



Washington Township Schools



“Making a Difference”



In an effort to continue enhancing communication between our district and the community, the Washington Township School District is proud to announce the launch of our Facebook page. Please like our page on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/washtwpsd.wc/>,

to stay informed of events, programs, and much more regarding our schools.



Child Find Outreach

Every school district is charged with reaching out to children in the community who may need any kind of assistance academically, socially or emotionally. If there is someone who feels that they have, or know of a child or a family who may need assistance through the school, please contact Mrs. Kaluzny in our Special Services Office at 908-689-1188 x 3610.

General Education Inclusive Preschool Program

The Washington Township School District offers a General Education Inclusive Preschool program at the Brass Castle School. The program is open to all four-year-old children who reside in Washington Township, Warren County. The child must be four (4) years old by October and not age eligible for kindergarten.

The class is taught by a certified teacher and supported with highly qualified paraprofessionals. This program provides an inclusive educational environment for preschool children that is aligned with Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality, and includes both general education and special needs preschool children.

The preschool program will take place during the afternoon session. Afternoon session hours are from 12:40pm - 3:20pm. The preschool program follows the Washington Township School District calendar. There is no tuition cost for this program, but transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Applications for this program can be found on the Washington Township School District website, www.washtwpsd.org or by contacting the Washington Township School District Child Study Team at 908-689 -1188 x 3610. Applications for the 2016 - 17 school year are being accepted now, until May 13, 2016. A limited number of openings are available for this program. In the event that the district receives more applications than students can be placed in the program, a lottery system will be utilized to select students into the program. The lottery for selection into the General Education Inclusive Preschool will occur on Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 10:00am. The lottery will take place in the library of the Brass Castle School. In the event that the date for the lottery drawing needs to be changed, all applicants will be notified.

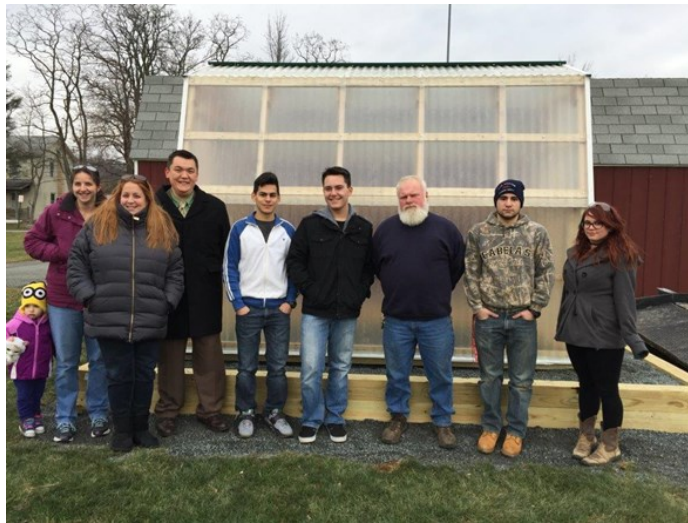
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Washington Township (Warren County) School District is holding Kindergarten Registration for children, who will be entering kindergarten in September, 2016. The district will be offering full day kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. Registration will be held in the Brass Castle School, 16 Castle Street, Washington, NJ, on Monday, March 14th and Tuesday, March 15st by appointment only. Children who will be five years of age on or before October 1, 2016, are eligible to enter kindergarten in September. Contact Brass Castle School for any additional information or to schedule an appointment at 908-689-1188, extension 3600.

Greenhouses

Warren County Technical School students, under the supervision of Brad Bartow, constructed two greenhouses, one for Port Colden and the other for Brass Castle School. The greenhouses will be integrated into the curriculum where students can expand learning about plants as whole systems. They will experiment with water movement, pollination, and nutrition, and explore relationships between plants and insects. They will experiment to simulate different habitats, and understand how physical factors and climate relate to plant type and growth.

A special thank you to the PTA for funding such a wonderful endeavor, and to the Washington Township Road Department for their assistance.



Absent or Running Late? — Call the Absentee Line!

Please call your child out absent on the school absentee line. If they will be late, please call the line as well. If there is a scheduled day of absence, please notify the School Nurse, in addition to your child's teacher. Thank you.

Port Colden School: 908-689-0681 press "1" for the absentee line.

Janine Bazdines, RN: extension 2507

Brass Castle School: 908-689-1188 press "1" for the absentee line.

Katie Wikander, RN: extension 3607

2015-2016 Brass Castle Teacher of the Year Congratulations Mrs. Drevitch!



Originally from Massachusetts, Mrs. Christine Drevitch attended the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and earned a BA in Psychology with a Minor in Sociology, then finished with a Masters of Education. Mrs. Drevitch was Captain of the Women's Volleyball Team, earning All Northeast Region 1st Team Division II Honors.

Mrs. Drevitch is in her seventh year of teaching at Brass Castle School. Previously, she could be found co-teaching 5th grade Mathematics and Kindergarten Physical Education. Currently, Mrs. Drevitch works with the Enrichment and Gifted and Talented groups, and she also teaches Health and Computers to 6th Graders.

Mrs. Drevitch works consistently to provide meaningful learning opportunities for her students, including opportunities to use and develop computer codes, robotics, and much more. Her activities are cross-curricular, creative, and designed to stimulate independent and original thinking. She serves as facilitator, as well as teacher, and provides opportunities for students to showcase their individual talents and make thoughtful decisions.

Mrs. Drevitch consistently searches for professional development opportunities to provide the latest and greatest for her students. She also ensures students are able to participate in various activities and competitions, including Battle of the Books, Battle of the Minds, Debates, etc.

Family time is busily mixed with her husband Todd and their three children, Timothy, Kevin, and Jennifer. They are avid ice-hockey players, while Mrs. Drevitch can be found on the court coaching the Warren Hills Volleyball team.

It is clear that Mrs. Drevitch has and continues to be a dedicated educator. Her positive attitude provides motivation for all around her, especially our students, to be the best. Congratulations, again, to Mrs. Drevitch for having been chosen as Brass Castle's 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year. Truly well deserved!

Geography Bee



Do you know which continent the Ronne Ice Shelf borders? Did you know that Mount Rainier is the highest mountain in the state of Washington? Several of Brass Castle's geo-whizzes knew the answers to those and many other questions about geography and the world. They recently competed in a classroom level geography bee, and ten finalists went on to the school level bee. Congratulations to these finalists who competed on January 8 at an assembly at Brass Castle: Lucas Ribeiro - 6 Graham, Anton Chernykh - 4 Watters, Isaac Lam - 5 Mahon, Josh San Pedro - 6 Galoppo, Daniel Schlaffer - 5 Hussey, Bryant Aguirre - 6 Motzenbecker, Kevin McLaughlin - 5 Baxendale, Vincent Costa - 4 Margolin, Bailey Asbury - 4 Hulse, and Tess Errickson - 5 Peterson.

Congratulations to Josh San Pedro, our first place winner. After his win, Josh will take an on-line test from National Geographic. With this test, he can become eligible to move on to the state level bee. Second place went to Kevin McLaughlin, and third place was taken by Lucas Ribeiro.

Congratulations also to our other classroom level winners: Thomas Brattole (6 C), Alex Rodriguez (6 P), and Daniel Nozza (4 P/H). Brass Castle is so proud of all of you!

2015-2016 Port Colden Teacher of the Year Congratulations Ms. Graham!



It is with great enthusiasm that Ms. Graham has been chosen as the Port Colden "Teacher of The Year." Sue was chosen by her peers due to her dedication to teaching as well as her ability to contribute to the overall success and positive environment in our school. She also possesses a unique ability of rallying her peers to be excited about new innovations that further enhance student success. As Basic Skills Instructor at Port Colden School, Sue has made a significant impact on student learning. She does so by exposing students to the strategies that improve their reading comprehension, strengthen organizational skills, better study habits, which result in overall higher student achievement.

As principal, I can attest for her abilities to inspire and motivate both students and colleagues to strive for high levels of academic achievement. Sue Graham has exceeded my expectations, and I am humbled and honored to collaborate with such an individual that has earned the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues.

Sue Graham is enthusiastic and creative, which inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn and know they can be successful. She is also quick to adapt and enhance the existing curriculum to ensure her delivery is accurate and level appropriate. She is an excellent role model for the students, and has proven to be a dynamic and supportive member in the community as well as in the school.

Winter Band Concert

On Wednesday, January 20th, our Blue and White Band, Panther Band, and Jazz Band students performed brilliantly at our annual Brass Castle Winter Band Concert! Mr. Rizzo would like to congratulate the students on a fantastic concert. Also, Mr. Rizzo would like to thank all of the parents, faculty, and staff that helped make this program a success.

Our next concert will be the Spring Music Concert on Thursday, May 12, 2015 at Warren Hills Regional High School at 7pm. There will also be an Ensemble Night concert in June where selected musicians will perform in small groups.



Little Citizens Vote Big!

Third Graders at Port Colden are enjoying their reading series *Reading Wonders* so much. In December, students in Mrs. Melhem's class were studying the Reading Wonders unit "How Do People Make Government Work?" Students reinforced their comprehension and vocabulary of this unit by having a class election for student officers. Election Day came and was a special event for each citizen to vote for a class president and secretary.

Each candidate drafted a speech, in written or video form. They practiced public speaking for a variety of voters. Candidates made posters, wore buttons and gave out pencils, to try to win votes. The Presidential candidates were: Nathaniel Luzasky, Alyssa Marques, James McDonald, Echo Picone, Dylan Ward and Josephine Suarez-Pistili, Secretarial Candidates were: Alex Acevedo and Laney Adie.

Running for office was optional; but students are required to meet the following criteria: they must have *and maintain* excellence in leadership areas, including being respectful towards fellow citizens and teachers, following classroom and school rules, maintaining good grades, and completing homework.

Voters in the election were: Mrs. Melhem, Mrs. Lilly and Mrs. Page, their third graders. All voters were required to fill out a voter's registration form. Citizens voted privately behind a voting booth.

All students who participated in Mrs. Melhem's class elections were winners in her eyes. She proudly announced her newly elected 2016 class officers: Mr. Nathaniel Luzasky, President and Miss Laney Addie, Secretary.



Counselor's Corner — February 2016

Hello Winter – what took you so long? Though I am a flip flop, ride my bike, play in the sand type of person, I SO enjoyed this Big Snow. What a great excuse to bake cookies and read a book by the fire! The shoveling was not quite as rewarding, but the delight on my Emily's face when she built a HUGE snow fort out of the drifts was a joy. It is so tempting to wish for warmer months and longer days... rest assured they will come... but don't overlook the beauty of today. I encourage you to be in the moment; be present. We walk this way once, so enjoy the journey (just make sure you're wearing snow boots!)

Our 5th and 6th graders have been reminded of the dangers of making assumptions and how powerful their words are through a story entitled Mr. Peabody's Apple (adapted by Madonna- yes, the pop star.) It is a reminder to us all to *'be careful with your words. Once they are said, they can only be forgiven, not forgotten.'* Students were asked to reflect on What They Stand For – our introspective theme at Brass Castle. Our youngest continue to practice positive behavior in the hope of earning a BucketFiller ticket – ask your Kindergarten to share the story of Bucketfilling! The month of February will continue to focus on practicing Tolerance by learning about Diversity. Our 2nd graders will be reading The Crayon Box That Talked in their Character Education classes.

I so enjoy sharing this small moment with you and your children. Please reach out to me with any concerns, questions or positive milestones. I can be reached via email dtierney@washtwpsd.org or at 908-689-1188 ext 3611, 908-689-0681 ext 2567.

Despite the weather... Here's hoping we all find joy in the journey!

Deb Tierney

Thank You!

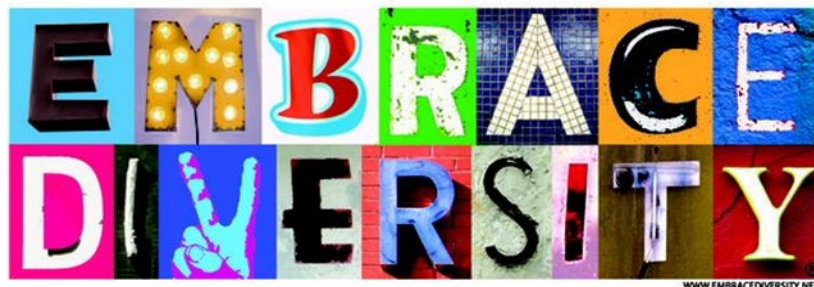
To All Washington Township Families and Staff Members,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous donations to Operation Chillout. Your response to the program was overwhelming. We were able to present 17 backpacks filled with supplies to the organization, which will be distributed to homeless veterans of Warren County. The person in charge of the organization was truly amazed by the generosity of our families and staff. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all for helping these brave men and women!



RESPECTING DIVERSITY- February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 This month select something unique about yourself to share with your classmates.	2 As always - treat others as you want to be treated. The GOLDEN RULE Matters!	3 Diversity is one thing we ALL have in common - Celebrate Differences!	4 Respect the rights of your friends to be different and to think differently.	5 Kind thoughts become kind actions - keep it POSITIVE!	6
7	8 "Diversity is the art of thinking independently together."	9 Don't judge others by their clothing or hair color - get to know the person inside.	10 Respect each other's opinions - we don't need to agree to get along!	11 In recognition of President's Weekend - be a positive leader.	12 NO SCHOOL	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL	16 Embrace what makes YOU special.	17 Diversity keeps life interesting - we live in a multi color world not a gray one!	18 Think about it - We all smile in the same language!	19 It's ok to not like someone or not get along with them. It's NOT ok to be rude, disrespectful or unkind.	20
21	22 <i>"Be Yourself - because the people who mind don't matter and the people that matter don't mind."</i> Dr. Suess	23 Laugh <i>with</i> your friends and not at them	24 'Others may forget what you said or what you did, but they will always remember how you made them feel.' Be Kind and Practice Respect	25 What did you share with your classmates about yourself this month? How do you feel about it?	26 We can learn from all types of people - have an open mind and LISTEN.	27
28	29					



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