	29	30	31 	HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015!		

**"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."**

**Winston Churchill**